

BEWARE THE LAMB



THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST Chapter 04

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ADULT SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY **2ND & 4TH FRIDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY**

We have made it to **JOHN 13:4** in our study of The Gospel According to John. Next meeting is **January 14th at 1930 (7:30 PM)**. We usually go for about 2 hours.

This is the beginning of the Upper Room discourse which continues through Chapter 17. We are using the **The Revelation** as the launching point and outline for our Bible Study. We will pick up in **REVELATION 4**.

Join us at 0945 on Sunday Morning Join us at 7:30 PM at the next Friday Night study

2 Timothy 2:15
 Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

1 Thes 5:21
 Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.

Acts 17:11 These were more noble than these ..., in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.

IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION OR NEED MORE INFO:

You can post your thoughts or questions publicly by using the **Post Your Thots** link in the upper right hand corner of this page.

Or, you can contact us privately at **Notes@TLindman.US** or feel free to call us if you have our number.

Give me as much of an explanation and detail as you can concerning your question, I'll do my best to get back to you with the info you need as soon as possible. I often travel a month at a time so please be patient or tell me if you are in a hurry...

[Show Map](#)

We are meeting at:
Bethel Church of the Nazarene
51850 North Avenue
Macomb Township, MI 48042
(586) 598-8555

Fri Jan 14 2005 13:37:57 **00179**

-Weather Info -

01/14/2005 **MACOMB, MI** [show location](#)

Currently <small>all hourly</small>	Outlook <small>15 day forecast</small>
19 F PARTLY CLOUDY RealFeel® 4 F Humidity: 60% Winds: WNW 12 mph	Today: 24 / 8 F Tomorrow: 28 / 9 F Sunday: 17 / 8 F Monday: 28 / 18 F Tuesday: 25 / 21 F Wednesday: 32 / 22 F Thursday: 32 / 18 F

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5 pages are currently on the site.

Home: General meeting info and weather

Sunday Notes:** Any general notes or questions related to the next Sunday morning's study

Friday Notes:** Any general notes or questions related to the next Friday night's study

Misc Info: Misc notes and answers to comments and questions I've received privately

Links:** Web links to source, reference material and useful resources that I have used

** On the **Friday, Sunday** and **Links** pages you will find a grey box near the upper right corner.

[Left click](#) any blue links that may be there to view the presentation files I used during the meetings.

[Right click](#) the blue link to download a copy to your computer.

*I will keep these as up to date as my travels permit.
 I will monitor the number of visits these sites receive.
 (I can't tell who visits them but I can tell if they are visited.)
 If it works out that they are not proving to be useful, I will abandon them after a few months.*

FOR THE RECORD

FUTURIST: MOST OF THE EVENTS ARE YET TO HAPPEN,

SEQUENTIAL: REVELATION WAS GIVEN IN HISTORICAL TIME ORDER

PREMILLENNIAL: THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST HAPPENS BEFORE THE LITERAL MILLENNIUM BEGINS

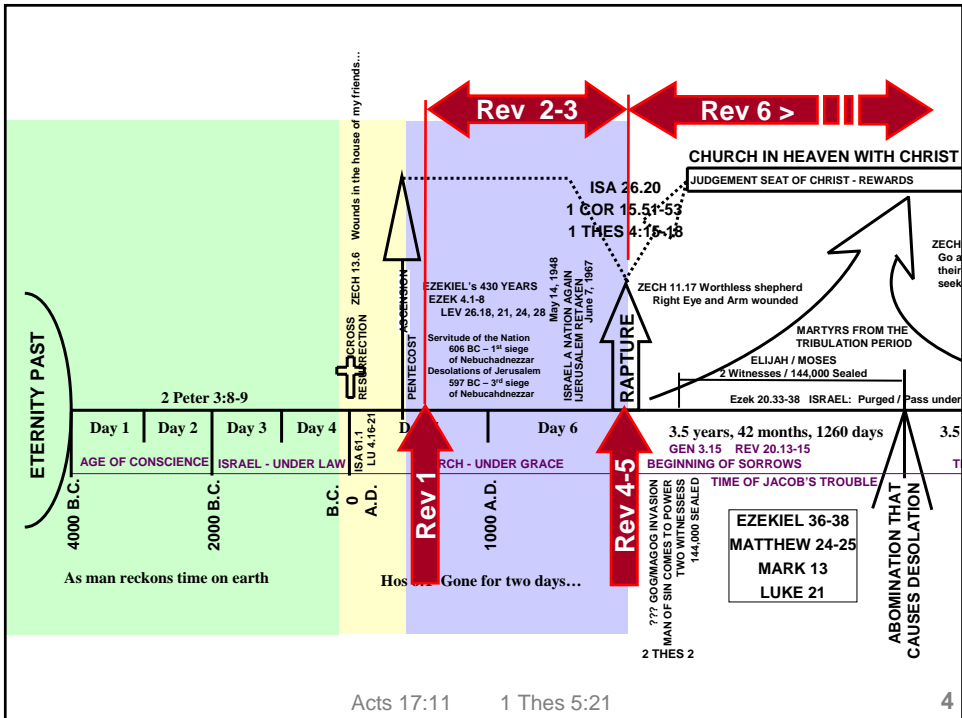
PRETRIBULATIONAL: THE RAPTURE OCCURS PRIOR TO THE GREAT TRIBULATION

DISPENSATIONAL: GOD USES DIFFERENT GROUPS AND PEOPLE TO REPRESENT AND REVEAL HIMSELF TO MANKIND AT DIFFERENT TIMES

~~LITERAL:~~ WHAT GOD SAYS, HE MEANS,
SERIOUSLY WHAT HE PROMISED, HE WILL DO

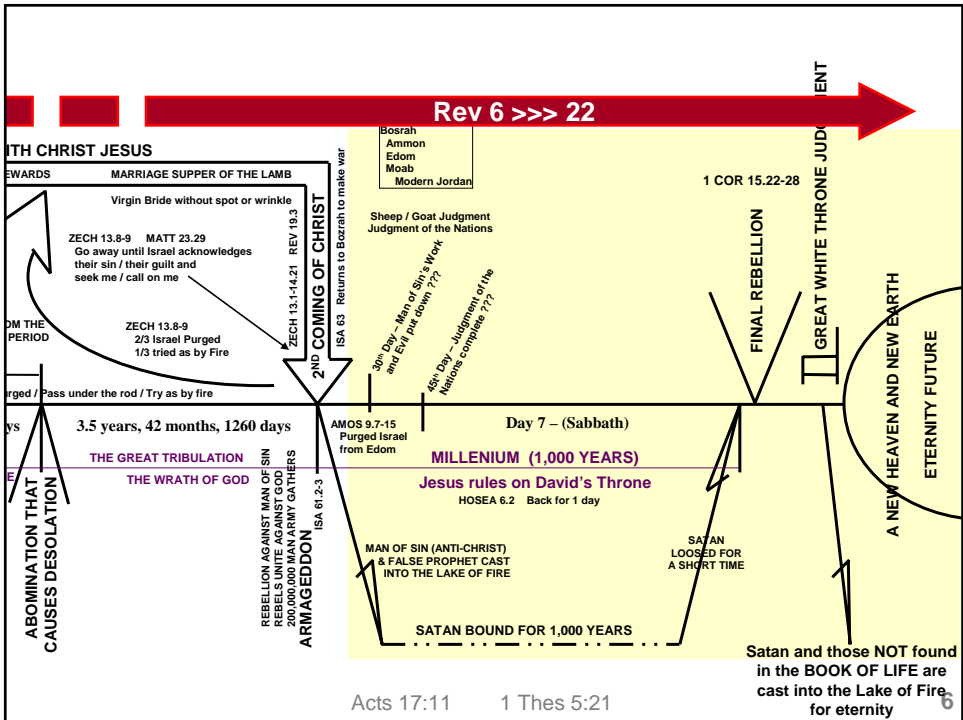
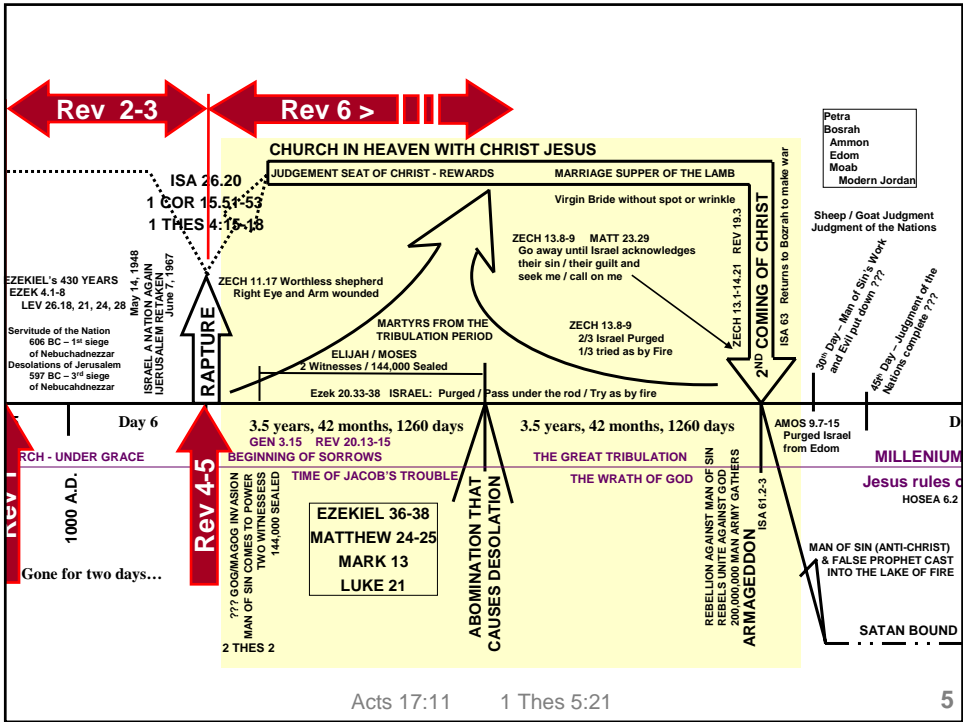
Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

