

Blessed Hope

1 After these things...

- Revelation 1:19** "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this"

- After these things; i.e. After the Church Age
Rapture of the Church

- 1 Thessalonians 4:17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him. 11 **Therefore comfort each other** and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the blessed hope** and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ

1b... I looked, and behold, a **door *standing* open** in heaven.

Luke 24:51 It came to pass, while [Jesus] blessed them, that He was parted from them and **carried up into heaven...**

- **As Jesus ascended to Heaven the Church will follow...**

Ascension and Our Access By His Cross is the door by which every member of the human race can enter into the eternal life of God: by His resurrection, he has the right to give eternal life to anyone, and by His Ascension our Lord entered heaven, keeping the door open to all humanity. [Oswald Chambers]

- **Jesus is the Door to Eternal Life**

John 10:9 I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.

John 14:6 ... **"I am the way,** the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

John sees a door open to Heaven. A way to out of this mess...
John sees a Door open to Heaven

1c...And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, **"Come up here,** and I will show you things which must take place after this." ² **Immediately I was in the Spirit;** and behold, **a throne set in heaven,** and **One sat on the throne.**

"Come on up!"

- **Immediately** John is in the Spirit
- **Immediately** John is standing before God/His throne in Heaven

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep [die], but we shall **all be changed**— 52 in a moment, in the **twinkling of an eye** [immediately], at the last trumpet.

Apostle John: Picture of Rapture of the Church

- **Jesus promise to His own:** I will come back to get you!

John 14:3 ...if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself;** that where I am, there you may be also.

- **Church will be taken:** Open Door, Loud Call, Immediate Change, New Location

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the **trumpet of God** [v1]. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Jesus will come again and we will meet the Lord in air to be with the Him forever

- **Caught up:**

1. Greek *har-pad'-zo*
2. Latin *rapturo*

Rapture: To be "Caught up by Force" Snatched Away

Jude 1:23 ...others save with fear, **pulling them out** [har-pad'-zo] of the fire...

- Jesus was raptured at His ascension...

Revelation 12:5 [Isreal] bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her **Child was caught up to God and His throne.**

- Paul was raptured after being stoned

2 Corinthians 12:2 [Paul after being stoned] ... was **caught up** [raptured] to the third heaven.

- Philip was raptured horizontally to a different location

Acts 8:39 ... when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **caught Philip away...**

- **OT Illustrations of the Rapture**

Genesis 5:24 And Enoch walked with God; **and he was not**, for God **took him.**

2 Kings 2:11 suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire...and Elijah **went up by a whirlwind into heaven.** 12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he **saw him no more.**

- **After the Church Age we will be Raptured/Caught up with the Lord**

In order to understand a thing, we must first know the purpose of the thing

- **Purpose of the Rapture?**

1. Deliver the Bride to the Bridegroom
2. Deliver us from God's Wrath

- Bride delivered to the Bridegroom

Old Testament Wedding

The first step, the *Ketubah*, or Betrothal, was the establishment of the marriage covenant, usually when the prospective bridegroom took the initiative and negotiated the price (mohair) he must pay to purchase her

Once the bridegroom paid the purchase price, the marriage covenant was established, and the young man and woman were regarded as husband and wife. From that moment on, the bride was declared to be consecrated or sanctified - set apart - exclusively for her bridegroom. As a symbol of the covenant relationship that had been established, the groom and bride drank from a cup of wine over which the betrothal had

been pronounced. After the marriage covenant was established, the groom **left his bride at her home and returned to his father's house**, where he remained separated from his bride for approximately 12 months. This afforded the bride time to gather her trousseau [bridal clothes] and prepare for married life.

During this period of separation, the groom prepared a dwelling place in his father's house to which he would later bring his bride. At the end of the period of separation, the bridegroom came - usually at night - to take his bride to live with him. The groom, the best man, and other male escorts left the father's house and conducted a torch-light procession to the home of the bride. Although the bride was expecting her groom to come for her, **she did not know the time of his coming**. As a result, the groom's arrival was preceded by a shout, which announced her imminent departure to be gathered with him

...if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself
That where I am, there you may be also

- **Bride [Church]** waits enthusiastically for the shout announcing the Bridegroom
- Bride makes herself ready through sanctification

Revelation 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the **marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.**" ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'"

- **Genesis 24:** Picture Jesus meeting the Church halfway...
 1. Abraham: Sends his servant to distant land to find bride for son Isaac
 2. Servant: Prays and finds Rebekah. Gives her gifts from father
 3. Servant: Gives her a choice to come to the son or stay. She decides to go
 4. At the same time Isaac leaves and heads toward Rebekah...

