



Session 9: GLIMPSE OF THE THRONE
Suggested Week of Use: August 2, 2015
Core Passages: Rev. 4:1-11

News Story Summary

A few weeks ago, NASA began to receive their first images of the planet Pluto from the *New Horizons* spacecraft. The probe, which was launched on January 19, 2006, passed just 7,700 miles from the planet, revealed a mountain range to rival the Rockies, and canyons on Pluto's moon that could be 3-6 miles deep. Scientists are elated. Chief NASA scientist Alan Stern said, "I don't think any of us could have imagined that it was this good of a toy store. The Pluto system IS something wonderful."

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the phrase "‘Something Wonderful’: Peaks on Pluto, Canyons on Charon")

Focus Attention

Share the news story about the *New Horizons* probe and ask group members if they have seen any of the pictures of Pluto. Ask if anyone in the room was as excited as the NASA scientists were. Would they have described the planet as "something wonderful"? Ask group members to share something they have seen or experienced that they would have described as "something wonderful."

Transition to the Bible study by pointing out that just as the NASA scientists were given a glimpse of something for the first time, the Apostle John was given a glimpse of something more spectacular: the throne room of heaven. Encourage group members to pay attention to the details in John's description, and try to imagine the emotions felt by John.

Challenge

Remind group members of the story about the Pluto fly-by. Comment that while scientists might be filled with wonder at the pictures of the planet, we can focus all of our wonder and worship at the Creator of the Planet. And unlike the NASA scientists, who have to be content with pictures of a planet they will not visit personally, we who are followers of Jesus will someday see God's throne room firsthand! Challenge the group to find ways of giving God the glory due His name. If your group meets before your church's worship service, encourage group members to go into worship with the goal of truly giving God the glory due His name.