3



Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

4



Rev 1:1-3 KJV

**[1:1] The Revelation of Jesus Christ,
which God gave unto him,
to shew unto his servants
things which must shortly come to pass;
and he sent and signified it
by his angel
unto his servant John:**

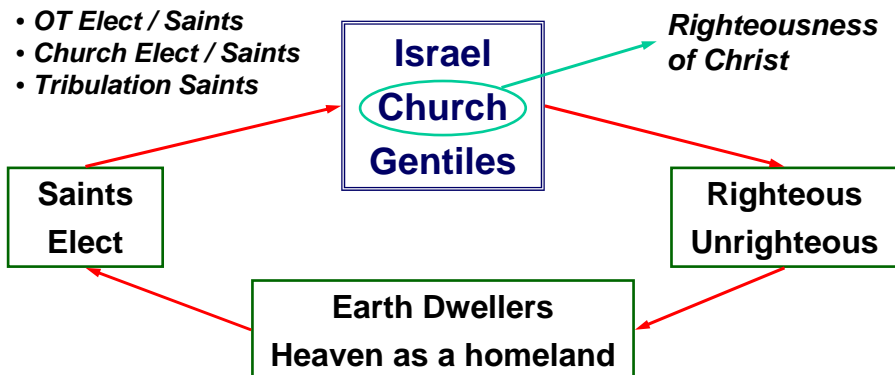
**[1:2] Who bare record of the word of God,
and of the testimony of Jesus Christ,
and of all things that he saw.**

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

7

Not all Saints are in the Church...

- OT Elect / Saints
- Church Elect / Saints
- Tribulation Saints



Matt 11:11

Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

REMNANT: Israel Rom 9:6-8

REMNANT: Church Matt 7:15 Act 20:29

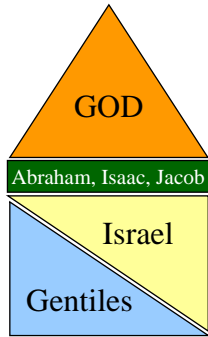
Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

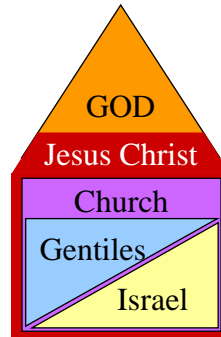
8

Paul's World View

- Social dichotomy:
Jews + Gentiles



- Paul's trichotomy:
Jews + Gentiles + Church



Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Israel and the Church

- Distinctions
 - Different Origins, Missions, Destinies
- “Replacement” views deny Israel its place in God’s program – “Reconstructionism”
 - Makes God a Liar
 - Laid the basis for Christian Anti-Semitism
- The “70 Weeks” of Dan 9 deals specifically with *Israel*
 - *Only 69 have passed...*
- Paul’s trichotomy: Jews + Gentiles = Church
 - Jew and Gentile distinctives reappear after Revelation 4...

Rev. 4:1-11 [KJV]

[1] 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. [2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. [3] And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. [4] And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. [5] 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. [6] And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. [7] And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. [8] And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. [9] And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, [10] The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, [11] 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.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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The 'Church Age' – the 'fullness of the Gentiles' - closes with the Church being taken (translated) to heaven –'the fullness of the Gentiles is come in'.

This ends the existence and physical time of the Church on the Earth.

It is very closely followed by the revealing of Anti-Christ on the Earth

When this 'Coming World Ruler' enforces a 'covenant' with Israel, it re-starts the 'clock' for Israel.

This begins Daniel's 70th week, and leads quickly to the time of Jacob's Trouble.

Meanwhile, the Church in Heaven with Jesus, is experiencing:

- The 'Judgment Seat of Christ' - the receiving of crowns as rewards for their works and
- The 'Marriage Supper of the Lamb'

This completes the Christian's 'joint heir' rights with Christ.

Before the Church is translated - Raptured - Israel had to be restored as a nation.

And before the coming world ruler is revealed, the 'Restrainer' must be removed – the Church is Raptured

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Israel becomes a nation again

Israel had been scattered since the 70 A.D. and 130 A.D. Roman destruction of Jerusalem.

On May 15, 1948, Israel became a nation again after nearly 2,000 of dispersion and political non-existence; An event never before equaled in recorded history.

Jews have been re-gathering into Israel since then.

In scripture Israel is often symbolized by either a woman or a fig tree.

[Hosea 9:10](#) / [Joel 1:7](#) / [Luke 13:6-9](#)

Jesus spoke of looking to the fig tree (Israel) as a sign of the times.

[Matt 24:32-36](#) / [Mark 13:20-37](#) / [Luke 21:29-36](#)

In Revelation look for Israel typified by a 'woman'

Israel as a nation is a young plant just beginning to put forth it's branches.

On May 5, 1948 it once again became a nation.

Israelites from around the world began to regather in the "promised land"

Ezekiel chapters 36 and 37 foretell of Israel's return from dispersion.

Israel / Jerusalem, God's Timepiece

Jerusalem was GOVERNED by the gentiles completely until June 1967 when Israel retook the city along with the West Bank from Jordan.

The gentiles still tread on much of the city even though it is under Jewish control.

[Luke 21:24](#) and they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the gentiles, until the times of the gentiles be fulfilled. (Kjv)

Note: Times of the gentiles; different from the 'fullness of the gentiles'

[Joel 3:1-2](#) For, behold, in those days, and in that time, when I shall bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem, 2 I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and *for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.*

The passage in Joel goes on to tell of God vengence and destruction that will be poured down upon the 'nations'....

Rev. 4:1-5 Background Studies

Study the Tabernacle and the Temple:

the design implications of the Tabernacle, etc.

Read about the Throne of God:

Isa 6, Ezek 1, 10, Dan 7

Study the Rapture passages:

1 Cor 15:50; 1 Thess 4:13-17; Isa 26:19-21;

Zeph 2:3; Ps 27:5

Rev. 4:1-5 The Throne of God

'After these things I looked, and behold, a door had been opened in Heaven; and the first voice which I heard was as of a trumpet speaking with me, saying: Come up hither, and I will show thee what things must come to pass after these things. - And immediately I came in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was set in Heaven, and One was sitting on the throne. 'And the enthroned One was in semblance like a stone, a jasper and a sardius; and there was a rainbow round about the throne in semblance like unto an emerald. 4 And round about the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments; and on their heads were crowns of gold. -;And from the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices; and seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. (Rev. 4:1-5, Free Translation)

The Church Age was summarized in Chapters 2 and 3.

What happens to it next?

This chapter opens the section that describes "what happens next" — *meta tauta*, after these things.

[The rapture takes place in the "Philadelphian" period.

The very term *ekklesia* means a group called out (of the world.)]

The scene now shifts to heaven itself.

“Things which shall be hereafter”

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 show thee things which must be hereafter.”

...and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne...

Revelation 4:1, 5

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

17

**[19] Write the things which thou hast seen,
and the things which are,
and the things which shall be hereafter;**

Write the things which *thou hast seen*, Chapter 1
The Vision of Christ,
and the things which *are*, Chapters 2 & 3
The Seven Churches (The Chruch Age)
and the things which *shall be hereafter*; Chapters 4-22
That which follows *after* the Churches are gone / done;

G 3326: after; behind... + G5023: these
Meta + Tauta

Always a subject, scene or time change...
*Like a curtain coming down and back
up between acts of a play*

Rev 4:1

Rev 7:1

Rev 7:9

Rev 15:5

Rev 18:1

Rev 19:1

Rev 20:3

7

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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After This – Meta Tauta

In **Rev 4:1** it signifies the end of the Church Age and the beginning of the Tribulation or Daniel's 70th Seven,

The Rapture being the event that marks the beginning of the time of the change in history.

The Lord begins to show John things that will occur “**after these things**”; After the things associated with the churches in chapter 2 and 3 – “**the things which are**” - the Church Age in which John and we live.

- Some churches like Ephesus will have had their candlestick removed and will no longer be true churches.
- Some like Thyatira will be cast into great tribulation because of their unrepentant wickedness which demonstrating that they never knew Christ at all = knowingly and willingly following false teaching (the Lord warns the faithful to not allow this condition to continue).
- Others like Philadelphia will be kept from the hour of temptation which is to come on all the world to try them that ‘dwell on the earth’ (the true church will no longer even be ‘visiting’ the earth much less ‘dwelling on the earth’).

Rev 4:1

4:1 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.

From this point on, certain activities are described as taking place in Heaven (or the heavenlies).

As they continue, other activities are taking place in both Heaven and Earth simultaneously.

Still others are described as taking place on the Earth.

Some of these activities happen concurrently others are sequential.

Only where scripture indicates that events are happening one following another can we be certain whether they are happening subsequently, concurrently or previously.

The scene in chapter 4 is now before the Throne of God in Heaven.

Open Door

John now sees a door open in heaven and receives an invitation to enter.

