

Session 7 The Forerunner Message in Revelation 4-5

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Outline of Revelation 4

- 4:1-2** John ascended to heaven to see the throne of God
4:3-8a The beauty of God—12 categories
4:8b The 4 living creatures worship the Father
4:9-11 The 24 elders worship the Father

B. Outline of Revelation 5

- 5:1-7** The grand drama in heaven: Jesus takes the scroll
5:8-10 The living creatures and the 24 elders sing of Jesus' worthiness
5:11-12 Jesus receives authority over 7 spheres of society
5:13-14 All creation worships the Father and the Son

II. THE BEAUTY REALM OF GOD (REV. 4)

- A. Revelation 4 is one of the most detailed passages on God's beauty. It describes the Father's throne. Isaiah prophesied that people would see Jesus' beauty in the generation He returns (Isa. 33:17). The Lord is the source of all that is beautiful because He *is* beauty. The subject of God's beauty is about which is attractive about Him. It includes how He thinks and feels, and what He does, etc.
- B. John ascended to heaven to see God's throne (4:1-2). The most common name for the Father in the book of Revelation is "*Him who sat upon the throne*" (12x—4:2, 9, 10; 5:1, 7, 13; 6:16; 7:10, 15; 19:4; 20:11; 21:5). The second most common name is "*He who is, and was and is to come*" (5x—1:4, 8; 4:8; 11:17; 16:5). Four times, He is referred to as Jesus' Father (1:6; 2:27; 3:5, 21).
¹*...a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice I heard ...saying, "Come up here..."*
²*I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. (Rev. 4:1-2)*
- C. God's beauty—12 categories (4:3-8). I refer to God's throne as the "beauty realm of God" since His beauty is seen there. His royal court is the ultimate place of honor, majesty, strength, and beauty.
⁶*Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (Ps. 96:6)*
- D. I identify 4 broad categories, each having 3 specific categories that have many implications.
1. The beauty of **God's person**: how God looks, feels, and acts (Rev. 4:3)
2. The beauty of **God's people**: the redeemed enthroned, robed, and crowned (Rev. 4:4)
3. The beauty of **God's power**: manifestations of power in lightning, thunder, and voices (Rev. 4:5a)
4. The beauty of **God's presence**: Spirit's fire on lamps, seraphim, and the sea (Rev. 4:5b-8a; 15:2)
³*He who sat there was like a jasper and sardius stone...there was a rainbow around the throne...*
⁴*Around the throne were twenty-four thrones...I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold...⁵*From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning...which are the seven Spirits of God. ⁶*Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...around the throne, were four living creatures. (Rev. 4:3-6)***

III. BEAUTY OF GOD’S PERSON: HOW GOD LOOKS, FEELS, AND ACTS (REV. 4:3)

- A. God’s appearance—color radiates from God’s being and throne, including the brightness of diamonds (jasper), fiery red glory (sardius), and all the colors of the rainbow. The jasper speaks of His splendor; the sardius, His fiery desires (holy love); and the emerald rainbow, His mercy.
³He 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. (Rev. 4:3)
- B. **Jasper stone:** A “diamond-like” crystal brilliance radiates from God’s throne (Rev. 21:11).
- C. **Sardius stone:** Sardius is a red gem. John saw a fiery red brightness radiating from God’s throne. Moses saw this same reality when he declared that God is a consuming fire (Deut. 4:24; Ex. 34:6).
²⁴The LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous [zealous love] God. (Deut. 4:24)
- D. **An emerald rainbow:** The rainbow speaks of how God acts in tender mercy.
¹³“I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth...¹⁶I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant.” (Gen. 9:13-16)

IV. BEAUTY OF GOD’S PEOPLE: ENTHRONED, ROBED, & CROWNED (REV. 4:4)

- A. God’s beauty is seen in the exaltation of the saints as they are enthroned, robed, and crowned. The presence of the elders around His throne reveals His desire for partnership with His people.
⁴Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting [enthroned], clothed in white robes; they had crowns of gold on their heads. (Rev. 4:4)
- B. **Enthroned:** The elders sit on thrones reigning—this shows the value and dignity of the redeemed. God’s salvation so cleanses, equips, and exalts His former enemies that they reign with Him.
- C. **Robed:** The elders being clothed in white robes speaks of their priestly ministry (3:4-5, 18).
- D. **Crowned:** The elders wear golden crowns as result of God remembering and rewarding their works.

