

Revelation Lesson 36

The Throne Room of Heaven 5

I. (Rev. 4:6-11 NKJV) 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. ⁷The 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. ⁸The 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!" ⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the 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."*

A. The Four Living Creatures

1. The four living creatures are evidently the cherubim, the highest ranking celestial beings, which are described in the book of Ezekiel.

2. There is no biblical basis for the tradition attributing these symbols to the four Gospels.

3. The Scriptures do not explain the significance of the appearances of the four living creatures.

4. This is one of the 5 unknowns of the Book of Revelation which are as follows

a. The significance of the four living creatures' strange appearance in Rev. 4.

b. The personal identity of the white horse rider (the antichrist) in Rev. 6

- c. The reason for the half hour of silence in heaven in Rev. 8.
- d. The nature and purpose of the seven thunders in Rev. 10.
- e. The personal identify of the two witnesses in Rev. 11.

5. The appearance of the four living creatures could suggest majestic courage, strength, intelligence, and speed in the service of the Creator.

6. Evidently, their **primary function** is worship. They are the worship leaders in heaven.

7. Every time they start to give glory and honor and thanks to God, all who are around the throne prostrate themselves to worship God.

a. The church casting their crowns before the throne in worship is an acknowledgement that God worked in us to produce the good works He has rewarded us for, and that everything we have comes from Him.

8. In addition to leading the praise and worship in heaven, the four living creatures are messengers who assist in communicating the Revelation to the apostle John.

9. In Revelation 6:1-8 the four living creatures assist in showing John the first 4 seals opened by Jesus...the four horsemen of the apocalypse.

a. (Rev. 6:1, 2 NKJV) ¹*Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see."* ²*And I looked, and behold, a white horse. He who sat on it had a bow; and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and to conquer. (the white horse rider represents the antichrist who begins his ride at the beginning of the Tribulation Period)*

b. (Rev. 6:3, 4 NKJV) ³*When He opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, "Come and see."* ⁴*Another horse, fiery red, went out. And it was granted to the one who sat on it to take peace from the earth, and that people should kill one another; and there was given to him a great sword. (the red horse rider represents world war which will be released on the earth during the rise of the antichrist)*

c. (Rev. 6:5, 6 NKJV) ⁵When He opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature say, "Come and see." So I looked, and behold, a black horse, and he who sat on it had a pair of scales in his hand. ⁶And I heard a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, "A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius; and do not harm the oil and the wine." (the black horse rider represents famine which will follow the wars and destruction produced by the red horse rider)

d. (Rev. 6:7, 8 NKJV) ⁷When He opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth living creature saying, "Come and see."⁸ So I looked, and behold, a pale horse. And the name of him who sat on it was Death, and Hades followed with him. And power was given to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill with sword, with hunger, with death, and by the beasts of the earth. (the pale horse rider represents Death accompanied by Hades. During the ride of the pale horse rider one fourth of the earth's population will die and go to Hades.)

B. Heavenly Worship is described in (Rev. 4:11 NKJV) 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."

1. Look at this verse in the (KJV) *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

2. God the Father is worshiped and receives glory and honor and power for two reasons.

a. First of all, He created all things. To believe the book of Revelation is to believe that God created all things. The Bible presents God as the creator from Genesis to Revelation.

b. Second, We exist for the purpose of bringing pleasure to God. When we give pleasure to God, it gives us pleasure.

c. (Heb. 11:5, 6 NKJV) ⁵By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, "and was not found, because God had taken him"; for

before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. ⁶But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

d. Enoch pleased God and was taken to heaven. This was the first case of God performing a rapture of a live human being.

e. Today, everyone who is pleasing god will be presented before His throne, as represented by the 24 elders and the crystal sea.

f. Who are those who are pleasing God? Those who are of faith...those who are continuing in faith in the Son of God...those who are overcoming the world by faith. (1 John 5:4, 5 NKJV) ⁴*For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. ⁵Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?*

g. Those who are abiding in Christ by faith are the ones who will go in the rapture.