“A door was opened” :

DOORs are mentioned 4 times in Revelation

Rev 3:8 Door of opportunity;

Rev 3:20 (2 times) fellowship;

Rev 4:1 Access to heaven itself.

Jesus promised Philadelphia an open door that no man could shut.

He warned Laodemia about their closed door.

Note that the door was in Heaven - John at the time was on the Earth.

The Lord had preceded John into Heaven and was inviting him to meet him there.

Open Door – Come Up Here

1 THES 4:16-17

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (KJV)

1 COR 15:52

In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (KJV)

JOHN 14:3

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. (KJV)

Any revelation of truth must come from the Lord Jesus Christ.

John had to see things to come from Heaven's viewpoint.

Any true understanding of the course of world events must be based on Heaven's perspective of those events.

The Voice – Commands

4:1 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.

“Voice ... Trumpet”: Cf. 1 Thess 4:16-17.

THE SAME VOICE JOHN HEARD AT THE FIRST - LIKE A TRUMPET

Rev 1:10-16

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. 12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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The Voice – Commands “Come Up Here”

4:1 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.

THE VOICE ISSUES THE INVITATION – THE COMMAND - “COME UP HERE”

“Come”: A real, material Heaven:

Luk 24:39 Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.

Heb 9:23-24 *It was* therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. 24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, *which are* the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

24

The Voice – Commands “Come Up Here”

4:1 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.

John was invited to meet Jesus in the air as promised

ACTS 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven. (KJV)

1 THES 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. (KJV)

Show thee things that must happen hereafter

The command “come up hither” is used once more in Revelation.

To the two witnesses who are to be killed in Jerusalem.

At the command 'come up hither' the resurrected witnesses are taken up to heaven alive, 'in a cloud'.

Rev 11

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 11:3-12 – Commands “Come Up Here”

REV 11:3-12 And I will give power unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred and threescore days, clothed in sackcloth. 4 These are the two olive trees, and the two candlesticks standing before the God of the earth. 5 And if any man will hurt them, fire proceedeth out of their mouth, and devoureth their enemies: and if any man will hurt them, he must in this manner be killed. 6 These have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will. 7 And when they shall have finished their testimony, the beast that ascendeth out of the bottomless pit shall make war against them, and shall overcome them, and kill them. 8 And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified. 9 And they of the people and kindreds and tongues and nations shall see their dead bodies three days and an half, and shall not suffer their dead bodies to be put in graves. 10 And they that dwell upon the earth shall rejoice over them, and make merry, and shall send gifts one to another; because these two prophets tormented them that dwelt on the earth. 11 And after three days and an half the Spirit of life from God entered into them, and they stood upon their feet; and great fear fell upon them which saw them. 12 And they heard a great voice from heaven saying unto them, Come up hither. And they ascended up to heaven in a cloud; and their enemies beheld them. (KJV)

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 4:2 – In a Flash...

[2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

1] ENOCH IN THE O.T. HAD BEEN 'RAPTURED'

2] ELIJAH IN THE O.T. HAD BEEN 'SNATCHED UP' IN A CHARIOT OF FIRE

3] JESUS, HIMSELF HAD BEEN CAUGHT UP AT HIS ASCENSION

4] PHILLIP, ON COMPLETING HIS MEETING WITH THE ETHIOPIAN EUNUCH.

ACTS 8:39-40 And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea.

5] PAUL HAD BEEN TRASLATED BEFORE

2 COR 12:3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) (KJV)

6] JOHN IS TRANSPORTED - TRANSLATED INTO HEAVEN. 10⁻³³ seconds

1 COR 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. (KJV)

7] AS WILL THE ENTIRE BELIEVING CHURCH SOMETIME SOON...

7

Rev 4:2 – In the Spirit

[2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

John says that he was "in the spirit" - again

That was the condition he was in as he worshiped that day on Patmos.

At some point in receiving the Lord's messages to the churches John was apparently no longer "in the spirit"?

The invitation and translation took John into Heaven

"In the Spirit" : 4X in Revelation

[Rev 1:10](#); [Rev 4:2](#); [Rev 17:3](#); [Rev 21:10](#);

Being 'in the spirit' will place you in the presence of the Lord God.

It is not an 'emotional high' or some kind of moment of 'frenzy'.

It is acknowledging God's presence and walking with Him in this life...

Four times John says he was “...in the Spirit...”

Ch: **Where was he:**

1:10	on the day of the Lord Patmos
4:2	straightway I was... A throne in heaven
17:3	carried me away... in the wilderness
21:10	carried me away... to a mountain

Rev 4:2 – In Heaven

[2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Scripture uses the word “heaven” to describe three different locations:

- 1) the upper atmosphere – the air
- 2) outer space - the universe
- 3) the place of God's throne – aka: the third heaven

The Throne Room of Universe

Revelation 4

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| • Throne of God | 2, 3 |
| • 24 Elders | 4 |
| – Kings and Priests: the Redeemed | |
| • 7 Lamps burning | 5 |
| • Sea of Glass | 6 |
| – Elders <i>standing</i> on it | |
| • 4 Living Creatures (Cherubim) | 6-8 |
| – 4 faces: Lion, Calf, Man, Eagle | |

Compare the descriptions of the Throne of God:

1 Kings 22, Isa 6, Ezek 1, 10, Dan 7

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 4:2 – One Sat Upon the Throne

[2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

Christ has left the place of intercession and is coming to the place of judgment. *Rom 8:34 Heb 7:25*

God is about to 'judge' the world – pour out His wrath
Jesus is about to 'judge' his bride – reward faithful service

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

32

Rev 4:2 – Before the Throne

[2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

JOHN SAW GOD'S THRONE SET, AS THE GREEK IMPLIES, IN THE HEAVENS NEAR THE EARTH.

IT WAS ORIGINALLY FAR ABOVE THE ATMOSPHERE AND SPACE ITSELF.

EPH 4:10 He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.) (KJV)

THIS IS LIKE REARRANGING THE FURNITURE FOR A SPECIAL GATHERING OR EVENT.

GOD'S THRONE IS BEING 'SET DOWN' - RELOCATED AS IT WERE - INTO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE ABOVE THE EARTH.

IT HAS BEEN REPOSITIONED TO THE UPPER ATMOSPHERE FOR A PURPOSE.

ACTS 17:31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. (KJV)

Rev 4:2 – The Judgment Seat of Christ

[2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

THE (NEW ???) THRONE JOHN SAW WAS IN ALL LIKELYHOOD THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST BEFORE WHICH ALL CHRISTIANS MUST APPEAR.

ROM 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2 COR 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (KJV)

Gk: bema = raised platform for official judge's seat

In Greek contests it was the place where victor's stood before receiving their prizes - awards platform in Olympics

Crowns are awarded at the bema - Judgment Seat of Christ

Gk: stephanos - victor's crown *versus* Gk: diadema - kingly (rulers) crown

Redemption is the gift of God -- it is not earned.

If we are not among the redeemed then we will not be at the judgment seat, bema, in heaven with Jesus to receive the prize

Phi 3:13-14 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this* one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

ALL BELIEVERS WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS

1 COR 3:11-15 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (KJV)

GAL 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. (KJV)

Mat 12:35-37 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

The Judgment Seat of Christ

ALL BELIEVERS WILL BE JUDGED ACCORDING TO THEIR WORKS

2 TIM 4:1-8 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. 6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (KJV)

1Co 9:24 Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain.

Heb 12:1 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

REV 22:12 And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. (KJV)

An Awards Ceremony – Winners and Losers

THIS WILL BE A JUDGEMENT TO RECEIVE **OR LOSE** REWARDS.

IT MUST OCCUR PRIOR TO THE MILLENNIUM SINCE BY THEN THE BELIEVERS WILL BE ARRAYED IN WHITE GARMENTS REPRESENTING THE RIGHTEOUS ACTS AND WILL HAVE BEEN GIVEN THRONES RESERVED FOR THE OVERCOMERS

REV 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. (KJV)

REV 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. (KJV)

An Awards Ceremony – Believers: By Invitation Only

THIS IS A JUDGEMENT OF BELIEVERS WORKS.

IT IS NOT A JUDGEMENT OF (FOR) SIN WHICH HAS BEEN JUDGED ALREADY FOR THE BELIEVERS (THE CHURCH)

1 PETER 2:24 Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. (KJV)

Eph 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: *it is the gift of God*: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

1 John 2:1-6 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: [2] And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. [3] And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. [4] He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. [5] But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. [6] He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.

Our salvation is of the Lord – it is His doing and none of ours

Our reward is our doing – It is based on what we do and how we do it since we've been born again

The Judgment Seat of Christ: CROWNS

BASIS: WORKS ON EARTH FOR REWARD

CROWNS: REWARDS TO BE GIVEN AT THE JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

Represent Authority / Rule / Power

Matt 18:24 25:14-30 Our responsibility for the Talents we have now, is now

1 COR 3:11-15

11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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THE CROWNS: 1-3 of 5

1) INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN - THE VICTOR'S CROWN

for those who press on steadfastly

1 Cor 9:24-25 25 And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.

2) CROWN OF REJOICING - THE SOUL WINNER'S CROWN

for those who win souls

1 Thes 2:19-20 For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming? 20 For ye are our glory and joy.

Phil 4:1

3) CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

for those who loved His appearing

2 Tim 4:6-8 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

NOTE: THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IS GIVEN TO THOSE WHO 'LOVE HIS APPEARING' NOT THOSE WHO LOVE HIM WHICH IS A LARGER GROUP THAN THOSE WHO LOVE HIS APPEARING..