Genesis 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels were coming. ⁶⁴ Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; ⁶⁵ for she had said to the servant, "Who is this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So she took a veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she **became his wife**

- Abraham [Father] sent the unnamed Servant [Spirit] from his home [Heaven] to a distant place [earth] to find a bride [Church] brought her to His Son Isaac [Jesus] who met her halfway and brought her back to Abraham's [His Father's home; i.e. Heaven] where they consummated their marriage.

Purpose 1: Deliver the Bride to the Bridegroom

Purpose 2: Deliver us from God's Wrath

Galatians 1:4 [Jesus]... gave Himself for our sins, that He might **deliver us from this**

present evil age...

- From this evil age into Eternity

1 Thessalonians 1:10 [Those that turn from idols now] ...wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

- Wrath is coming but true believers will be delivered from wrath to Jesus

Isaiah 26:20 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. ²¹ 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.

1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God **did not appoint us to wrath**, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Purpose 1: Deliver the Bride to the Bridegroom

Purpose 2: Deliver the Redeemed from God's Wrath to His presence

We are not ready for Eternity We will be Changed

- Souls are redeemed/Bodies are not...

Romans 8: 22 ... the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³ Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as **we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.**

- Bodies made for Heaven/Eternity...

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! ... **2** Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that **when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.**

- When Jesus is revealed [Rapture] **we will be like Him!**

1 Corinthians 15:35 [Read] ...someone will say, "**How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?**" ³⁶ Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. ³⁷ And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. ³⁸ But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. ³⁹ All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. ⁴⁰ There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. ⁴¹ There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and

another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. 42 **So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.** 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 **It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.** There is a **natural body**, and there is a **spiritual body**... 48 As was the man of dust [Adam], so also are those who are made of dust; **and as is the heavenly Man [Jesus], so also are those who are heavenly.** 49 **And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.** 50 **Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.** 51 **Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—** 52 **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.**

- Sinful flesh cannot exist in Heaven
- We shall not all sleep [die] but we will all be changed/equipped for Eternity

As John was **“Immediately in the Spirit”**
So, we will be changed in the “Twinkling of an eye” one inch off the ground

- **NOTE:** Paul believed in the imminent return of Christ; shall not all sleep

52b [cont.] ... For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on **immortality**...58 **Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord,** knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

- **Therefore: Since we have this Eternal Hope ...**
 1. Be Steadfast
 2. Be Immovable
 3. Be Abounding in the Lord's work

Rapture: Blessed Hope and Glorious Appearing of Jesus

Titus 2:11 ...the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. 15 **Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.**

Speak of our Blessed Hope/Rebuke those who would seek to steal it

- **When:** After the last member of the church cries “uncle”

Romans 11:25 ...I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the **fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**

- **The Rapture will happen** after last Gentile saved
- **The Rapture will happen** after the Holy Spirit is "taken out of the way"

2 Thessalonians 2:7b He who now restrains will do so until **He is taken out of the way.**
8 And then the lawless one will be revealed

- **The Rapture will happen:**

1. ...after last Gentile saved
2. ...as the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way
3. ...before the AC will be revealed
4. **...before Tribulation**

Genesis 19:21 [Righteous removed before judgment] ... [Angel to Lot on] I will not overthrow this city for which you have spoken. **22** Hurry, escape there. For **I cannot do anything until you arrive there.** [I cannot bring judgment until the righteous are removed]

Revelation 3:10 Because you **have kept** My command to persevere, **I also will keep you from the hour of trial** which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

In order to understand a thing, we must first know the purpose of the thing

- **Purpose of the Tribulation**

1. God pouring out His wrath on sin-sick unrepentance world
2. God calling His people Israel to their Messiah

The Rapture will happen...Then the Tribulation will begin
As Anti-Christ rises...God will once again turn His eyes on Israel...

