

Passage: Revelation 4:1-7

Title: The Throne of God (part 1)

Summary: In our passage today, we get a glimpse into the Throne of God. What a sight, and what an invitation to “come and see”. This is a personal invitation from God Himself to you and me!

Revelation 4:1–11 (NKJV) 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. 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. 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. ⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. ⁶ Before the throne *there* was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. 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. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!” 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.”

Blessing / John on Patmos

The only book that comes with a promised blessing for those who read it:

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV) Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

John on the Island of Patmos receives this revelation of Jesus Christ.

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

John wrote 5 Books / Believe – Eternal Life – Be Ready

The Apostle John wrote 4 other books to the church. The Gospel of John, and 1,2,3 John, and this fifth book, Revelation. In the Gospel of John he wrote that we might believe, he uses the word believe some 60 times:

(John 20:31 NKJV) but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.

He wrote us in 1,2,3 John so that we might know that we have eternal life:

(1 John 5:13 NKJV) These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may continue to believe in the name of the Son of God.

So he wrote that we might believe, then that we might know, and now he writes Revelation so that we might be ready:

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

Before Glorified Christ / Write these Things / All Things Coming Before Throne

John is now before the glorified Christ, and Jesus says John now write these things so that they might be ready, for this book is all about man coming before the Holy God, the flow of all humanity is flowing to the throne of God whether man realizes it or not, John writes so that all of man might be ready:

(Ephesians 1:10 NKJV) that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth; in Him.

Revelation Book of Grace & Mercy

Revelation is a book that is all about grace and mercy as God gives man every opportunity to repent and receive forgiveness while forgiveness may be found in this period of grace. Any person that enters the Tribulation has brought it upon themselves.

Awesome Scene / Don't be Country Bumpkin

We have left the earthly scene and are now in the heavenly scene. The things we see here in chapters 4-5 can be mind-blowing, but they are written for our understanding so that they may comfort us, and when we get there we know what is going on, As Pastor Chuck puts it, don't be some country bumpkin on his first trip to the big city continually saying, what's that, what's that? So listen if you get there and you are the one who is saying what's that, what's that, and someone asked you where you went to church on earth, please don't say you went here haha.

Transition to Things Last for Eternity / Set Mind Above

We now transition to the things that will last for all eternity, for the things that we now see around us are fading, and someday will be no more, but the things spoken of here in chapters 4-5 will endure for heaven. The Lord spoke to us last study to continually be setting our minds on the things above, and our hearts too, for where you treasures are, so will your heart be also:

(Colossians 3:1 NKJV) If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

(Colossians 3:2 NKJV) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

(Colossians 3:3 NKJV) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

(Colossians 3:4 NKJV) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

(Matthew 6:21 NKJV) "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Outline for this study:

- On the Throne (4:2-3)
- Around the Throne (4:3-5)
- Before the Throne (4:6-11)

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) 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

The Holy Spirit is Present Here

The Holy Spirit is among us today moving in this place. He wants to touch each of us where we are and what we need of him. He is in his church, the true church because he has been invited in and we yield and we ask him, move among your church today.

(Revelation 4:1 NKJV) 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."

Meta Tauta / After Church Period

Verse 1 - After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven - Here again is the Greek word we spoke about before (meta tauta – after these things). After what things? After the period of church history, after the rapture happens, after those things then will begin the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, and the 7 year Tribulation Period. It follows the divine outline of this book:

(Revelation 4:1 NKJV) After these things (meta tauta) 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 (meta tauta)."

Book of Revelation Outline

- The Things Which You Have Seen - (Chapter 1).
- The Things Which Are - (Chapters 2-3).
- The Things Which Will Take Place After This - (Chapters 4-22).

(Revelation 1:19 NKJV) "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this (meta tauta)."

19 Times / No More

19 times in the first 3 chapters the word church is used, and then no more for the rest of the book (specifically to the unfolding of the Tribulation). In chapter 13 we will hear a phrase we are so familiar with, but it will be missing a key word – the church. In chapter 22:16, the word church is used again, but as a summation (as speaking to us presently before the Rapture and Tribulation).

(Revelation 2:7 NKJV) "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

(Revelation 13:9 NKJV) If anyone has an ear, let him hear.