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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THE CROWNS: 4-5 of 5

4) CROWN OF GLORY - THE CROWN FOR SERVICE

for those who without greed feed the lambs, sheep, flock

1 Peter 5:1-4 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. 4 And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

5) CROWN OF LIFE - THE MARTYR'S CROWN

for those who have suffered for His sake

James 1:12 Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

THE CROWNS ARE EARNED or LOST

JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST IS TO GIVE HEAVENLY REWARDS FOR JOB WELL DONE WHILE ON THE EARTH - REWARDS, NOT PUNISHMENT / CONDEMNATION

The Best "Investment" of all time....

Mat 6:19-34 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. 22 The light of the body is the eye: if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. 23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness! 24 No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon....

Mat 6:33-34 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. 34 Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

THE CROWNS ARE EARNED or LOST

1 COR 3:10-15 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. 11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. 12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; 13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire. (KJV)

MATT 25:35-40 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: 36 Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. 37 Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? 38 When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? 39 Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? 40 And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

THE CROWNS ARE EARNED or LOST

MARK 9:41 For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward. (KJV)

MATT 10:41-42 He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. 42 And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward. (KJV)

Matt 5:12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. (KJV)

Luke 6:23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward is great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.

Matt 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works. (KJV)

THE CROWNS ARE EARNED or LOST

Luke 6:35 But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil. (KJV)

1 Cor 3:8 Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. (KJV)

Col 3:24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. (KJV)

Heb 10:35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward. (KJV)

Heb 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. (KJV)

2 John 1:8 Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. (KJV)

Rev 11:18 And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:2-3 The Throne of God

[2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. [3] And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Throne: (40X in Rev; 15X elsewhere in NT).

Mentioned in every Chapter of Revelation except 2, 8 and 9

The Father's Throne:

Ps 110:1 The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.

Note: "until" (cf. Heb 1:3; 12:2).

Hebrews 1:3 Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1Ki_22:19; Eze_1; Eze_10:1; Dan_7:9; Rev_5:1, Rev_5:7; Rev_6:16

Throne Of God: [2Ch 18:18](#); [Psa 9:4](#); [Psa 9:7](#); [Psa 11:4](#); [Psa 47:8](#); [Psa 89:14](#); [Psa 97:2](#); [Psa 103:19](#); [Isa 6:1](#); [Isa 66:1](#); [Mat 5:34](#); [Mat 23:22](#); [Heb 8:1](#); [Heb 12:2](#); [Rev 14:3](#); [Rev 14:5](#)

Throne Of Christ: [Mat 19:28](#); [Mat 25:31](#); [Act 2:30](#); [Rev 1:4](#); [Rev 3:21](#); [Rev 4:2-10](#); [Rev 7:9-17](#); [Rev 19:4](#); [Rev 21:5](#); [Rev 22:3](#)

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:2-3 The Throne of God

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

Psalm 11:4 The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men.

Psalm 47:8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.

Psalm 97:2 Clouds and darkness are round about him: righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne.

Psalm 103:19 The Lord hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

Ezekiel 1:26-28 And above the firmament that was over their heads 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. [27] And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about. [28] 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. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face, and I heard a voice of one that spake.

At right hand: Peter (Acts 2:33); Stephen (Acts 7:55); See also Ephesians.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:3 Jasper

4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Jasper, Sardine, Emerald: 3 precious stones that symbolized brilliance and glory and majesty in ancient writings. Together they are the 3 most precious gemstones known to man.

"Jasper" = Clear as Crystal (Rev 21:11); possibly Diamond; some are purplish or multi-colored;

it was the last stone in the breastplate of the high priest (Ex 28:20);

it represented Benjamin: "The son of my right hand."

it will also later appear as first in both the wall and foundation of the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:11, 18-19).

is likened the light of the holy Jerusalem which comes from "the glory of God" (Rev 21:23).

The jasper is indeed the symbol of the glory of God.

So the glory of the Lord is that which first strikes the eye of John, even as it did that of Isaiah.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:3 Sardis

4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

“Sardius” = it was discovered in Sardis and its color was a fiery blood red stone very similar to if not actually “Ruby”

is the first stone in the breastplate of the high priest,

representing Reuben, the firstborn of Jacob. (Jesus was the firstborn of the dead.)

It is the sixth stone in the foundation of the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:20).

The sardius, better known in our day as the carnelian, is red.

Hengstenberg quotes ancient authorities who call it "blood-colored" and takes it to describe the righteous wrath of God, the color of the fire of the divine anger.

Certainly this fits in with the judgment scene that is about to take place, for our God is a consuming fire (Deut. 4:24; Heb. 12:29).

Rev. 4:3 Rainbow

4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

“Rainbow” is the Greek word *iris*, which can also mean “halo.” Gen 9:11-17

Genesis 9:11-17

And I will establish my covenant with you; neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth. [12] And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: [13] I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth. [14] And it shall come to pass, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the bow shall be seen in the cloud: [15] And I will remember my covenant, which is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall no more become a flood to destroy all flesh. [16] And the bow shall be in the cloud; and I will look upon it, that I may remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is upon the earth. [17] And God said unto Noah, This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.

Rainbow = the symbol of man being at peace with God;

God's pledge - a sign of remembrance - to not destroy

Note: It is 'around the throne'

Rev 4:3 Rainbow

4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

John is trying to describe God Almighty upon his throne - the Triune God.

Trying to adequately describe this using mortal words and language is not possible so John compares what he sees to things that we might have seen.

1 Tim 6:16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; Whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen. (Kjv)

The Bible refers to a 'rainbow' on 4 occasions:

1] when it was first established after Noah left the ark.

The first time the sky was clear after the first rainfall.

2] in Ezekiel's vision of God

3] here in verse 3 of Revelation 4

4] again in Revelation 10:1

Rev 4:3 Rainbow

3] And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

In each instance it is associated with God's character - his grace and mercy.

It is a reminder to God and man that there is a remnant of faithful on the earth even among an evil generation and culture that deserves wrath and judgment.

God is the God of all grace and mercy

1 PETER 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. (KJV)

HAB 3:2 O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy. (KJV)

Rev. 4:3 Rainbow like an Emerald

4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

“Emerald”: A green Beryl

Exodus 24:10 And they saw the God of Israel: and there was under his feet as it were a paved work of a sapphire stone, and as it were the body of heaven in his clearness.

In the Old Testament the rainbow was introduced as God's pledge to Noah and the race that the earth should never again be destroyed by a flood.

But judgments are now to break forth which will ultimately end in the destruction of the world, though not by a flood.

But before the wrath of God is thus poured out, He shows His own that there is a rainbow round His throne. His peace encircles them.

Today we see only half the circle of a rainbow.

Then, we will see it in all its beauty and perfection.

The believers are already in Heaven, already in their eternal bodies, already like Christ. Eternal life is theirs. They are in Christ Jesus and there is no condemnation. No judgment can ever touch them again.

Rev. 4:4 Twenty-Four Elders: also 'round the throne

4:4] “And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.”

Elders (*presbuteros*) in NT are highest officials in church;

representative of the whole church (Tit 1:5; Acts 15:6; 20:28; 1Pet 2:5, 9)

24 Courses instituted: 1 Chr 24:5, 7-19. Each 'course' represented the entire priesthood...

[Note: God's people are numbered! Rom 11:15.]

Cf. OT descriptions of the Throne of God vs NT: *no 24 elders in the OT*; Eph 3.3-7.

Most believe: The 24 elders represent the redeemed out of the Old Testament and the redeemed out of the Church Age - representing the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles.

Note: that if so, those they represent are in heaven having already been raptured.

But, the apostles are specifically assigned to the job of judging the 12 tribes of Israel on twelve thrones in the Millennial Kingdom whereas these thrones are located around God's throne in heaven.

The Church is called 'kings and priests of God'.

Israel had 'kings and priests' in their time

- In Israel, there were 24 courses of priests who served in their turn in the temple.
- Israel used 70 elders at a time to rule (Sanhedrin), there is no indication as to the number elders serving in the church at any one time.

Rev 4:4 24 Elders – Representatives not Symbols

- Dan 7:17. The four great beasts are four kingdoms that will rise from the earth.
Dan 7:23. The fourth beast is a fourth kingdom that will appear on earth
Dan 7:24. The ten horns are ten kings who will come from this kingdom.
Dan 8:20 The two-horned ram that you saw represents the kings of Media and Persia.
Dan 8:21. The shaggy goat is the king of Greece, and the large horn between his eyes is the first king.
Dan 8:22. The four horns that replaced the one that was broken off represent four kingdoms...
Rev 1:20. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.
Rev 4:5. The seven lamps are the seven spirits of God.
Rev 17:9-10. The seven heads are seven hills on which the woman sits.
They are also seven kings.
Rev 17:11. The beast who once was, and now is not, is an eighth king.
Rev 17:12. The ten horns you saw are ten kings
Rev 17:15. The waters you saw, where the prostitute sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations and languages.
Rev 17:18. The woman you saw is the great city that rules over the kings of the earth.