V. THE BEAUTY OF GOD’S POWER: MANIFESTATIONS OF POWER (REV. 4:5A)

- A. God’s throne releases and/or imparts various manifestations of His heart and mind to the saints.
⁵From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. (Rev. 4:5a)
- B. **Lightnings:** Flashes of lightning continually go forth to release God’s energy, light, and splendor.
- C. **Thunderings:** Personal and corporate divine messages with power (4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18).
⁴When the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write [the message]. (Rev. 10:4)
- D. **Voices:** This includes various sounds, songs, and music, etc. (4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18).

*See mikebickle.org for his 12-part teaching series on Revelation 4 called “Studies in the Beauty of God”
https://mikebickle.org/watch/?guid=mb_1249

VI. BEAUTY OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE: LAMPS, SERAPHIM, AND SEA (REV. 4:5B-8A)

- A. God's beauty is seen in how the Spirit manifests and/or imparts His presence (4:5b-7).
⁵*Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven [manifestations of the] Spirits of God. ⁶Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...and around the throne, were four living creatures [seraphim; Isa. 6:2-3]...⁷The first living creature was like a lion, the second...like a calf [ox], the third...like a man...and the fourth...a flying eagle. (Rev. 4:5-7)*
- B. *Sea of glass*: The saints will gather on the sea of glass that is mingled with God's fire (15:2).
²*I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast [Antichrist]...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. (Rev. 15:2)*
- C. *Lamps of fire*: These speak of the Spirit's 7-fold ministry (1:4; 3:1; 5:6, cf. Ex. 13:21; Isa. 11:2).
²*The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him [Jesus], the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (Isa. 11:2)*
- D. *Living creatures*: The four living creatures are *seraphim*, which means "the burning ones." They are a picture of those who are fully alive in the Spirit and of the different ways that God's people are to relate to Him and serve in His kingdom—the fearless courage represented by a *lion*, the servant spirit and reliability represented by a *calf* (oxen), the dignity of a *man* created in God's image and called to participate in God's family, and the supernatural dimension of a *flying eagle*.
1. When gazing on God, they cry, "Holy, holy, holy." To be holy means "to be separated from." There are two applications of holiness when related to God. First, God is separated from everything *sinful*—*He is infinitely pure*. Second, God is separated from everything *created*—thus He is *infinitely superior* to all that exists—He possesses *transcendent beauty*.
²*Above it [throne] stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face...³*One cried to another..., "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord...!" (Isa. 6:2-3)**
 2. *Covered his face*: The seraphim, the angelic beings nearest to God's throne, cover their eyes, being fascinated and overwhelmed by God's beauty. Forever they will be fascinated with Jesus; they will never exhaust the endless ocean of His beauty. As the seraphim attest, none will ever grow bored with gazing on Him. God's people will forever be fascinated with God.

VII. THE 4 LIVING CREATURES WORSHIP THE FATHER (REV. 4:8B)

- A. The living creatures and the elders (as part of heaven's governmental leadership) respond with worship (4:8-11) to God's beauty as set forth in 4:1-7. Worship is a response to a revelation of God.
- B. I propose that the foundational song in the heavenly symphony is "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord"
⁸*The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes... They do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" (Rev. 4:8)*
1. The living creatures have six wings like the seraphim in Isaiah 6:2.
 2. Those nearest to the throne are full of eyes; thus, they "see more" of God than any others see.

- C. The phrases, *He who was* and *who is* and *who is to come*, depict God’s relationship to the earth (1:4, 8; 4:8; 11:17; 16:5). There are only three realms—the heavenly, earthly and demonic realms.
1. **Who was:** The Father’s presence includes all that He has done in eternity past.
 2. **Who is:** The Father’s leadership and presence is always active in the present tense.
 3. **Who is to come:** The Father is coming to the earth at the end of the Millennium (21:3).