Revelation 22:16 (NKJV) ¹⁶ "I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star."

Open Door of Heart / Door of Heaven

Verse 1 - a door standing open in heaven – Last study we closed with Jesus standing at the door of your heart and knocking, so that He may come in and fellowship with you and you with Him. When you open the door of your heart to the Lord, the Lord will open the door of heaven to you.

Revelation 3:20 (NKJV) ²⁰ Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.

And speaking of doors, the Church of Philadelphia went through the doors the Lord opened to preach that there is a door for salvation..

Revelation 3:8 (NKJV) ⁸ "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name."

John 10:7–10 (NKJV) ⁷ Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

Sound of Trumpet / Hear those Words – Kingdom Business

Verse 1 - And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here –

The sound of the trumpet, should sound familiar to us as we studied the immanency of the rapture. I can't wait to hear those words from the Lord, "come up here". And when He says them I want to be interrupted in what I was doing, and I want to be interrupted doing Kingdom business:

(1 Thessalonians 4:16 NKJV) For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

(1 Thessalonians 4:17 NKJV) 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.

(1 Thessalonians 4:18 NKJV) Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Meta Tauta – Used Twice / Wicked Tribulation – Words of Comfort

Verse 1 - I will show you things which must take place after this." – Meta Tauta is used again, twice in this verse so we don't miss it. He wants us to know that we are out of here before the Tribulation starts. As we start chapter 6 and go through 19, the things we read will be frightening, and the Lord wants us to have assurance that we will not endure them, that we won't be here, for He has not appointed us to

wrath, and He has promised us a honeymoon with Him, and He wants us to take comfort in the knowledge of that:

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

On the Throne (4:2-3)

(Revelation 4:2 NKJV) Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

Twinkling of Eye / No More Ray – No More Battles

Verse 2 - Immediately I was in the Spirit - 1 Corinthians 15, says that we will be changed in a twinkling of an eye, immediately. Praise the Lord no more Ray, for I am tired of the battles; my thoughts, my actions. The day is coming that I will no longer have to wish I didn't say that, think that, or do that, for the day is coming that immediately we will be in the Spirit:

1 Corinthians 15:50–55 (NKJV) 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. 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. ⁵⁴ So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: *“Death is swallowed up in victory.”*⁵⁵ *“O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?”*

Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God..... we are in the Spirit because once we are born-again, we become spiritual beings.

Behold a Throne

Verse two, discover means to behold, we're given an invitation to discover the glory of God and all these wonders of God.

Behold One Sat / 1st Thing to See / Patmos to Heaven / You Too

Verse 2 - and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne - Notice the first thing John sees, he sees the One seated on the throne. What a view for a man who had spent all these years on this rocky barren, seemingly god forsaken island of Patmos. Imagine this for ourselves, we as sojourners are finally home at last, maybe your life feels like Patmos, it is all going to change in a blink. Christians in a blink, you will see Him – think about that.

Jesus the Amen / Throne Fixed Forever / People's moveable Thrones

Last study Jesus identified Himself as the Amen, which means fixed, unchangeable, and immovable. The throne we worship and look to is un-moveable, fixed and set forever. People today have moveable thrones as they are into this and into that, into the next relationship, the next purchase, the next party, the next source of entertainment, and never being satisfied, so always looking for that next throne. God sits upon the fixed and set throne, and all man's needs can be found there, never moving or changing, always satisfying:

(Revelation 3:14 NKJV) "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God:

Seated because he is kept in perfect peace. He keeps us in perfect peace. Are you anxious about something? Go to the throne. Get to the Lord.

(Revelation 4:3 NKJV) 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.

To All who Lost Loved One

To anyone who has lost a loved one, who has put their faith in trust and gone on before us, here's a word of comfort for you today. This is what they are beholding. This is what they are seeing. And in much ways it's indescribable, but they're seeing way more than they ever saw on this earth. The glory of God.