The identity of nearly every symbol in scripture explained in scripture. No explanation given for the identity of the 24 elders because they are not symbols of something else; they are however representatives of a larger group. It appears they are simply 24 elders. Twenty-four saved human men who hold positions of authority in heaven representing the Church.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:4 Twenty-Four Elders: also 'round the throne

4:4] "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

The term 'elder' has two meanings in scripture:

1. Someone older than another who is younger
2. One who is in administrative authority over another

The elders seen here are individual men with some of which John had conversation

Descriptions of these 'Elders':

- Around the throne as is the Rainbow: symbol of being at peace with God
- Wore crowns of gold (Rev 2:10, Rev 5:9-10)
- Rulers (1 Cor 6:2,3); Had been made Kings and Priests (Matt 19:27-29; 1 Ptr 2:9)
- Judging the 12 tribes of Israel (Mt 19:28; Lk 22:30);
- New Jerusalem (Rev 21:12-14).
- They are the redeemed (Rev 5:9): "us" in Codex Siniaticus; Basilianus (Vatican); Latin Coptic, Memphitic—vs. "them": Codex Alexandrinus.
- "Buy": Matt 13:44; 2 Pet 2:1. The Lord bought them...
- Always praise (identify throng in Rev 7:13-17).
- Always focus on thing happening before God's Throne in Heaven
Vs. Angels who describe and focus on things happening on earth
- Were clothed in white robes (Rev 3:4)

all these are promises of God to the redeemed in the Church

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:4 Twenty-Four Elders: also 'round the throne

4:4] "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

Only man is a redeemed creature, these are redeemed and glorified men.

In Rev 5:8-9, these elders are seen and heard singing a song of praise to the lamb who had redeemed them.

There are no elders in the ranks of angels - there are levels of authority but no age differences to make one angel older than another

The term elder is always used to describe men everywhere it is used in other scriptures

Elders were always chosen representatives and leaders of men, both in Israel and the Church.

There are no elders in the visions of God's throne in Isaiah 6 or Ezekiel 1-10. Prior to the cross and resurrection, all the spirits of those to be redeemed and glorified were still confined in hades (paradise)

The elders were wearing white robes - as promised to the overcoming believers in the church (rev 3:5) and were wearing victor's crowns (rev 2:10, rev 3:11)

Angels are never described anywhere in scripture as wearing any kind of crown.

Rev 4:4 Twenty-Four Elders: The Redeemed

*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed **us** to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;*

*And hast made **us** unto our God kings and priests: and **we** shall reign on the earth.*

Revelation 5:9, 10

Many claim these words are mis-translated and should be the 3rd person: "them" rather than the 1st person: "us" and "we"...

No reputable concordance – **Strong's, New American Standard Updated Edition Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible** and **Thayer's Greek Definitions** – presents these translations as anything other than "us" and "we" and offer other occurrences where the 1st person is used.

Several references; 7 utterances:

Rev 4:4 And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and **twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.**

Rev 4:10-11 The four and twenty elders **fall down before him** that sat on the throne, and **worship him** that liveth for ever and ever, and **cast their crowns** before the throne, saying, 11 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.

Rev 5:5-6, 8-9 And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof. 6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and **in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb** as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. 8 And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four *and* twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having **every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints.** 9 And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and **hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;**

Rev 5:11, 14 And I beheld, and I heard the voice of **many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders:** and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; 14 And the four beasts said, Amen. And **the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped** him that liveth for ever and ever.

Rev 7:11, 13 And **all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God,** 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?

Rev 11:16 And the four and twenty elders, which sat before God on their seats, **fell upon their faces, and worshipped God,**

Rev 14:3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred *and* forty *and* four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth.

Rev 19:4 And **the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God** that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 4:4 - The Patriarchs ????

They might be the 24 patriarchs listed in Genesis who were in the line of Messiah.

They are certainly elders of the redeemed:

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. ADAM | 13. SALAH |
| 2. SETH | 14. EBER |
| 3. ENOS | 15. PELEG |
| 4. CAINAN | 16. REU |
| 5. MAHALALEEL | 17. SERUG |
| 6. JARED | 18. NAHOR |
| 7. ENOCH | 19. TERAH |
| 8. METHUSELAH | 20. ABRAHAM |
| 9. LAMECH | 21. ISAAC |
| 10. NOAH | 22. JACOB |
| 11. SHEM | 23. JUDAH |
| 12. ARPHAXAD | 24. PHAREZ |

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 4:4 Bakers Dozens

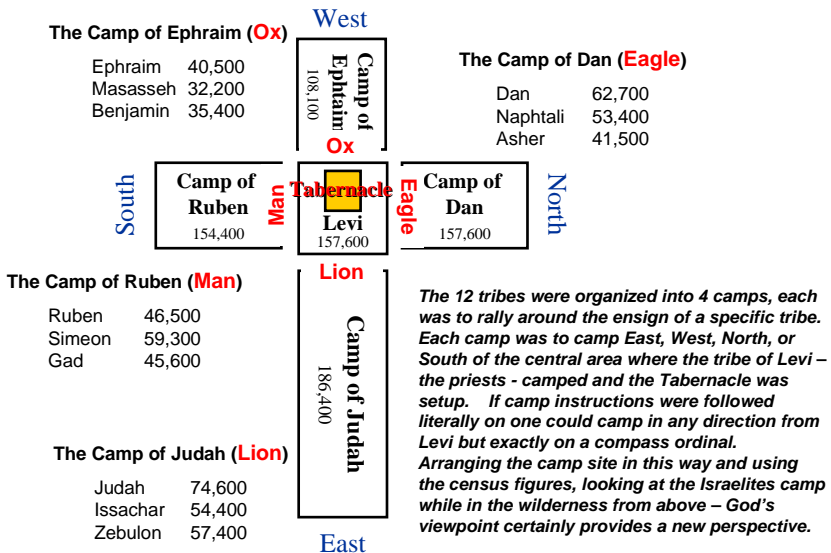
In the description of the new Jerusalem (Rev. 21:12-14),

Rev 21:12-14 And had a wall great and high, *and* had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are *the names* of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: 13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. 14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

Rev 7:4-8; Num. 2:2-32; Mat 10:2-4; Mark 3:16-19; Luke 6:13-16; Acts 1:13; Acts 1:26; 1 Cor 9:1-2; 1 Cor 15:9; Gal 1:1; 1 Tim 2:7

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Reuben, 2. Simeon, 3. Levi, 4. Judah, 5. Issachar, 6. Zebulun, 7. Ephraim (of Joseph), 8. Manasseh (of Joseph), 9. Benjamin, 10. Dan, 11. Naphtali, 12. Gad, 13. Asher | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Simon called Peter, 2. Andrew his brother, 3. James <i>the son</i> of Zebedee, 4. John his brother, 5. Philip, 6. James <i>the son</i> of Alphaeus, 7. Bartholomew (aka: Judas the brother of James), 8. Thomas, 9. Matthew the publican, 10. Lebbaeus, surnamed Thaddaeus, 11. Simon Zelotes the Canaanite, 12. Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus 12 ?. Matthias, who the apostles voted to replace Judas 12 or 13 ?. Paul who was Saul, who God appointed |
|---|---|

The Camp of Israel – Numbers 1-2



Rev. 4:4 Twenty-Four Elders: Clothed in White

4:4] "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

White is never to be found in the Scripture as the color of innocence.

These saints are clothed in white garments, the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ upon them.

The high priest Joshua ([Zech. 3](#)) did not receive white garments instead of his filthy garments, but clean ones, while the Tribulation saints not only washed their robes but made them white in the blood of the Lamb ([Rev. 7:14](#)).

The white is a righteousness which belongs to Christ alone and which is ours only through our being in Him.

The elders were wearing white robes - as promised to the overcoming believers in the church ([Rev 3:5](#)) and were wearing victor's crowns ([Rev 2:10](#), [Rev 3:11](#))

Rev 4:4 Twenty-Four Elders: Rulers

They are here as rulers; Wearing crowns, sitting on thrones..

This does not necessarily mean that these crowns are literal, this is symbolic of judgment.

Jesus promised the disciples that they would sit upon twelve thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel ([Matt. 19:28](#); [Luke 22:30](#)).

The believers are to share judgment with God. Remember the great promises to the believers that they shall rule with the Lord over the world (not just Israel which was promised to the Apostles).

"Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? . . . Know ye not that we shall judge angels?" ([1 cor. 6:2, 3](#)).

This authority is derived from the Lord, and all who wear the crowns recognize that it is from him, for in a moment they cast their crowns before the Lord ([Rev 4:10](#)).

There is a possibility that they are not named because they have not been chosen yet.

Some will reign over much – others over little. Will some rule over none ???

Note the conditions which must be met in order to reign:

[2 Tim 2:12](#)

[Rev 3:21](#)

[Rev 2:26-28](#)

If these thrones are awarded on the merit of their lives as the faithful on the earth then their identity cannot be revealed until after the Judgment Seat of Christ rewards are distributed.

Rev. 4:4 Twenty-Four Elders: not Angels

4:4] "And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold."

Only man is a redeemed creature, these are redeemed and glorified men.

In Rev 5:8-9, these elders are seen and heard singing a song of praise to the Lamb who had redeemed them.

There are no elders in the ranks of angels

- there are levels of authority but no age differences to make one angel older than another
- Col 1:16 does refer to 'thrones' as a possible rank of angelic authority; but does not call these beings 'elders' anywhere

The term elder is always used to describe men everywhere it is used in other scriptures

Elders were always chosen representatives and leaders of men, both in Israel and the Church.

There are no elders in the visions of God's throne in Isaiah 6 or Ezekiel 1-10.

Prior to the cross and resurrection, all the spirits of those to be redeemed and glorified were still confined in hades (paradise) (Luke 16)

Angels are never described anywhere in scripture as wearing any kind of crown.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:5 Thunder & Lightning

4:5] 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.

From the throne proceed lightnings and thunderings and voices.