VIII. THE 24 ELDERS WORSHIP THE FATHER (REV. 4:9-11)

- A. The governmental ministries in heaven rejoice in Jesus being the supreme leader on earth forever.
⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne...¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down...and worship Him...and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹***“You [Father] are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will [for Thy pleasure, KJV] they...were created. (Rev. 4:9-11)***
- B. ***You are worthy:*** 4:11 is the first of the 3 “worthy songs”— the other two focus on Jesus’ worth (5:9-10 and 5:11-14). Forever, the two main dimensions that fuel our worship are the revelation of God’s beauty and worth. They are two sides of one coin. Understanding these awakens zeal in us.
- C. ***Whenever:*** Whenever the living creatures worship God, the elders are provoked to worship.
- D. ***Cast their crowns:*** Seeing God’s majesty and generosity provokes gratitude in His people.
1. As the seraphim cover their eyes, being overwhelmed by God’s beauty (Isa. 6:2), so here the elders are also overwhelmed—even to the point of casting their crowns before the throne.
 2. Their crowns were received as the result of living for years in faithful devotion and service to Jesus during this age. The *stephanos* or the victor’s crown is given as a reward to the saints who walk victoriously in this age (1 Cor. 9:25; Phil. 4:1; 1 Thes. 2:19; 2 Tim. 4:8; Jas. 1:12; 1 Pet. 5:4; Rev. 2:10; 3:11; 4:4). They cast them down as a declaration of their grateful love.

IX. THE CONTEXT OF REVELATION 5: JESUS SET AS KING OVER THE NATIONS (PS. 2:6)

- A. The Father has determined that Jesus be king over all nations. His primary message in Psalm 2 is “*I have set My King on My holy hill*” (2:6). He sets Jesus on His throne in two phases.
Phase 1: Jesus was enthroned *in heaven* at the Father’s right hand *at His resurrection* (Eph. 1:20).
Phase 2: Jesus will be enthroned *on earth* in Jerusalem *at His second coming* (Jer. 3:17).
⁶“I[the Father] have set My King on My holy hill of Zion [Jerusalem]...⁸Ask of Me [the Father], and I will give You [Jesus] the nations for Your inheritance...” (Ps. 2:6, 8)
- B. Jesus’ kingship is manifest on earth *in part* in this age and *in fullness* in the millennial kingdom.
⁴And they [the saints] lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years... (Rev. 20:4)
- C. In the Millennium, the kingdom of God will be openly manifested worldwide, affecting every sphere of life (political, social, agricultural, economic, educational, media, arts, social institutions, etc. (Isa. 2:1-4; 9:6-9; 11:1-16; 51:1-8; 60-62; 65:17-25; Mt. 17:11; 19:28; Acts 1:6; 3:21).

D. The Father promised to make Jesus preeminent in all things.

¹⁸*He is the head of the Body...that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:18)*

E. God gave the dominion (authority) of the earth to Adam as a representative of the human race. Genesis 1:28 is an “eternal stewardship” given to the human race that God has not reversed.

²⁸*God said, “...Have dominion over...every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Gen. 1:28)*

⁶*You have made him [man] to have dominion...You have put all things under his feet. (Ps. 8:6)*

¹⁶*The heaven...are the LORD’S; the earth He has given to the children of men. (Ps. 115:16)*

F. In sinning, Adam forfeited his place of authority over the earth to Satan (Lk. 4:6; 2 Cor. 4:4).

⁵*The devil...showed Him all the kingdoms of the world...⁶*and said...“All this authority I will give You...for this has been delivered to me, and I give it to whomever I wish.” (Lk. 4:5-6)**

X. THE GRAND DRAMA IN HEAVEN: JESUS TAKES THE SCROLL (REV. 5:1-7)

A. After the Father’s beauty is revealed (Rev. 4), His great plan for His Son is set forth (Rev. 5). Revelation 5 describes Jesus’ destiny as a Man to rule the earth as its supreme leader forever. |John saw the Father giving the “title deed” of the earth to Jesus (5:1-7).

