

God's Throne Room

Revelation 4

"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne." (Revelation 4:1-2)

NOTES

I. The Timing

- John's vision in Revelation 4 is a continuation of the vision he sees of Jesus as Judge in Revelation 1.
- The 7 letters to the churches in Revelation 2-3 provide a glimpse into the Judgment Seat of Christ.
- The events surrounding this throne room scene in Revelation 4 take place after the rapture and judgment seat of Christ.

II. The Setting

A. **The Throne Itself: The Appearance of Sapphire Stone**

"And above the firmament...was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it." (Ezekiel 1:26)

B. **The One sitting on the Throne**

- *His Identity*: God the Father (Rev. 4:8)
- *His Appearance*: A Jasper and Sardine Stone (Rev. 4:3)
 - ❖ Jasper: translucent green color
 - ❖ Sardine (carnelian stone): rich, blood red color

C. **Encircling the Throne: An Emerald Rainbow**

As the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD." (Ezekiel 1:28)

D. **Proceeding from the Throne: Thunders, Lightnings and Voices**

"And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God." (Revelation 4:5)

- ➔ The seven spirits of God may represent the seven "graces," or manifestations, of the Holy Spirit listed in Isaiah 11:2.

E. **In front of the Throne: A Sea of Glass clear as Crystal**

"And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal..."(Rev. 4:6)

- ➔ **The setting symbolizes the unparalleled glory, splendor and majesty of God's Throne Room.**

III. The Characters

A. Four Living Creatures (Rev. 4:6-8)

1. *Their Identity*

- a) Cherubim (also describe in Ezekiel 1, 10)
- b) The highest order of angels involved in the government and worship of God.

2. *Their Appearance*

- a) *Covered with Eyes* (multi-dimensional creatures)
 - May represent their vast knowledge of God
- b) *Four Heads: Lion, Calf, Man, Eagle*
 - *Together, they embody the reflection of God's nature as the fullness of life and power.*
- c) *Six wings*
 - *May picture unlimited mobility in fulfilling God's commands*

3. *Their Role*

- a) Guardians of God's Throne and Protectors of the Holiness of God
- b) Their ceaseless cry is "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come." (Revelation 4:8)

B. 24 Elders (Rev. 4:4, 9-11)

1. *Their Appearance*

- a) Seated on 24 thrones surrounding the throne of God
- b) Clothed in white raiment
- c) Wearing crowns of gold

2. *Their Identity & Role*

- a) Actual supernatural beings —not redeemed men or representatives or redeemed men.
 - ➔ They join the four beasts in singing the song of redemption on behalf of redeemed mankind (Rev. 5:8-10)
- b) Powerful celestial beings serving in the upper echelon of God's government (Col. 1:16).

IV. The Action: A Transfer of Government!

A. The 24 elders cast their crowns before God the Father (Rev. 4:10).

- Angels will not rule in the millennial kingdom; but faithful believers ("overcomers") will.
 - "For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak." (Hebrews 2:5)
 - "Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" (1 Cor. 6:3)
- God the Father receives the crowns from the angels, and gives the crowns to Jesus, Who then crowns faithful believers (1Cor. 15:27-28)
 - "On His head *were* many crowns..." (Rev. 19:12)

B. The 24 angels sing a song of praise unto God.

"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Revelation 4:11)