Traditionally symbols of Power and Judgment

Heard 4X in Sinai

God's voice is often described as Thunder and Lightning

PS 77:18

JOB 37:4

EX 19:16

PS 29:1-11

The first rumbling of the judgment that shall come forth against mankind out of our Lord, against the empire of Satan, and the worlds of the universe.

This is a premonition of judgment, but soon worlds shall perish. They shall wax old as doth a garment. They shall be folded away like a vesture, and they shall be changed (Heb. 1:11, 12).

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:5 Thunder & Lightning

4:5] And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunders and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

These three sounds, heard from the throne of God, can be interpreted only with the concordance.

(Joh 12:29) The people therefore, that stood by, and heard *it*, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.

They are the same sounds which proceeded from Sinai when the law was given.

"And it came to pass . . . that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud" (Exod. 19:16).

The people trembled in fear when they heard it but they did not obey, and now the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer. 30:7) is about to be introduced, and the nations of the earth are to be brought into judgment.

“Thunders, voices, lightnings, and an earthquake”

4:5	Throne
8:5	Seals
11:19	Trumpets
16:18	Bowls

Rev. 4:5 Thunder & Lightning

Again and again in Revelation lightnings announce the judgments of God. The voices are not merely the claps of thunder, but are the articulate announcements of the judgment of God which the earth will soon feel.

(Rev 4:5) 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.

(Rev 6:1) And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.

(Rev 8:5) And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast *it* into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

(Rev 10:3) And cried with a loud voice, as *when* a lion roareth: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

(Rev 10:4) And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

(Rev 11:19) And the temple of God was opened in heaven, and there was seen in his temple the ark of his testament: and there were lightnings, and voices, and thunderings, and an earthquake, and great hail.

(Rev 14:2) And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

(Rev 16:18) And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and so great*.

(Rev 19:6) And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:5 7 Lamps...again

4:5] 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.

“Seven lamps”: Previously identified as the church in Rev 1:10, these lamps are now in heaven!

Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, and these are stated to be the seven Spirits of God. (Isa 11:2)

We have seen in earlier passages that there is but one Holy Spirit, but that He is in a sevenfold perfection of activity in carrying out the purposes of God.

His oneness with the Father is here manifest in the fact that He is spoken of as a source of light.

The source of Heaven's light is threefold and yet it is one.

"The glory of God did lighten it [the holy city] and the Lamb is the light thereof" (Rev. 21:23), and here the Holy Spirit is a sevenfold lamp. Father, Son and Spirit are one.

Fueling the lamps of the church (Matt 25:1-13)

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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[1:4] from him
 which is, and which was, and which is to come;
 and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;
 [1:5] And from Jesus Christ, ...

<u>Here</u>	<u>Not as usual</u>
Father	Father
Spirit	Son
Son	Spirit

the seven Spirits before
 the throne of God

- ...the spirit of YHWH [the Lord] shall rest upon him,
- the spirit of wisdom
- and understanding,
- the spirit of counsel
- and might,
- the spirit of knowledge
- and of the fear of the Lord
 (Isa. 11:2).

Compare with: "Convicting of sin", "Teacher" and "Comforter"
John 14:16 John 14:26 John 15:26 John 16:7.

Rev. 4:6-11

Prelude to Judgment

"And before the throne there was a glassy sea, like crystal: and in the midst of the throne and round about the throne four living ones, full of eyes before and behind. 7 And the first living one is like a lion; and the second living one is like a young bullock; and the third living one has a face as a man; and the fourth living one is like a flying eagle.

"And each of the four living ones has six wings; round about and within they are full of eyes and they have no rest day and night, saying: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty who was and who is and who is coming.

'And when the living ones give glory and honor and thanks to the One who sits upon the throne, who lives to the ages of the ages, 10 the four and twenty elders fall down before the One who sits upon the throne and worship Him who lives to the ages of the ages, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy pleasure they were, and were created.

(Rev. 4:6-11, Free Translation)

Rev. 4:6 The Glassy Sea

The sea of glass: Preciousness

Dazzling purity

Immense expanse

This sea was before the throne

- probably extending out from it on all sides
- separating the throne from all the people and creatures around it.

This crystal sea was still and undisturbed

- since those before it were already cleansed and prepared to serve and minister in God's presence.
- the time and need for their cleansing was finished

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Human language is not adequate to describe Heavenly things

Symbols point us to certain Old Testament scenes which shed further light on the meaning of these words.

Most important perhaps is the clue that is given to us in Heb 9:23.

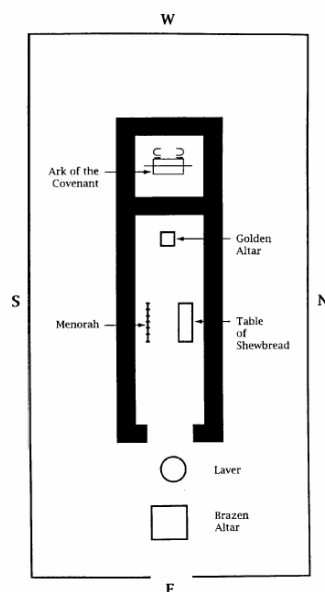
It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

The tabernacle built by Moses, and its appointments, the specifications of which were given by God Himself on Mount Sinai, were the patterns or representations of things in the Heavens.

When a priest entered the holy place of the tabernacle for the first time, the first object his eyes would have perceived would have been the seven-pronged candlestick with its seven lights by which all his ministrations were to be illuminated.

As soon as John had become accustomed to the glorious Presence on Heaven's throne, he saw the seven lamps burning there which symbolize the perfection of the work of the Holy Spirit in God's people – His kings and priests – the Church.

The Wilderness Tabernacle



Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:

4

Rev. 4:6 The Glassy Sea

6] And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

Before the throne there was a glassy sea, like crystal.

A concordance immediately takes us to the temple built by Solomon after the model of the tabernacle.

"And he made a molten sea, ten cubits from the one brim to the other: it was round all about, and its height was five cubits" (1 Kings 7:23).

This great basin, fifteen feet in diameter, was supported on the backs of twelve oxen of brass, facing outward. EX 30:18-21 2 CHRON 4:2-6

It was here the priests came to perform their cleansing ceremony each time before they entered the holy place.

Moses made the laver in the tabernacle out of the mirrors of the women.

These were of metal, highly polished.

Human vanity and pride, typified by these mirrors, are melted down in the presence of God.

When we see Him, our comeliness fades and we must go to His laver for cleansing.

Rev. 4:6 The Glassy Sea

The laver, the sea, that John saw before the throne of God was not filled with water.

When we are saved, we are justified, and all our sin is removed forever.

This is why our Lord refused to wash Peter's head and hands again.

Joh 13:4-17 He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. 5 After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel wherewith he was girded. 6 Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. 8 Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. 9 Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also *my hands and my head*. 10 Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash *his feet*, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. 11 For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. 12 So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? 13 Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. 14 If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. 15 For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. 16 Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. 7 If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Rev. 4:6 The Glassy Sea

6] And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

But Peter still needed the laver.

The daily contact with the world demanded a repeated coming to the throne of God.

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9).

This is our font of cleansing.

The laver John saw had been turned to crystal.

The day will come when none of the saints will ever need confession.

Today, we begin and end each day with prayer asking God to look back over the hours and by His Spirit to show us the things wherein we have displeased Him.

Then, He points us to the laver.

No matter what our day has been, we currently still have a need for it at the end of the day.

If we say that we do not need it, we deceive ourselves, and worse, we make God a liar (1 John 1:8, 10)

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Rev. 4:6 The Glassy Sea

6] And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

One of the greatest joys in the anticipation of Heaven is that the laver is of crystal.

- I shall never have to go to the Heavenly Father again to tell Him I have sinned.
- I shall never have to meet that gaze of Christ that caused Peter to go out and weep bitterly.

The laver is of crystal only because I and all the saints of all the ages will have been made like unto the Lord Jesus Christ.

- There will be no more sin; no more cleansing

We will stand on Christ's finished work

This is one of the reasons why it will be Heaven

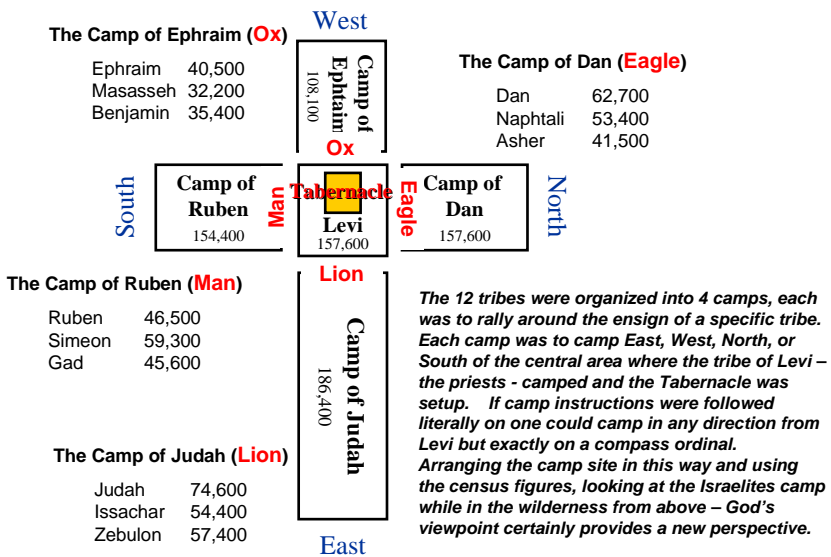
***"Standing on the promises of Christ my King,
Through eternal ages let His praises ring...."***

Aw, a Cherub – Not in my Bible !!!