Jeremiah 30:7 ...it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he [Israel] **shall be saved out of it.**

- **Chronology:**

1. Last gentile saved/Church Age concludes

V1 After these things...

2. **Come up here:** Rapture of the church to Heaven
3. Focus on Israel

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying...

"Come up here"

Revelation 4:1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing

open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a **throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.**

II. Throne Set in Heaven

John on Island of Patmos: Come up here and I will show you the future!

- John is now **"up there"** and he is **"in the Spirit"**

Particle physicists that we live in at least ten dimensions. Three spatial dimensions and time are directly discernible and measurable... Some physicists believe that there may be as many as 26 dimensions [Quantum Physics: The Boundaries of Reality, Missler]

John sees God sitting on the Throne of Heaven

Isaiah 6:1 ...I saw the Lord **sitting on a throne**, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple

- Who did Isaiah see High and Lifted Up?

John 12:41 [Context Jesus] These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him.

- **Throne "set" in Heaven:** Lit. Throne **"being set"**
 1. In heaven/Near earth
 2. Poised for Judgment
- **Throne Represents:**

1. God's Universal Sovereignty	Supreme Authority
2. God's Universal Rule	Reigning Power over all

1 Timothy 6:16 [God] who alone has immortality, dwelling in **unapproachable light**, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

Unapproachable now approachable
When we see Him... we will be like Him [1 John 3:2]

3 And **He** who sat there was like a **jasper** and a **sardius** stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

He was like Jasper and Sardius. Everything speaks of Jesus...

- **Jasper:** Last stone on Breastplate of High Priest. Represented Benjamin, Jacobs last born son. **"Son of My right hand". Jesus at the right hand of God.**

Mark 16:19 ...He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the **right hand of God.**

Acts 7: 55 [Stephen saw...] **Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"**

- **Sardius:** First stone on Breastplate of High Priest. Represented Reuben, Jacob's firstborn son. **"Behold a son" Jesus the first-born from the dead**

Colossians 1:18 [Jesus is] the **firstborn from the dead**, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Revelation 1:5 [Jesus is] the **firstborn from the dead**, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood...

- **He was like Jasper** Diamond Jesus at the right hand of the Father
- **He was like Sardius** Bright Red Jesus the first-born from the dead

John sees Jesus sitting on the Throne There was an Emerald Colored Rainbow around the Throne

- **Rainbow around the Throne:** gr. "Iris" also translated "Halo" [see 10:1]

Ezekiel 1:28 [Glimpse of the Lord] ...the appearance of a **rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day**, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the **appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.**

- Rainbow represents God's promise...

Genesis 9:13 [After God judged the earth with worldwide flood] I set **My rainbow in the cloud**, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. **...15** and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall **never again become a flood to** destroy all flesh.

God keeps His promises both to **bless and curse...** to **save and judge**

- God sat enthroned over judgment previously: Water

Psalms 29:10 The LORD **sat enthroned at the Flood**, And the LORD sits as King forever.

- God now seen sitting enthroned during judgment again: Fire

2 Peter 3:5 [Scoffers will mock God's promise of judgment] 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the **world that then existed perished, being flooded with water.** 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are **reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.**

Emerald Colored Rainbow around the Throne...Not ROY G BIV but **"Green"**
Earth is the Focus of God's Promised Judgment

4 Around the throne were **twenty-four thrones**, and on the thrones I saw **twenty-four elders** sitting, clothed in **white robes**; and they had **crowns of gold on their heads**.

24 Elders wearing **24 Gold Crowns** on **24 Thrones** sitting around the Throne

- **Elders:** Representatives [later] **wearing...**
 1. **White robes:** Good works tested by fire
 2. **Gold Crowns:** Rewards to the faithful
- **24 White Robes:** Good works. Spirit led and love motivated tested by fire

Ephesians 2:10 ...we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should **walk in them**.

1 Corinthians 3:13 ... each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will **be revealed by fire**; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.
[Wood/Gold]

- **24 Crowns:** Rewards to the Faithful for all to see...