Paul Couldn't but John Did

Paul can't describe the indescribable two Corinthians 12, two, but John will, why? I don't know completely, but my conjecture is for Paul. It was a personal revelation. It was for him and what God was doing in his life, the humbling and the breaking. And God will give us personal revelations that will always be in accordance with his scripture. Let that not be misunderstood, but he'll reveal things that are just for us, just between us and Him personally. But here, John, this revelation, it's for the whole church. It's for John as well. But he will deliver it to the whole church for the good of the church. And still yet, it's indescribable as Paul would say. And I'm reminded of what our brother Paul would say, I has not seen nor ear heard what has been put in store for us.

2 Corinthians 12:3-4 (NKJV)³ And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴ how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

1 Corinthians 2:9 (NKJV)⁹ But as it is written: "Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

Jasper – Sardius / Light & Love / All Possible because Choose the Nails

Verse 3 - And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance – Notice John says was like a jasper, not was a jasper – He is using picture language trying to describe eternal visions with limited earthly vocabulary. Remember Paul when he was caught up to heaven said I'm not even going to try to describe what I saw. Look at John's description of Jesus.

- Jasper is a clear stone, diamond like, a beautiful reflection of light.
- Sardius is a ruby red stone.

Those stones a description of Jesus, light and love. God is light (1 John 1:5), God is love (1 John 4:8) demonstrated through the precious blood of Jesus Christ. It is His Light and Love that makes it all possible for us to come before His throne, the access has been provided because He chose the nails, because He had you, He had me on His mind that day in the garden, to the cross, and on the cross.

1 John 1:5 (NKJV)⁵ This is the message which we have heard from Him and declare to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all.

1 John 4:8 (NKJV)⁸ He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.

Cross- Examine Self

Christian maybe you are going through something in your life, wonder how God can allow it, where is He, what is He doing.....may you cross-examine yourself, may you go back to the cross and see Him laying everything down for you, and may you examine your questions in light of the cross.

John 20:20 (NKJV)²⁰ When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

In The Year King Uzziah Died

Verse three. Isaiah six. In the year King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord seated on his throne. The church of Laodicea we studied meant the people ruled. And when that dies in our life, when we are dead to that we are rich and wealthy and in need of nothing, when that is finally put to death, we will see the Lord seated on his throne.

Isaiah 6:1 (NKJV)¹ In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Breastplate – High Priest / Rueban – Benjamin / On My Heart

These 2 stones may bring to memory the breastplate that the priest wore over his heart because the people were to always be on his heart – Jesus is our High Priest. The first stone was the jasper stone and it was for the son Rueben. The last stone was the sardius stone, and it was for Benjamin. The breastplate was worn over the chest of the priest because the people were to be on their heart. Rueben means “behold a son”, and Benjamin means “a son of the right hand”. From the first son to the last son, and every son in-between, you are on my heart says the Lord:

(Exodus 28:29 NKJV) "So Aaron shall bear the names of the sons of Israel on the breastplate of judgment over his heart, when he goes into the holy place, as a memorial before the LORD continually.

(Hebrews 4:14 NKJV) Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.

Jesus is Seated / Works Done

Notice that Jesus is seated on the throne, He is not standing because the work is finished. In the temple if you recall there was no furniture to sit on because the offerings there at the temple were never done, but Jesus is seated on the throne, it is done. As His works are done, so too are ours, we need not do anything more for our salvation than received the finished works of Jesus. His last words on the cross were, "it is done":

Your Life Too / Jesus will see His Own Through

That also goes for your life too, Jesus is not pacing about heaven worrying about your finances, your kids, He is resting as it relates to your marriage, your job, your child, because He knows that He is going to see His own through:

(Philippians 1:6 NKJV) being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ;

Around the Throne (4:3-5)

Rainbow / Noah Found Grace

Verse 3 - and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald – This rainbow immediately takes our minds back to the flood, and the story of a man who found grace in the sight of the Lord:

(Genesis 6:6 KJV) And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

(Genesis 6:7 KJV) And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.

(Genesis 6:8 KJV) But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Hebrews – Boldly Come

In the book of Hebrews we are told to boldly come before the throne of grace. Here, God say, come to the throne. And even if we're wrong, we can come to the throne of grace and find peace and help in our time of need.