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The Camp of Israel – Numbers 1-2



Rev. 4:6 Four Living ~~Beasts~~ Creatures

6] And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

In the midst of and round about the throne, John saw four living ones.

4 beasts => gk: zoon; zoa => lit: living ones, living creatures.

The King James translation which calls these creatures "beasts" is unfortunate.

They are creatures of the highest order. Comparing other passages in Scripture we see that they are the cherubim.

Here the reference is not about their nature or earlier history but to their office and work.

Satan before his fall was the anointed or set apart cherub. **Ezek 28:11-19**

The passages in **Ezekiel 28** and **Isaiah 14**, describe him, his unfallen state, his fall and reveal him as once being of the highest power and beauty.

He is called "**the anointed cherub that covereth.**"

One of the French versions casts further light on this point.

"Thou art the cherub who wast set apart to protect" **Ezek. 28:14**

He was set by God in some authority connected with God's government. Lucifer fell from this high office and became Satan.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:6 Cherubim

6] And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

They are around the throne but also in the midst of the throne - the closest in proximity to God of all creatures

These are most probably the highest in the ranks and hierarchy of angels having immediate access to God and his throne.

The main visions in which they are seen show them in close association with the throne of God and the very heart of His divine glory.

The first time we find them in the Scriptures they are working as instruments of authority and government.

The first appearance of these living ones is in connection with the expulsion of Adam and Eve from the garden of Eden. **Gen 3:24**

The casual reader thinks that the flaming swords of the cherubim which turned every way were for the purpose of keeping Adam and Eve – now banished - from any attempt to return to their former abode.

Scripture says that they were sent to keep, to guard, to protect, the way of the tree of life.

God placed them with flaming swords to keep the way of the tree of life.

What was this way?

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:6 The Way to Life Everlasting

In every age God has had one means of approach to Himself.

In every age the means to approach Him has been some symbol of Christ

"No man cometh unto the Father but by me" (John 14:6).

Adam and Eve were driven to a spot outside the garden.

They and their children had been ordered to bring a blood sacrifice.

Abel obeyed this unrecorded command "by faith" (Heb. 11:4).

Cain, after his sin, "went out from the presence of the Lord" (Gen. 4:16).

God must have put up an altar in the east of Eden where He ordered a blood sacrifice to be the basis of approach to Him by fallen man.

Satan, as in all ages, would have sought to hinder man from his approach to God.

The cherubim were placed there, greater in might than fallen Satan, with the ability to ward off his attempts to destroy the altar.

In the Temple, Cherubim statues guarded the Ark and Mercy Seat.

Between the cherubim, the sacrificial blood was brought, and sinful man had access into the presence of a holy God through the Lamb who was slain, symbolic of The Lamb to come.

Heb 8:5 Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, *that* thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.

Heb 10:1 For the law having a shadow of good things to come, *and* not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect.

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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The Stratagems of Satan

- Corruption of Adam's line *Gen 6*
- Abraham's seed *Gen 12, 20*
- Famine *Gen 50*
- Destruction of male line *Exo 1*
- Pharaoh's pursuit *Exo 14*
- The populating of Canaan *Gen 12:6*
- Against David's line *2 Sam 7*

Attacks on David's Line

- Jehoram kills his brothers *2 Chr. 21*
- Arabians slew all (but Ahazariah)
- Athaliah kills all (but Joash) *2 Chr. 22*
- Hezekiah assaulted, etc. *Isa 36, 38*
- Haman's attempts *Est 3*

New Testament Stratagems

- Joseph's fears: *Matt 1*
 - Herod's attempts: *Matt 2*
 - At Nazareth: *Luke 4*
 - 2 storms on the Sea: *Mark 4; Luke 8*
 - The Cross
 - Summary: *Rev 12*
- ...and he's not through...

cherub, cherubim (plural)

Total KJV Occurrences: 92

H3742 e_לוֹ **כְּרוּב**
G5502 cherou**bi**m **χερουβίμ**

Cherubim: (64)

Gen 3:24	Exo 25:18-20 (4)	Exo 25:22	Exo 26:1
Exo 26:31	Exo 36:8	Exo 36:35	Exo 37:7-9 (4)
Num 7:89	1Sa 4:4	2Sa 6:2	1Ki 6:23
1Ki 6:25	1Ki 6:27-29 (4)	1Ki 6:32 (2)	1Ki 6:35
1Ki 7:29	1Ki 7:36	1Ki 8:6-7 (3)	2Ki 19:15
1Ch 13:6	1Ch 28:18	2Ch 3:7	2Ch 3:10-11 (2)
2Ch 3:13-14 (2)	2Ch 5:7-8 (3)	Psa 99:1 (2)	Isa 37:16
Eze 10:1-3 (3)	Eze 10:6-9 (5)	Eze 10:15-16 (3)	Eze 10:18-20 (3)
Eze 11:22	Eze 41:18	Eze 41:20	Eze 41:25
Heb 9:5			

Cherub: (27)

Exo 25:19 (2)	Exo 37:8 (2)	2Sa 22:11	1Ki 6:24-27 (6)
2Ch 3:11-12 (3)	Psa 18:10	Eze 9:3	Eze 10:2
Eze 10:4	Eze 10:7	Eze 10:9 (2)	Eze 28:14 (2)
Eze 28:16	Eze 41:18 (3)		

cherubims': (1)

Eze 10:5

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:7-8 Lion, Calf, Man, Eagle

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

These are symbols Like a Lion, Like a Calf, a face as a Man, Like a flying Eagle

Throughout Church history, these same symbols have been used to portray various characteristics of our Lord Himself.

The four faces represent:

The lion - the greatest wild animal
The ox - the greatest domestic animal
The eagle - the greatest flying animal
An man - the greatest of all creatures

There are sculptures and windows with these symbols representing the four Gospels:

- Matthew showing us Jesus as the Lion of the tribe of Judah;
- Mark revealing the Lord as the ox, the Servant of all;
- Luke portraying the Lord as the Man above all men; and
- John manifesting Christ as the eternal Word who was in the beginning with God, who indeed was God (**John 1: 1**).

It is in these portrayals that the differences in the 4 Gospels are to be found. 8

Design Structure of the 4 Gospels

	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
	----- Synoptic Gospels -----			
Presents as:	Messiah	Servant	Son of Man	Son of God
Face:	Lion	Ox	Man	Eagle
Ensign:	Judah	Ephraim	Reuben	Dan
Camp site:	East	West	South	North
Genealogy:	Abraham (Legal-Jewish)	None (Servants had none)	Adam (Human bloodline)	Eternal (Pre-existence)
Focus:	What Jesus said	What Jesus did	What Jesus felt	Who Jesus Was
Written to:	Jew	Roman	Greek	Church
1st Miracle:	Leper cleansed	Demon expelled	Demon expelled	Water to Wine
Ends with:	Resurrection	Ascension	Promise: Spirit (Acts)	Promise: Return (Revelation)
Style:	Groupings	Snapshots	Narrative	Supernatural review
Key Word:	Fulfilled (38x)	Eutheos (42x)	It came to pass (40x)	Verily, Verily (24x)
Jesus:	151x	13x	88x	247x
Facts:	Whole Camp	Outer Court	Holy Place	Holy of Holies
Aspects:	Human	Human	Human	Divine
Ministry:	Galilean	Galilean	Galilean	Judean

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 4:6-8 Cheribm:

Always near the throne of God

Rev 4:6 and before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. (Kjv)

Rev 5:6 and I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. (Kjv)

Can proceed in any direction without turning

Ezek 1:12 and they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; And they turned not when they went. (Kjv)

Ezekiel identifies them as the cherubim

Ezek 10:20-22 this is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river of Chebar; And I knew that they were the cherubims. 21 every one had four faces apiece, and every one four wings; And the likeness of the hands of a man was under their wings. 22 and the likeness of their faces was the same faces which I saw by the river of Chebar, their appearances and themselves: they went every one straight forward. (Kjv)

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1 Thes 5:21

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Rev 4:6-8 Seraphim:

Isaiah may call them seraphim - or the seraphim may be a related very similar creature

Isa 6:1-7 1 in the year that King Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2 above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; With twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3 and one cried unto another, and said, holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. 4 and the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 then said I, woe is me! For I am undone; Because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the king, the LORD of hosts. 6 then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7 and he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; And thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. (Kjv)

Seriphim means firey ones - we do not know the origin or root of cherubim

Ezek 1:13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. (Kjv)

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1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:7-8 Constantly praise and worship God

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Rev 4:8 and the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; And they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. (Kjv)

Rev 5:9 and they sung a new song, saying, thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; (Kjv)

Rev 5:14 and the four beasts said, amen. And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever. (Kjv)

Rev 7:11 and all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, (kjv)

Rev 19:4 and the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, amen; Alleluia. (Kjv)

Acts 17:11

1 Thes 5:21

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Rev. 4:7-8 Holy, Holy, Holy

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Their cry is like that of the seraphim in Isaiah's vision - the threefold holiness of the Lord.

**HOLY – HOLY – HOLY
Father – Son – Holy Spirit**

Isa 6:3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. (Kjv)

These cherub's continually give all glory to God

past / present / and future character and work of the triune God

God is perfectly holy in:

His creation work

His redemptive work

His work of consummation

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Rev. 4:7-8 Holy, Holy, Holy

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

All of the descriptions of the cherubim and seraphim serve to glorify God – not the cherubim or seraphim.