¹*I saw in the right hand of Him [Father] who sat on the throne a scroll...sealed with seven seals.*

²*Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming...“Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” ...⁵*one of the elders said to me, “...the Lion of the tribe of Judah...has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”⁶*And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne...stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes...***

⁷*Then He...took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. (Rev. 5:1-7)*

1. **The scroll:** (5:1) This speaks of the title deed of the earth and God’s plan to cleanse the earth of evil (Rev. 6-19) and replace all its national governments (20:4-6) and restore the earth. By taking the scroll (5:7), Jesus accepts responsibility to cleanse the earth and rule it forever.
2. **Open the scroll and loose its seven seals** (5:5): Jesus will release the judgments of God described in the book of Revelation (Rev. 6-19) to cleanse the earth of unrighteousness and remove everything that hinders love and to release an unprecedented manifestation of God’s beauty on the earth—the very beauty that is seen in Revelation 4.
3. **Who is worthy?:** An angel asked what person deserves and is capable to open the scroll—that is to cleanse, restore, and lead the earth to God’s full purposes during the Millennium.
4. **Has prevailed:** Jesus prevailed over Satan by His life of obedience, death, and resurrection.
5. **Lion and Lamb:** John saw a Jewish man from the tribe of Judah (5:5) who had the boldness of a roaring Lion along with the meekness of a slain Lamb (5:6).
6. **Seven horns and eyes** (5:6): Jesus has all power (horns) and all knowledge (eyes).

XI. THE LIVING CREATURES AND ELDERS SING OF JESUS' WORTHINESS (REV. 5:8-10)

- A. The living creatures (angelic) and the elders (human) represent the government of heaven. They express their agreement with the Father's decree to give the total leadership of the earth to Jesus.
- ⁸*Now when He [Jesus] 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. ⁹And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals [release God's judgments]; for You were slain [You proved Your leadership and love], and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue...and nation, ¹⁰And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." (Rev. 5:8-10)*
- B. **Full bowls of prayer:** Jesus takes the scroll at the time when the "bowls of prayer" are full (5:8). It seems that the Great Tribulation (Rev. 6-19) begins after the "bowls of prayer" are full, or after the prayer movement is functioning in maturity in context to being persecuted by Harlot Babylon.
1. Later, the prayer movement on earth is strengthened by the prayers of the martyrs in heaven (6:9-11) and an angel being given incense to offer with the prayers of the saints (8:3-5). These seems to provide a supernatural strengthening of the end-time prayer movement.
- ⁹*When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God... ¹⁰And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord...until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" (Rev 6:9-10)*
- ³*And he [an angel] was given much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all the saints... ⁴The prayers of the saints, ascended before God from the angel's hand. ⁵Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire...and threw it to the earth... (Rev. 8:3-5)*
2. The end-time prayer movement will be the most powerful force under Jesus' leadership.
- C. **You were slain:** Jesus proved His worthiness to rule over all because when He possessed all the privileges of God (in His preexistent glory), He laid them down in becoming human (forever) and by dying to pay for our sin. He took upon Himself the wrath of God to cleanse His people. And because of His love and humility, He uses His power to include His people in His reign over the nations.
- D. **You are worthy:** When we declare Jesus' worth, we affirm three important truths about Him:
1. *Jesus deserves it:* He deserves our continual praise as the supreme leader over the earth.
 2. *Jesus is capable:* He is the only man with the supernatural ability to drive evil off the earth, restore all things to God's original plan, replace all governments, and fill the earth with glory.
 3. *Jesus is worth it:* We have no regrets for giving Him our full trust and sacrificial obedience.
- E. **We shall reign:** Jesus desires that His Bride "be with Him where He is" (Jn. 17:24)—this includes ruling with Him (2:28; 3:21; cf. Mt. 19:28). He desires deep partnership with His people.
- ²⁴*"Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am..." (Jn. 17:24)*
- ²¹*To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)*