Incorruptible Crown: "Imperishable Crown" Believers who faithfully run the race; crucify flesh/desire and point men to Jesus 1 Cor. 9:24, 25 i.e.

Crown of Rejoicing: "The Winners Crown"; Faithful witnesses to grace of God/leading souls to Jesus. 1 Thess. 2:19, 20. & Dan 12:3

Crown of Life: "Crown of the Martyrs" Believers who endure trials, tribulations, and severe suffering

Crown of Righteousness: To those who love the appearing of Christ 2 Tim. 4:8

Crown of Glory: "Elder's, Pastor's and/or Teacher's Crown"; Given to the ministers who faithfully feed the flock of God 1 Pet. 5:1-4 [Most dangerous to receive...]

James 3:1 ... let not many of you become teachers, knowing that **we shall receive a stricter judgment**.

24 Elders wearing **24 Gold Crowns** on **24 Thrones** sitting around the Throne

5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices.

Lightning, Thunderings, Voices ... proceeded from the throne poised for Judgment
Ominous signs speak of the Law of God

Exodus 19:16 [Before giving of the Law] ... 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.

- **God will judge those guilty of breaking His law...even once**

James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in **one point**, he is **guilty of all**.

Occurrence Intensify in Revelation Signify important events connected to the Heavenly Temple

Revelation 8:5 ... noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

Revelation 11:19... lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation 16:18 ... noises and thunderings, lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

Lightnings, thunderings, and voices from the Throne

- **John is trembling:** God's Law was broken by Earth Dwellers. Something's coming...
- **John continues to view "things which will take place..."** Rev 1:19

5b... [John sees...] Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 5:6 [John saw] ...a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven **Spirits of God** sent out into all the earth.

- Seven Lamps of Fire are Seven Spirits of God which is the Seven-fold Holy Spirit

Gods Holy Spirit before the Throne symbolized as Seven Lamps Heavenly Fulfillment of OT Earthly Type

- Seven Lamps before the Arc of Covenant in earthly Tabernacle/Temple

Exodus 25:37 You shall make **seven lamps** for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it.

Zechariah 4:2 ... "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand **seven lamps** with seven pipes to the seven lamps.

- **Furnishings of Tabernacle:** Where God would meet with man

1. Lamps	Rev. 5	
2. Bronze Laver	Rev. 5	[next]
3. Altar	Rev.6:9	
4. Altar of Incense	Rev 8:3	
5. Arc of the Covenant	Rev. 11:19	

Moses given blueprint on Mt. Sinai for Tabernacle on earth... **but reality is in Heaven**
Earthly Tabernacle/Temple were types fulfilled in **Throne room of God**

Revelation 1:20b...and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

- **NOTE:** These lampstands through which the Holy Spirit works are **now in Heaven**
"after these things" i.e. the Church Age

SUMMARY Thone set in Heaven

III. Sea of Glass: Access

6 Before the throne there was a **sea of glass**, like crystal.

Sea of Glass and Crystal encircled the Throne of God

- **Another OT Type fulfilled in Heaven:** Cleansing priests before ministering to Lord

Exodus 30:18 "... make a **laver of bronze**, with its base also of bronze, **for washing...20**
they shall wash with water, lest they die.

- Without being washed in Blood of Christ we would die as we approached...

Once water...Now solid glass
Once for cleansing... now for standing/walking/access to God

Revelation 15:2 ...I saw something like a **sea of glass mingled with fire**, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, **standing on the sea of glass**, having harps of God.

- **Cleansing of saints will no longer be needed**
 1. Already cleansed by **Jesus blood**
 2. Can approach God freely by **God's grace**

John 15:3 You are already **clean because of the word** which I have spoken to you.

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

Ephesians 5:26 [Jesus cleanses the Bride] **with the washing of water by the word**, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

- We can now approach the unapproachable presence of God...

Hebrews 4:16 Let us therefore come **boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- Moses got a preview of the Throne and Sea of Glass...