The angels of Heaven and God's creation never cease to proclaim God's majesty and glory.

And as the heavens declare the glory of God, so the angelic hosts "rest not day nor night."

Men have turned away from God and have followed one of the cherubim into rebellion. [Isa 14](#) [Ezek 28](#)

The earth bears the mark of God's the curse upon sin.

Yet God is worshiped and His whole creation continues to praise Him.

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Rev. 4:7-8 Perform certain tasks for God

**7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.
8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.**

Rev 6:1 and I saw when the lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, come and see. (Kjv)

Rev 6:7 and when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, come and see. (Kjv)

Rev 15:7 and one of the four beasts gave unto the seven angels seven golden vials full of the wrath of God, who liveth for ever and ever. (Kjv)

Cherubim are believed to be the guardians of God's throne

Rev. 4:7-8 4-6 wings, full of eyes

Both Isaiah's living creatures and John's living creature description says they have 6 wings

Isa 6:2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; With twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. (Kjv)

Rev 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; And they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, holy, holy, holy, lord god almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. (Kjv)

Ezekiel describes them as having 4 wings

These four may refer to the wings used to fly versus the 2 used to cover themselves

Ezekiel - two for forward/backward motion - two for left/right motion ???

Isaiah - two for covering the feet and two for covering the face (presumably two for flying) ???

Ezek 1:6 And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. (Kjv)

Rev 4:6-8 Cheribm / Seraphim: not Men

They are described as being full of eyes - nothing escaping their observation

They are real beings - not symbols

They speak as a unit and individually Rev 4:9, Rev 5:14, Rev 6:1-7

They are not men

Ezek 1:5-6 5 also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; They had the likeness of a man. 6 and every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. (Kjv)

Ezek 1:10 As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; They four also had the face of an eagle. (Kjv)

Ezek 1:18 As for their rings, they were so high that they were dreadful; And their rings were full of eyes round about them four. (Kjv)

Ezek 1:22 And the likeness of the firmament upon the heads of the living creature was as the colour of the terrible crystal, stretched forth over their heads above. (Kjv)

Ezek 1:26 And above the firmament that was over their heads 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. (Kjv)

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Rev. 4:8 Names of God

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

As Lord, He is Jehovah, the God of redemption.

As God, He is the Strong One with all power in Himself.

The term Almighty takes us back either to

- the Lord of Hosts which speaks of Him as the Creator of the infinite armies of Heaven or
- to the revelation to Abraham where He gives Himself the name El Shaddai, the Almighty, but which really means the Breasted One, the One who nourishes, the One who is the source of life and strength.

The cry of the cherubim ends with the eternal character of God.

This is the One who always was; this is the One who now is; and this is the One who is coming.

The last clause does not refer to the fact of some future existence but the present participle is the announcement that He is about to come again.

Great judgments are now to be poured out. It is this God who will act.

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Rev. 4:7-8

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

God is about to exercise His Lordship over all creation, to bring man to the bitterest judgments of all human history.

Satan, the anointed cherub, has long resisted Him.

Here are living ones now Satan's superiors, since they have access to all of the power of God – something Satan forfeited.

These were not and are not with him in his rebellion.

They are ready to carry into effect the orders of divine judgment.

The fact that these living ones are filled with eyes "before and behind," "round about and within" is symbolic of the fact that these beings are not blind instruments who act as automatons, but sentient creatures who perceive and know and understand.

As Satan chose, so can they – They have chosen to obey and serve God

Rev. 4:9 ...for ever and ever

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

God lives to the ages of the ages.

This is the strongest possible expression for an unending eternity.

Later we shall see that the same phrase is used of the duration of the punishment of Satan, his captains and those of earth who have followed him.

Some have tried to claim that such punishment will come to an end and have argued that the phrase was one which indicated a period with a final termination at which such punishment would end. How we would love to believe this!

It does not end however.

It is the length of the duration of God's existence!

Rev. 4:10-11 the joint effect of Praise...

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 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. (KJV)

The 24 elders see these living beings, with their power and close relation to God's throne protecting His holiness, prostrate themselves before God.

The elders see them ascribing glory and honor and thanksgiving to this One who sits upon the throne and who lives to the ages of the ages.

Immediately the elders fall down before Him and worship Him.

Satan may have seduced the world through millenniums of struggle to accept him as the prince of this world and as the god of this age, but now beings mightier than he show the way of true worship.

The creatures, the living beings, praise with Holy, Holy, Holy,

The elders add to their praise of Holy, Holy, Holy, glory, thanks and honor to the Lord.

Honor => lit: value, worth the Lord is all worthy

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Intensity Escalation toward the End

1:6 (2) Glory, dominion
4:11 (3) Glory, honor, power
5:13 (5) Blessing, honor, glory, power
7:12 (7) Blessing,
glory,
wisdom,
thanksgiving,
honor,
power,
might

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Rev. 4:10-11 the joint effect of Praise...

Only the elders - representing the redeemed - can participate fully in all three songs of thanks and praise for only they have experienced God's redemption.

The last three references to thanks in the Bible are offered and apply to the worship and praise before the throne of God in the heavens. Notice how it grows....

For God's work of creation

Rev 4:9-11 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to Him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, 10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 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. (KJV)

For God's work relating to salvation

Rev 7:12 Saying, amen: blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. (Kjv)

For God's work in the consummation of all things

Rev 11:17 saying, we give thee thanks, O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; Because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. (Kjv)

Songs

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|
| 1) 4:8 | Holy, holy, holy |
| 2) 4:11; 5:8-10 | worthy art thou |
| 3) 5:11-13 | unto Him that sitteth |
| 4) 7:9,10 | Salvation to our God |
| 11,12 | Amen; Blessing... |
| 5) 11:15 | Kingdoms of the world |
| 16-18 | We give thee thanks |
| 6) 15:2-4 | great & marvelous... |
| 7) 19:1-8 | hallelujahs |

Note: Only the redeemed sing...

Rev. 4:10-11 crowns cast down...

If the elders have crowns to cast down, the rewards must have already been given.

Before they can cast the crowns before His throne they must descend from their own thrones

In this atmosphere of worship and praise their own rewards received for deeds they have done will seem unimportant to those receiving them by the very fact of his presence

- All they accomplished was at his will and empowering
- They have nothing they did not receive from him
- All is of God by Christ Jesus

They return (whether temporarily as an act of worship or permanently as an act of submission and humility) the crowns they received from him

Rev 19:12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; And he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. (Kjv)

When we see the worship of the mighty cherubim, we realize that no crown rightfully belongs to us and we shall cast them down before the presence of Him who lives forever.

We will willingly and eagerly return any power, and authority we have been given back to God who is the rightful source and owner of it.

We will rule and reign as did Adam before he fell – walking in the shadow of God's wisdom and guidance, fully committed to him as our God.

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Rev. 4:10-11 the joint effect of Praise...

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 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. (KJV)

Verse 11 in the greek contains the definite article. The KJV excludes it.

Thou art worthy, O Lord to receive the glory and the honor and the power....

God deserves all glory, honor and power - not just a portion of it.

God alone is to receive the homage of men.

The redeemed saints have learned this lesson and are glad not only to prostrate themselves before Him but to take the crowns which they wear and cast them down at His feet.

Rev. 4:11 Worthy, Glory, Honor, Power

11 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. (KJV)

It is God who created all things, and because of His sovereign pleasure they were called into being.

His works have been sullied by sin.

His Name has been brought into disrepute among men because of the existence of sin in His creation and because of the effects of judgment upon that creation.

He who moved at first to create, now moves to restore.

Righteous judgment is about to be poured out upon the earth and the eternal plan of God, seemingly frustrated by the entrance of sin, will be shown to be the planned end of all things.

No one will have an excuse nor will anyone be excused.

All sin will be paid for...if the sinner refuses Jesus payment on his behalf, he will pay for his own sin for himself...

Rev 4:9-11 God of Creation

11 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. (KJV)

Before God can be known as Redeemer, he must be recognized and honored and believed in as creator.

Even most fundamentalists today consider the doctrine of creation to be an unimportant incidental not important enough to argue, defend or believe rigidly.

Some even compromise with atheism by granting that 'God used evolution in the creative process'

Interesting that John witnesses those redeemed who are before God praising him for his creation work first.

All things that exist, exist because of his creative will and power.

They are created – 'hast created'

It is not that they are being created - evolution

Rev 4:9-11 God of Creation

11 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. (KJV)

The greek word: thelema is normally translated as "will"; here is it translated "pleasure".

This is it's last occurrence in scripture

The first is in the lesson on prayer by Jesus to his disciples

Matt 6:10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

This answers the reason for creation - the universe ... God wanted to do it - it was His will to create us; it was for His pleasure; for the joy of the Lord

Prov 16:4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

Isa 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; Yea, I have made him. (Kjv)

Rom 11:34 For who hath known the mind of the lord? Or who hath been his counsellor?

Rom 9:20-23 20 nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, why hast 21 hath not the potter power over the clay, of the same lump to make one vessel unto honour, and another unto dishonour? 22 what if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: 23 and that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory,

It is presumptuous of the created to question the reasons of the creator, who can do what he wants as he wants without owing an explanation to anyone or anything - even though he most often offers us an explanation and gives us his reason

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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A praise party has begun in the heavens before the throne of God - praise to God and our Lord.

Revelation Chapter 5 continues to describe this worship service which suddenly pauses at Revelation 6 for the beginning the judgment upon the earth and those who remain upon it.

Acts 17:11 1 Thes 5:21

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