XII. JESUS RECEIVES AUTHORITY OVER 7 SPHERES OF SOCIETY (REV. 5:11-12)

- A. The Father gave Jesus an unprecedented measure of favor in 7 spheres of leadership over the earth.
“I heard the voice of many angels...¹²saying...“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!” (Rev. 5:11-12)
- B. **Receives:** Jesus receives from God and in the response of people now and during the Millennium.
- C. In the Millennium, Jesus will receive the fruit of all **power** (political/spiritual), **riches** (money and natural resources), **wisdom** (insight and intellectual property), **strength** (physical strength, including the labor force and human resources), **glory** (praise and love), **honor** (all will esteem Him by their obedience), and **blessing** (agreement with His policies with unified cooperation).
1. **Power** (political/spiritual): Jesus will receive political authority over all nations as well the fruit of their work. He will replace all evil leadership with new leaders and laws in every sphere of society (politics, economy, education, agriculture, media, environment, etc.). Jesus has all spiritual power and will release its fullness in the midst of this work.
 2. **Riches** (financial): All the money, gains from the gross domestic products, natural resources, and financial institutions on the millennial earth will be openly seen as under His leadership.
 3. **Wisdom** (intellectual): Jesus has all wisdom to bring every sphere of life to the fullness of the Father’s original intention. He will have leadership over all intellectual property forever.
 4. **Strength** (physical resources): All the strength, including the labor force, human resources, and influence of all nations, will be submitted to Him and serve His plans to establish love on earth. The nations will gladly offer the fruit of their strength to Him. They will love Jesus with all their strength and resources, including time, money, energy, and influence.
 5. **Glory** (relational): All people on earth will “glory” in Jesus by giving loving praise to Him with great delight. He will be the magnificent obsession of all the nations, being preeminent in their minds, affections, and conversations. The saints will boast, or glory, in Jesus’ leadership as Paul “gloried” in Christ (Phil. 3:3, NIV), children “glory” in their father (Prov. 17:6), and God’s people “glory” in His name (Ps. 43:4; 105:3).
 6. **Honor** (obedience): All will honor Jesus with their obedience in practical ways. To honor in this sense is to obey and serve His agenda. Paul spoke of honoring parents with respectful obedience (Eph. 6:1-2). Jesus will be the most obeyed and listened-to person on the earth.
 7. **Blessing** (social): All will bless (agree with) Jesus’ policies and plans and cooperate fully with His leadership in every sphere of society. Such enthusiastic cooperation will result in the most unified, joyful, and effective government and public workforce in history.
- D. We can respond to Jesus’ exaltation now in three ways:
1. **By seeing His beauty:** We see His beauty in His majesty and glorious leadership.
 2. **By committing to His leadership:** We yield to Him all that we possess in our personal lives—power, riches, wisdom, strength (resources), glory (love), honor, and blessing (cooperation).
 3. **We work to establish His kingdom:** We partner with others in our prayer, labors, and giving.

XIII. PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS OF JESUS' EXALTATION IN OUR PERSONAL LIFE

- A. **Power** (political/spiritual): Jesus will have authority over all the leadership in all society.
1. **Seeing His beauty:** Seeing the vastness of His power makes us worship and trust Him.
 2. **Committing to His leadership:** We submit whatever authority we may have in society to Him.
 3. **Working for His kingdom:** We work for His will in government and society in our city/nation.
 4. **Intercessory decrees:** We pray for righteousness to replace unrighteousness in our city/nation.
- B. **Riches** (financial): All the money and natural resources on earth will be under Jesus' leadership.
1. **Seeing His beauty:** Seeing the vastness of His wealth makes us worship and trust Him.
 2. **Committing to His leadership:** We submit all our finances to Him to build His kingdom.
 3. **Working for His kingdom:** We work for kingdom prosperity to fund His kingdom.
 4. **Intercessory decrees:** We pray for God's favor on finances (our personal life/others).
- C. **Wisdom** (intellectual): Jesus has the wisdom to bring every sphere to the fullness of God's plan.
1. **Seeing His beauty:** Seeing the vastness of His wisdom makes us worship and trust Him.
 2. **Committing to His leadership:** We seek His wisdom and submit good fruit to Him.
 3. **Working for His kingdom:** We seek for and implement His wisdom in our lives.
 4. **Intercessory decrees:** We pray to be filled with His wisdom (our personal life/others).
- D. **Strength** (physical resources): All the labor force and human resources will serve Him.
1. **Seeing His beauty:** Seeing the vast strength under His authority makes us look to Him more.
 2. **Committing to His leadership:** We submit whatever strength or resources we have to Him.
 3. **Working for His kingdom:** We work to increase the kingdom resources that He entrusted to us.
 4. **Intercessory decrees:** We pray for God's favor on our strength (our personal life/others).
- E. **Glory** (relational): All nations will glory in Jesus by giving their love, and praise to Him.
1. **Seeing His beauty:** Seeing love for Him increasing in the nations moves our heart.
 2. **Committing to His leadership:** We commit to making the first commandment first in our lives.
 3. **Working for His kingdom:** We work to see others walking in the first commandment.
 4. **Intercessory decrees:** We pray for the harvest and that love for Jesus would abound.
- F. **Honor** (obedience): All people will honor Jesus by their obedience in the Millennium.
1. **Seeing His beauty:** Seeing loyal obedience to Jesus increase moves us to marvel at Him.
 2. **Committing to His leadership:** We submit every area of our life to Him in full obedience.
 3. **Working for His kingdom:** We work to make disciples who will walk in full obedience to Him.
 4. **Intercessory decrees:** We pray for the harvest, and that obedience to Jesus would increase.
- G. **Blessing** (social): All will agree with Jesus' plans and fully cooperate with His leadership.
1. **Seeing His beauty:** Seeing the unified work of others causes us to rejoice in His leadership.
 2. **Committing to His leadership:** We bless and do not resist His work in the lives of others.
 3. **Working for His kingdom:** We work with a servant spirit and honor others who are involved.
 4. **Intercessory decrees:** We pray for unity to abound in the kingdom and for understanding of God's heart for others that we may bless them without a competitive spirit (Rom. 12:10, 14).