Exodus 24:10 [Moses, priests, elders saw...] **under His feet** as it were a **paved work of sapphire stone**, and it was like the **very heavens in its clarity**...So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

- **Sea of Glass:** Access to the Throne by Grace/Blood of Christ

SUMMARY Sea of Glass: Access

IV. Four Living Creatures

6b... And in the **midst of the throne**, and **around the throne**, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. **Living Creatures**

1. **Beast:** gr. Zoa or Zoon lit. Zoo
2. Emphasis on the word **"living"** not "creatures"

- **Book of Revelation: 4 Living Creature Activities**

Revelation 4:7	Never rest but continually praise the LORD
Revelation 5:6	With 24 elders around the Lamb
Revelation 6:1	One of the 4 Creatures calls John to see Jesus open the first seal
Revelation 6:6	A voice is heard in their midst
Revelation 7:11	Worshiping with elders and angels
Revelation 14:3	Listening to the song of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses
Revelation 15:7	One of the living creatures gives 7 angel's 7 bowls full of wrath
Revelation 19:4	Fall down and worship with the 24 elders

7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. 8 The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.

The screenshot shows a Word document with the following content:

- Revelation 4**
 - 1. Lion
 - 2. Calf
 - 3. Man
 - 4. Eagle

Six wings
- Ezekiel 1**
 - 1. Man
 - 2. Lion
 - 3. Ox
 - 4. Eagle

Four wings
- Ezekiel 10**
 - 1. Cherub
 - 2. Man
 - 3. Lion
 - 4. Eagle

Same...but Cherub replaces Ox
Four wings

On the right side of the document is an illustration of a four-faced cherub, showing the faces of a lion, a calf, a man, and an eagle.

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Who are these 4 Living Creatures?

These Living Creatures are the Highest Rank in God's Hierarchy of **angelic beings**; i.e. **They are Cherubim** with immediate access to the throne and ready for God's every command. They are the same creatures seen by **Ezekiel**

Ezekiel 10:20 This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar, and I knew they were cherubim.

- **Rational for Four Living Creatures to be Cherubim:**
 1. **These 4 Creatures have same likenesses as Ezekiel's vision**
 2. Ezekiel specifies them as "Cherubim" 10:20
 3. Same location as Ezekiel's vision near throne
 4. Firmament above their head in Ezekiel is the **Glass Sea in Revelation...**

Ezekiel 1:22 The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. ²³ And under the firmament their wings spread out straight, one toward another...**25** A voice came from above the firmament that was over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings. ²⁶ And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it.

- **Also, Seraphim** in the Throne room of God...

Isaiah 6:2 Above it stood **seraphim**; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: "**Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts**; The whole earth is full of His glory!"

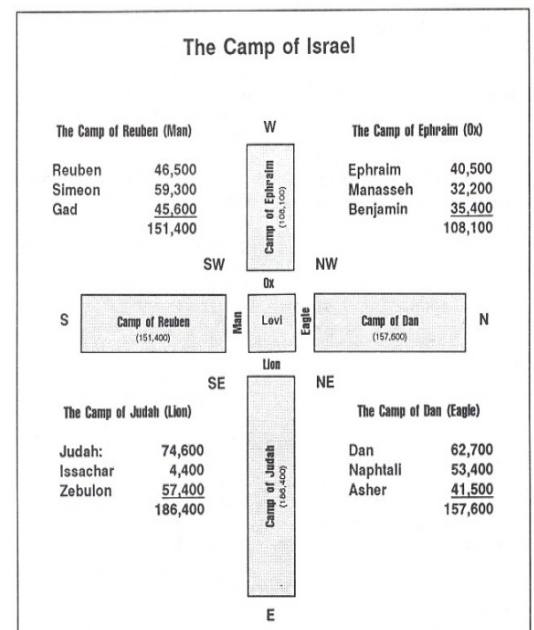
- Each Living Creature represents a Gospel and Different attribute of Jesus...

Lion	Gospel of Matthew	Lion of Judah
Calf	Gospel of Mark	Beast of burden/Servant
Man	Gospel of Luke	Son of Man
Eagle	Gospel of John	Deity of Christ

Camp of Israel Formation: 12 Tribes under 4 Heads

Judah	East	Lion
Ephraim	West	Ox
Reuben	South	Man
Dan	North	Eagle

V8 Creatures Full of Eyes Around and Within?



