

## Revelation 4-5 In Depth

“the first voice which I heard”

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## OT Rapture Verse?

Isaiah 26:19-21 — Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead. Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past. For behold, the LORD comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain.

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## 2- The Throne of God

### OLD TESTAMENT THRONE VISIONS PARALLELING REVELATION 4

-Isaiah's Throne Vision: Isaiah 6:1–7

-Ezekiel's Throne Vision: Ezekiel 1:26–28; Ezekiel 10

-Micaiah's Throne Vision: 1 Kings 22:19

-Daniel's Throne Vision: Daniel 7:9–14

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“He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance”

Revelation 21:11 — ...Her light was like a most precious stone, like a jasper stone, clear as crystal.

-Jasper ≠ modern jasper (opaque), more like a diamond

JASPER — “CLEAR / DIAMOND-LIKE”

-SARDIUS (CARNELIAN) — “FIERY RED”

So John saw something that was:

-Brilliant, blazing white light (jasper/diamond)

-Fiery, blood-red flame (sardius)

Heb. 12:29 — “Our God is a consuming fire”

1 Tim 6:16 — “...dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see...”

-Dan. 7:9 — “His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire...”

-Ezek. 1:26-27 — ...on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around.

Jasper & Sardius = Ruben & Benjamin's stones.

Exod. 28:17&20 "You shall put settings of stones in it [the breastplate of the high priest], four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and an emerald; this shall be the first row... And the fourth row: a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper. They shall be set in gold settings."

These sons were the "First & Last."

-Ruben means "behold a son"

-Benjamin means "son of my right hand"

-Emerald is Judah (worship/praise)

"Behold a son, son of my right hand, praise/ worship!"

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Who are the 24 elders?

White Robes & Crowns

#### SAINTS WEARING WHITE GARMENTS

-Rev. 3:4-5 — "They shall walk with Me in white... He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments."

-Rev. 6:11 — "A white robe was given to each of them."

-Rev. 7:9 — "A great multitude... clothed with white robes."

-Rev. 7:14 — "They washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."

#### ANGELS ALSO WEARING WHITE GARMENTS

-Dan. 10:5 — "A certain man clothed in linen."

-Matt. 28:3 — "His clothing as white as snow."

-Mark 16:5 — "A young man clothed in a long white robe."

-John 20:12 — "Two angels in white."

-Acts 1:10 — "Two men stood by them in white apparel."

#### PROMISES OF CROWNS TO BELIEVERS

-James 1:12 — "He shall receive the crown of life."

-1 Cor. 9:25 — "An imperishable crown."

-2 Tim. 4:8 — "The crown of righteousness... the Lord will give."

-1 Pet. 5:4 — "You will receive the crown of glory."

-Rev. 2:10 — "I will give you the crown of life."

-Rev. 3:11 — "Hold fast... that no one may take your crown."

-NO Scripture ever speaks of angels having/receiving crowns

#### FOUR POSSIBILITIES FOR THE IDENTITY OF THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

- 1. Heavenly Priestly Order
- 2. High-Order Angelic Beings
- 3. Twelve Tribes Plus Twelve Apostles
- 4. Representatives of the Glorified Redeemed Church

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Exodus 19:16 — Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

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“The seven fold Spirit of God”

Revelation 1:4-5 — Grace to you and peace from:

- Him who is and who was and who is to come, -and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,
- and from Jesus Christ

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#### The Sea of Glass

Exodus 24:9-10 — Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, and they saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity.

\*\*Elders Plateau video

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What are the four living creatures?

#### WHAT WE KNOW FOR CERTAIN ABOUT THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

- Found in FOUR main texts: Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1&10, & Revelation 4-5
- They are called Cherubim in Ezekiel (Ezek. 10:15), Seraphim in Isaiah (Isa. 6:2), and Living Creatures in Revelation (Rev. 4:6).
- They are always positioned in close proximity to the throne of God. Ezek. 1:26 [below]; Isa. 6:1–2 [above]; Rev. 4:6 [around]

- They possess multiple faces/forms associated with lion, ox/calf, man, and eagle (Ezek. 1:10 & Rev. 4:7).
- They are described as being full of eyes, emphasizing awareness and perception (Ezek. 10:12; Rev. 4:6, 8).
- They have wings (Ezekiel: 4 wings; Isaiah & Revelation: 6 wings) (Ezek. 1:6; Isa. 6:2; Rev. 4:8).
- They are directly associated with the triple cry “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Isa. 6:3; Rev. 4:8).
- They are connected with fire imagery and divine holiness (Ezek. 1:13–14; Isa. 6:6; Ezek. 10:6–7).