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

Throne Place of Grace / Understanding – Performance - Legalism

The throne is a place of Grace - Grace is God's Riches at Christ's Expense. May we be a people who live in grace, and see that it is all the Lord and that we need not put ourselves on some performance trip. The understanding of grace will naturally lead you to performance, but performance will not lead you to grace but a burden of legalism. May we be a people who receive grace, and may we be a people that give grace as it has been shown to us. Grasp grace, and you will be in His Grasp.

(Revelation 4:4 NKJV) 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 / Represent church – Robes and Crowns

Read 10 commentaries and you'll get 5 different views on who these 24 elders are, but I believe who they actually are, is not the main point, it is who they represent is what is important. I believe they represent the church, because they are wearing white robes which the saints will wear in heaven, and they have crowns which all the saints will have (we'll talk more about that in verse 10). In Revelation 5 we will see these elders singing a song that only the church can sing, for we are the redeemed ones:

(Revelation 5:8 NKJV) Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

(Revelation 5:9 NKJV) And they sang a new song, saying: "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,

(Revelation 5:10 NKJV) And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

12 Tribes – 12 Apostles / Old & New Covenant

Some believe (myself included) that these 24 are the 12 sons of Jacob who represent the 12 tribes of Israel. And the 12 apostles. This is gathered from Matthew 19 speaking of the 12 apostles on the 12 thrones. And Revelation 21 where the new Jerusalem will have 12 gates, each representing the 12 tribes

of Israel. So these 24 would represent the believers of the Old Covenant, and the believers of the New Covenant, all which make up the kingdom of God, the saints in heaven.

Matthew 19:27–28 (NKJV)²⁷ Then Peter answered and said to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You. Therefore what shall we have?"²⁸ So Jesus said to them, "Assuredly I say to you, that in the regeneration, when the Son of Man sits on the throne of His glory, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

Revelation 21:12 (NKJV)¹² Also she had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

24 Priestly Divisions

Some believe they represent the 24 priestly divisions as established by King David (1 Chronicles 24:1-19), for this tabernacle on earth was just a shadow/picture of the tabernacle in heaven:

The Victors Crown

Interestingly the word for crowns in Greek is (stephanos), which was the wreath/crown given to the victors in the public Olympian like games. To the victor and the overcomer.

As we look at these elders, look at the correlation of what we have studied in the past, again we see they are represented of all the saints who overcame:

- Promised Throne, 3:21,
 - **Revelation 3:21 (NKJV)²¹** To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.
- white robes, 3:18
 - **Revelation 3:18 (NKJV)¹⁸** I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.
- Crowns 3:11
 - **Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)¹¹** Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.
- He who overcomes 3:21
 - **Revelation 3:21 (NKJV)²¹** To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

To be an Elder / Seated Throne – Comforting – Teaching – Worshipping

Now, here is some application for us here and now, do you want to be an elder here on earth (in your home, at your school, in your community, at your church), then we get a great example of what an elder on earth should be doing, for we can see what these elders in heaven do:

- They sit at the throne beholding the Lamb:
(Revelation 4:4 NKJV) 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.
- We see an elder seeking John out while he wept, and comforts him:
(Revelation 5:4 NKJV) So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. (Revelation 5:5 NKJV) But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."
- We see an elder asking John who are these wearing these robes, John says I don't know, so the elder tells him:
(Revelation 7:13 NKJV) Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" (Revelation 7:14 NKJV) And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
- We see the elders with the bowls of incense, which is the prayers of saints
(Revelation 5:8 NKJV) Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

- We see the elders worshipping the Lamb and singing a new song:

(Revelation 5:8 NKJV) Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

(Revelation 5:9 NKJV) And they sang a new song, saying: "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,

(Revelation 11:16 NKJV) And the twenty-four elders who sat before God on their thrones fell on their faces and worshiped God,

(Revelation 11:17 NKJV) saying: "We give You thanks, O Lord God Almighty, The One who is and who was and who is to come, Because You have taken Your great power and reigned.

(Revelation 19:4 NKJV) And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who sat on the throne, saying, "Amen! Alleluia!"

Elder – Worshipper – Comforter – Conversation – Intercessors - New Song – Stays Fresh

So we see an elder is a worshipper of God, an elder is one who is comforting those who hurt/weep, an elder is a person who seeks out spiritual conversations with people so they can bring them into spiritual truths, and lives to make intercession for the brethren. And an elder is someone who worships the Lord, they stay fresh (singing a new song) and excited about the Lord for they are continually where God's Spirit is moving.