Living Creatures: Moved /Guided by God's omniscient Holy Spirit [c.f. Ezekiel's Cherubim]

- Closer to God than any of God's creatures
- Spoke as a Unit Revelation 4:9, 5:14
- Speak Individually Revelation 6:1,3,5,7

8b... And they **do not rest day or night**, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

Holy, Holy, Holy is the Triune God

- **Lord God Almighty:** Was, is, and is to come; expansion of the Divine Name:

Exodus 3:14 ...God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.'"

- Not Hallmark Cherubs

Genesis 3:24 [God] drove out the man; and He placed **cherubim** at the east of the garden of Eden, and a **flaming sword** which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

Revelation 7:1 After these things I saw **four angels standing at the four corners of the earth**, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

SUMMARY Four Living Creatures

V. 24 Elders

9 Whenever the **living creatures give glory and honor and thanks** to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders **fall down before Him** who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

11 "You are worthy, O Lord, To **receive glory and honor and power**; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Living Creatures give Glory and the Elders fall down before God

- **Who are the 24 Elders?**

Representatives/recipients of Gods Salvation by **Grace** [undeserved kindness] **through Faith** from both Old and New Testament periods [Jews/Gentiles] Elders of ALL saved humanity. They are real men as later we hear them speak individually [c.f. Rev. 5:5, 7:13]

Rational for OT/NT Saints: What they are doing that is the key... **Whenever the living creatures worship the elders respond in: Worship/Humility/Gratitude**

Cast crowns back to the God who gave it to them as every saved person will do
24 Elders represent OT and NT believers saved by GRACE

- **Old Testament Saints** 12 Tribes
- **New Testament Saints** 12 Apostles

Revelation 5:9 [Elders sing a new song] "You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood **Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation**, 10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

- **Redeemed us by Your blood:** Key to who is on the Throne

Everyone in Heaven is saved by GRACE

2 Timothy 1:9 [God] ... has saved us and called us with a holy calling, **not according to our works**, but according to His own **purpose and grace which was given to us** in Christ Jesus before time began...

- **Both** Jew/Gentile saved by GRACE

Ephesians 2:14 [Jesus] Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle **wall of separation**...18 For through Him we both [**Jew/Gentile**] have access by one Spirit to the Father.

- ALL believers one in the Heaven

Revelation 21:2 [12 Gates have the] **names of the twelve tribes** of the children of Israel...**14** [12 Foundation] were the names of the **twelve apostles of the Lamb**.

- **OT Salvation:** Grace through faith...

Romans 4:3 "**Abraham believed God** and it was accounted to him for **righteousness**."

Galatians 3:8 ... Scripture, foreseeing that God would **justify the Gentiles by faith**, **preached the gospel** to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

- No difference between Men, Women, Nationalities/ Saved by grace /One in Christ

Colossians 3:10 [In Christ]... there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, **but Christ is all and in all**.
V. Heavenly Worship

Whatever glory, honor, and power given to Elders in this life...they give back

John 15:5 "I am the vine, you are the branches.... without Me you can do **nothing**".

**Elders: "You are Worthy...For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created."**

Elders/Living Creatures worship God for being **Creator** and **Sustainer** of life
Judgment in Book of Revelation is on those who deny Creation/Creator

Revelation 10:6 ... [the angel] swore by Him who lives forever and ever, **who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it ...**

Revelation 14:7 [The angel preaching the everlasting gospel said in a loud voice] "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and **worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."**

SUMMARY 24 Elders. You are worthy because You are the Creator

Aerial View: Revelation Chapters 1-4

Chapter 1	Section 1	Jesus ready to judge the Church
Chapter 2-3	Section 2	Church on Earth. After these things...
Chapter 4-5	Section 3	Redeemed in Heaven/Jesus ready to judge Earth

"Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Rev. 4:1

▪ **John steps through Open Door**

1) Throne Set in Heaven	Jesus	Ch. 5
2) Seven Lamps	Holy Spirit	
3) Sea of Glass	Access by Grace	
4) 4 Living Creatures	Super Cherubim	
5) 24 Elders	Representing all Redeemed	Ch. 5