

Revelation 4

- This chapter takes us into the very throne room of heaven.
- The throne is mentioned 17 times in chapters 4 & 5
- 12 times in chapter 4

- (verse 1)
 - After these things is an introductory statement to a new vision
 - John looked and what he saw was so magnificent that he exclaimed, Behold!
 - There was an open door (doors opened by God are truly open and those closed are truly closed)
 - The voice he heard was loud like a trumpet.
 - Loud
 - Prominent
 - “Come up here”
 - The 3rd heaven
 - 1=atmosphere
 - 2=planets and space
 - 3=God’s throne

- Verse 2
 - “I was in the Spirit”
 - John was transported by the Holy Spirit into the very throne room of Christ
 - Transported spiritually into the reality of heaven
 - “One sat on the throne” → Jesus Christ

- (Verse 3)
 - Jasper→
 - Some commentators say this refers to the hardness of jasper.
 - God’s rule is absolute
 - His law is fixed
 - His standard fixed

- Many believe that this really refers to a diamond → which would be extremely brilliant, multi faceted, and hard.
 - All agree it is crystal clear which is a product of purity
 - Sardius→
 - Fiery, blood red ruby
 - Represents the holiness and pure judgment that comes from the throne of God.
 - Sardius and Jasper were also the first and last stones in the High Priest's ephod (Jesus is the first and last)
 - The rainbow
 - Unique because of shape and color
 - It encircled the throne (rainbows are not circles on earth)
The circle symbolizes perfection and eternity
- (Verse 4)
 - “Twenty four thrones” “twenty four elders”
 - Indicates that they rule with Christ
 - Angels do not sit on thrones in Scripture (Serve as ministers)
 - The church has repeatedly been promised to rule with Christ
 - (2:26-27; 3:21; 5:9-10; 20:4)
 - Matthew 19:28
 - Luke 22:30
 - 1 Corinthians 6:2-3
 - 2 Timothy 2:12
- (Verse 5)
 - “Lightnings, thunderings, and voices”
 - All associated with God’s presence
 - Exodus 19:16
 - Ezekiel 1:13
 - “Seven lamps...seven Spirits of God” (Isaiah 11:2)
- (Verses 6-7)
 - “A sea of glass”
 - There are no seas in heaven (21:1)
 - Sea is either:

- Laver used to was by the priest (symbol of cleanliness and purity)
 - Metaphor for a vast pavement of shining glass (Exodus 24:10)
- Four living creatures
 - These are cherubim
 - Their appearance relates to their relation to the created world
 - Lion: wild creatures
 - calf/ox: domesticated animals
 - Eagle: flying animals
 - Man: humans
 - The Talmud said this same thing and that the tribes camped under these four banners
- Full of eyes
 - Symbolizes alertness, awareness, thoroughness when it comes to performing duties. (they are not omniscient, only God is)
- (Verse 8)
 - Six wings (Isaiah 6:2)
 - Two covered face
 - Two covered feet
 - Two used to fly
 - Four of the six used for worship
 - Eyes→ cannot look upon God's glory
 - Feet→ they stood on holy ground
 - Worship is their permanent calling (Holy, Holy, Holy)
 - The scene culminates with worship of God on His throne!
 - Threefold repetition=the summation of all that He is!
 - Utter and complete separation from all evil in all forms
- (Verses 9-11)
 - Worship gives way to worship
 - The 24 elders fall down in worship when the 4 creatures worship.

- Selfless→ they give up their crowns (symbols of the right to rule) and cast all authority at Christ's feet
- Instructive→instruct all that all things were created and exist because of His power and for His pleasure