(Revelation 4:5 NKJV) And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Full Person Experience

So we will see it, hear it, and feel it. Yes feel it (because the percussion of thunder will move right through your body). God is a total body/person experience. He reaches and penetrates all of us, our entire being.

Audible / Forget the Sign – New Heart

Now comes the audible after the vision. These scenes are mind-blowing. People who tell me they want a sign from God I tell them they are crazy. Let me tell you I don't want to see any of this stuff until I am in my glorified body, that one that will have a new cardio-vascular system in it (whatever that may be) for I know this of mine would not be able to endure verse 5.

No Guitars in Church

Heaven is brilliant in color as we have seen, and it is loud. If you think heaven is some somber place, verse 5 tells differently. I think of those dear ole saints who say we shouldn't have drums and guitars in the church for worship, just wait until they get to heaven, for heaven is going to rock.

Seven Spirits

In Isaiah 11, we studied the seven attributes of the Spirit, though to me never fully conclusive, but what the number seven is, and it represents a completeness and the complete whole spirit of God is represented here.

Before the Throne (4:6-11)

(Revelation 4:6 NKJV) Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

Sea of Glass – Place of Peace / Throne of Grace

Verse 6 - Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal - Ever see a sunset or sunrise on a perfectly still lake or ocean, the way the light reflects off of it, it is pure beauty, and that is what awaits us, a place of peace, the throne of grace.

Sea of Glass / Calms the Storms

Verse six, a sea of glass, fine glass, crystal glass at that, a smooth, reflective and the power that it takes to calm the sea and a raging sea. And we see that Jesus comes walking on the water in the midst of the storm to the disciples and the waves ceased. And again, I say to everyone, get to the throne, and

everything calms down in regards to the raging waves of the world. But then there's a sheer awe of his glory and wonder as it reflects the thundering and the lightning and the power.

John 6:16–20 (NKJV)¹⁶ Now when evening came, His disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷ got into the boat, and went over the sea toward Capernaum. And it was already dark, and Jesus had not come to them. ¹⁸ Then the sea arose because a great wind was blowing. ¹⁹ So when they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and drawing near the boat; and they were afraid. ²⁰ But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

(Revelation 4:7 NKJV) 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.

Creatures / Ezk 1 & 10

The Greek word translated "beasts" (OKJV) actually means "creatures." These living creatures are described in greater detail in Ezekiel 1 and 10, where we are told they are cherubim. Cherubim are first seen in the Garden of Eden. After driving Adam and Eve out of the Garden after they had sinned, God employed cherubim with flaming sword to keep Adam and Even from eating of the tree of life and living forever in their fallen condition (Genesis 3:24). In the Book of Exodus, cherubim are seen again on the mercy seat—a fitting place for them to be, as we shall see....

4 Faces / Matt – King - Lion / Mark – Ox – Servant / Luke – Man – Humanity / John – Eagle – Deity

Since the early days of church history, Irenaeus and others recognized that the four faces of these cherubim correspond with the four Gospels:

- Matthew presents Jesus as King, typified by a lion.
- Mark presents Him as a Servant, the ox representing servitude.
- Luke presents Jesus in His Humanity, seen in the face of a man.
- John presents Jesus as the Son of God, pictured by the eagle who not only soars higher than any other creature, but is the only animal able to look directly into the sun, even as only the Son of God beholds the glory of the Father.

Numbers 1 - 2

But there's something else about these four faces that is interesting. That is, in chapters 1 and 2 of the Book of Numbers, God declares that His people were to camp in a certain order as they traveled through the wilderness.