#### FOUR MAJOR INTERPRETATIONS OF THE FOUR FACES:

- Chiefs of Creation: Lion = wild animals, Ox = domesticated animals, Man = humanity, Eagle = birds/heavens;
- Attributes of God’s Rule: Lion = royal authority, Ox = strength and service, Man = intelligence and moral responsibility, Eagle = swiftness and heavenly transcendence.
- Christological View: Lion = King (Matthew), Ox = Servant (Mark), Man = Son of Man (Luke), Eagle = Son of God (John); portrays the full nature of Christ.
- Israelite Tribal Standard View: Lion = Judah, Ox = Ephraim, Man = Reuben, Eagle = Dan;

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Numbers 1:52 — “The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, everyone by his own camp, everyone by his own standard, according to their armies;

#### BAMIDBAR RABBAH (NUMBERS RABBAH) 2:7 — AD 1100–1200

“Judah’s standard bore the figure of a lion; Reuben’s bore the figure of a man; Ephraim’s bore the figure of an ox; and Dan’s bore the figure of an eagle—corresponding to the cherubim which Ezekiel saw.”

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“Whenever... the elders...”

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#### CHAPTER 5

What is the scroll?

#### POPULAR VIEWS OF THE SCROLL WITH SEVEN SEALS:

- Heavenly Book of Judgments
- Roman-Style Legal Will
- Title Deed to the Earth
- Divine Redemptive Plan

Jeremiah 32:9-12 — “So I bought the field from Hanamel, the son of my uncle who was in Anathoth, and weighed out to him the money—seventeen shekels of silver. “And I signed the deed and sealed it, took witnesses, and weighed the money on the scales. “So I took the purchase deed, both that which was sealed according to the law and custom, and that which was open; “and I gave the purchase deed to Baruch the son of Neriah, son of Mahseiah, in the presence of Hanamel my uncle’s son, and in the presence of the witnesses who signed the purchase deed, before all the Jews who sat in the court of the prison.

#### WHAT WE CAN SAY FOR CERTAIN ABOUT THE SCROLL (REVELATION 5–6)

- 1. The scroll is in the right hand of God and fully sealed with seven seals (Rev. 5:1).
- 2. No created being is worthy to open it except the Lamb, Jesus Christ (Rev. 5:3–5).
- 3. John’s intense weeping shows that what is contained in the scroll is of immense cosmic importance and must be opened for God’s plan to move forward (Rev. 5:4).
- 4. The opening of the scroll initiates the prophetic events and judgments of the end times (Rev. 6:1–17).

Romans 8:19-23 — For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

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#### Lev. 25:29–30

“If a man sells a house in a walled city, then he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold; within a full year he may redeem it. But if it is not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house in the walled city shall belong permanently to him who bought it, throughout his generations; it shall not be released in the Jubilee.”

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Genesis 49:9 — Judah is a lion’s whelp; From the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; And as a lion, who shall rouse him?

Isaiah 11:10 — “And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; For the Gentiles shall seek Him, And His resting place shall be glorious.”

Romans 15:12 — And again, Isaiah says: “There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, In Him the Gentiles shall hope.”

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“...a Lamb as though it had been slain”

-How did Jesus look after His crucifixion?

John 20:27 — Then He said to Thomas, “Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing.”

John 21:12 — Jesus said to them, “Come and eat breakfast.” Yet none of the disciples dared ask Him, “Who are You?”—knowing that it was the Lord.

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“Us vs Them”

MAIN ARGUMENT FOR “THEY/THEM”

-Codex Vaticanus (B): c. AD 325–350 (4th century)

-Codex Alexandrinus (A): c. AD 400–440 (early 5th century)

TOP FOUR REASONS “US / WE” IS LIKELY THE ORIGINAL READING (REVELATION 5:9–10)

-1. Jerome’s Latin Vulgate Influence: (AD 385) -2. Majority of Greek Manuscripts (MT/BYZ)

-3. Identity of “the Elders”

-4. Early Commentaries

FIVE EARLIEST REVELATION COMMENTARIES

-Victorinus of Pettau: AD 260–303 (earliest known commentary on Revelation)

-Tyconius: AD 370–390

-Jerome: AD 382–405 (translator of the Latin Vulgate)

-Primasius of Hadrumetum: AD 550

-Andrew of Caesarea: AD 600–640 (earliest full Greek commentary on Revelation)

-All support “us/we”

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Will the animals talk in heaven?

\*NotEden1

\*NotEden2

\*NotEden3

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Psalm 150:1-6 — Praise the LORD! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament! Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness! Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet; Praise Him with the lute and harp! Praise Him with the timbrel and dance; Praise Him with stringed instruments and flutes! Praise Him with loud cymbals; Praise Him with clashing cymbals! Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD!

“Worship and song did not originate with humans, it was revealed to us.”