XIV. ALL CREATION WORSHIPS THE FATHER AND THE SON (REV. 5:13-14)

- A. This is the first mention of all creation worshipping both the Father and the Son together (5:13). All in heaven and on earth rejoices in full agreement with the Father's choice of Jesus to be the unrivaled supreme leader of all the nations forever.
- ¹³And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" ¹⁴Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever. (Rev. 5:13-14)*
- B. Worship around God's throne is antiphonal—note the five responses of various groups as they minister to God as one team in Revelation 5—first the living creatures and elders sing (5:8-10); then myriads of angels join them (5:11-12); then all creation joins in (5:13); then the living creatures cry out in a chorus of "Amen!" (5:14); and then the elders break out into worship (5:14).
- C. Here worship around God's throne starts with those in the inner circle (the living creatures and elders; 5:8-10); moves to the outer circle (myriads of angels; 5:11-12); then the entire cosmos (all creation; 5:13). The living creatures and elders worship seeing all creation honor Jesus (5:14).

XV. EZEKIEL SAW A MAN ON A THRONE (EZEK. 1:22-28)— JESUS IN REVELATION 5

- A. Ezekiel saw a Man (Jesus) on the sapphire throne (1:26) from whom fire and brightness radiated (1:27). His throne was on a pavement of awesome crystal (1:22) with a rainbow around it (1:28). This is similar to what John saw— the throne in context to a rainbow and the sea of glass (Rev. 4).
- ²²...the firmament above...the living creatures was like...an awesome crystal... ²⁶Above the firmament...a throne...like a sapphire stone; on the...throne was...a Man [Jesus] high above it. ²⁸Like the appearance of a rainbow [around it]...I fell on my face... (Ezek. 1:22-28)*
- B. Moses with 70 elders saw the God of Israel's feet on a sapphire pavement (Ex. 24:10).
- ⁹Moses went up [a mountain]...with seventy of the elders...¹⁰they saw the God of Israel. There was under His feet as it were a paved work [pavement] of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity [awesome crystal; Ezek. 1:22]... ¹¹So they saw God, and they ate and drank. (Ex. 24:9-10)*
- C. John saw the saints standing before God's throne on a sea of glass like crystal mingled with fire and surrounded by a rainbow (4:3, 6; 15:2; 21:18, 21). The sea of glass that John saw seems to be the same as the sapphire crystal pavement that is under God's throne that Moses and Ezekiel saw (Ex. 24:10; Ezek. 1:22-28)
- ³...there was a rainbow around the throne...⁵and seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne...⁶Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. (Rev. 4:3-6)*
- ²I saw something like a sea of glass [awesome crystal; Ezek. 1:22] mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast [the Antichrist]...standing on the sea of glass... (Rev. 15:2)*