Levites around Tabernacle / Serving sees Glory / Lets us Serve – Drawn close to Glory

He told the Levites to surround the tabernacle on the north, south, east, and west sides. Why? Those serving the Lord—whether in their neighborhood, on their campus, or in their church always end up camping closest to where God's glory is. That's the beauty of serving the Lord: You get to camp out closest to His glory because when you're serving Him, sharing your faith, praying for others, teaching Sunday school you experience most fully the chabod—the glory of God. That's why God lets us serve Him. He doesn't need us. Rather, He allows us the privilege to serve because in so doing we draw closest to Him:

(Numbers 1:49 NKJV) "Only the tribe of Levi you shall not number, nor take a census of them among the children of Israel; (Numbers 1:50 NKJV) "but you shall appoint the Levites over the tabernacle of the Testimony, over all its furnishings, and over all things that belong to it; they shall carry the tabernacle and all its furnishings; they shall attend to it and camp around the tabernacle.

(Numbers 1:51 NKJV) "And when the tabernacle is to go forward, the Levites shall take it down; and when the tabernacle is to be set up, the Levites shall set it up. The outsider who comes near shall be put to death.

(Numbers 1:52 NKJV) "The children of Israel shall pitch their tents, everyone by his own camp, everyone by his own standard, according to their armies;

(Numbers 1:53 NKJV) "but the Levites shall camp around the tabernacle of the Testimony, that there may be no wrath on the congregation of the children of Israel; and the Levites shall keep charge of the tabernacle of the Testimony."

On the 4 Sides

Numbers 2 goes on to say that on each of the four sides were to be three tribes.

- Judah, Issachar, and Zebulun, numbering 186,400, were to camp on the east side and were known as the Camp of Judah. What is the symbol, the ensign of Judah (according to the Jewish Talmud)? The Lion. Why were they on the east side? Because when Jesus comes back, roaring with authority, He's going to come from the East, and the sun rises in the east.

- Ephraim, Manasseh, and Benjamin, numbering 108,100, were to camp on the west side, and were known as the Camp of Ephraim. Their symbol was an ox.
- Reuben, Simeon, and Gad, numbering 151,400, were to camp on the south side and were known as the Camp of Reuben, whose symbol was a man.
- Dan, Naphtali, and Asher, numbering 157,600, were to camp on the north side and were known as the Camp of Dan, signified by an eagle.

Makes the Cross

With the largest number of people camped on the east, the smallest number on the west, and an almost identical number of people on the north and south sides of the tabernacle. There was no northwest, or southeast, no rounding, they were literally blocks, and this would line up with how an army would march. The configuration is that of a Cross—which is as applicable practically as it is significant spiritually....

Israel Stiff-Necked / God sees the Cross / So Too with Us

The children of Israel were stiff-necked people, often rebellious, yet the Lord showed them grace, mercy and love, when the Lord would look down upon them in their gunk and junk, He would see the cross and show His mercy and grace upon them. So, too, we think we deserve to be cursed because we rebel, murmur, and complain. We think we deserve to be cursed because we don't do what we should and, instead, do what we shouldn't. But God looks upon us and sees us in light of the Cross. Therefore, all He desires to do is bless us, and shows us grace, mercy, and love.

When we Grasp This – Covered by the Cross / Boldly Come Throne Grace – No Matter my Prayer

When we grasp this, really lock in on it, I will begin to see myself as God does, a precious treasure. God when He looks upon me, when He looks upon you, He see us covered by the cross. When I can see that is how the Father sees me, then I need not worry about coming to Him, I can boldly come before this throne of grace, it won't matter how my prayer life was that day, or if I haven't read in a month, no matter how stiff-necked and rebellious I was, I can come to Him and know that I am accepted, I can boldly come before the throne of grace.

(Revelation 4:8 NKJV) The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

He is Holy

Verse eight is where we end today, which is the beginning of our next study. These words, holy, holy, holy. Everything we're going to read next is because He's holy. Everything he is is what we should seek to be. And we have the calling be holy. As I'm holy.

1 Peter 1:15–16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ because it is written, "Be holy, for I am holy."

Prayer

The Word of God is Living and Powerful, and is ready, and will do a mighty work in our lives.

Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

In Every Study

- Who Is God? (How Great is He?)
- What Does He Think of Me? (How Wonderful Are His Thoughts Towards Me?)
- What Does He Want Me to Do?
- What Can I Boldly Request of Him?
- What Do I Need to Be on Guard of When I Leave Here Today?

Boldly come to the throne of grace, ask God to reveal Himself in a mighty way to you, and to do I might work in you, and through you.

Hebrews 4:16 (NKJV) 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