

Revelation 4:1-8

The things which shall take place after these things –

Chapters 4 -5 = The Court Scene in Heaven! The heavenly perspective of what is about to take place on earth.

Chapters 6 – 11 = The first half of Daniel's 70th week, the tribulation, "The beginning of birth pangs."

Chapters 12-16 = The second half of Daniel's 70th week, the great tribulation.

Chapters 17 – 22 = The Climax: The Two Cities

Verse 1

The first voice – 1:10, Jesus.

Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.

Verse 2

A throne standing in heaven – God's throne is mentioned over 40 times in Revelation.

And One sitting on the throne – John sees a courtroom scene with the Judge on His throne.

Verse 3

He who was sitting was like:

A jasper stone – This stone is like a diamond. Note 21:11, 18, 19. This gem represents the holiness and purity of God.

A sardius – A fiery red stone named for Sardis where it was discovered. This gem represents the justice and wrath of God.

There was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance – The color was shades of green that encircled the throne like the shape of a rainbow. This represents the mercy and grace of God.

Verse 4

Around the throne:

Twenty-four thrones – Thrones represent positions of ruler-ship.

Twenty-four elders – Some identify these elders as angels but they most likely are men who are redeemed, crowned and enthroned. Perhaps twelve from Israel and twelve from the church. They may also represent the 24 priestly orders in Israel. Note 1Chron. 24:7-18.

Twenty-four elders:

Clothed in white garments – White represents righteousness purity and the word is used 16 times in Revelation.

Golden crowns on their heads – The Greek word is *stephanous* and often refers to a victor's crown. The word is used eight times in Revelation.

Verse 5

From the throne proceed flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder – The thunder and lightning symbolize the coming judgment of God. Note Revelation 8:5, 11:19, 16:18.

Seven lamps of fire which are the seven Spirits of God – Either seven angels of God prepared to carry out His judgments or a picture of the perfection of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 6

A sea of glass like crystal – This sea pictures God's holiness and also the calmness of His throne as judgments are about to begin. Isaiah 57:20-21 depicts the nations as a tossing sea with no peace. It appears to also be -some sort of firmament that separates God, in His Holiness, from His sinful creation. Note Exodus 24:10-11.

In the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind – These creatures surround the throne and God Himself. Their many eyes symbolize their penetrating intelligence and awareness of everything that affects their judicial role. These creatures are a class of angelic beings similar in appearance to the seraphim in Isaiah 6:2, and the cherubim in Ezekiel 1:4-14.

Verse 7

First creature – face like a lion - Perhaps representing Christ's kingly role.

Second creature – face like a calf – Perhaps representing Christ's role as a servant.

Third creature – face like that of a man – Perhaps representing Christ's humanity.

Fourth creature – like a flying eagle – Perhaps representing Christ's deity and supremacy over all creation.

Verse 8

Six wings – Similar to the seraphim of Isaiah 6:2-3.

Full of eyes around and within – This suggests alertness, comprehensive knowledge, and constant vigilance.

Day and night they do not cease to say –

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come. Note Isaiah 6:1-3, Hebrews 13:8.