

# Around the Throne

Rev 4: 1-11

# Around the Throne

- Last week, we started our study of Rev 4 & 5
  - We what are allow to see through John
  - Is that scene that the Father is setting up for the coronation of His Son Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords (Rev 19: 16)
  - Adam surrendered the authority of this world to Satan in the Garden of Eden
  - God the Father is showing John and us, the end of Satan's reign and instilling the rightful heir who is Jesus His Son.

# Around the Throne

- There are 4 other things for us to examine
  - Rev 4: 4.....”around the throne”
    - There were 24 thrones.....
    - Upon which sat 24 elders.....
    - Clothed in white garments.....
    - With golden crowns on their heads.....
- What is this scene telling us???
  - First....you will see that Vs 4 starts out with the singular “throne” and then uses the word “thrones”
  - This tells us that there is a “shared rulership” in heaven.....(Rev 20: 4a; Matt 19: 27-29; I Cor 6: 2-3)

# Around the Throne

- How this will all take place we do not know....
  - But we do know there will be "shared rulership"
- The second thing we will notice is "24 elders"
  - Who are these "elders?"
  - To answer this question, we must look at their attributes
- Note the following....
  - First.....they were sitting.....
    - This denotes a place of resting
    - It also denotes a place of focus...."around the throne"  
(Rev 4: 9-11)

# Around the Throne

- Next, we will notice that they are clothed in....
  - Vs 4....white garments or white linen?
  - Rev 19: 8.....
    - Who is being clothed in this white linen?
    - It is the Bride of Christ...
      - Is this not the glorified Church spoken about here?
      - Could these beings be angels.....John 20: 12?
  - Are these 24 angels?
  - Or are they the representatives of something else?
  - Maybe the redeemed Church????

# Around the Throne

- We must note the following about angels...
  - Angels are never shown to “sit on thrones”
  - Nor do we ever see angels in a place of judgment
  - Angels are never called “elders”
    - “elders” in the New Testament are overseers of the Church (1 Tim 3)
  - Also, angels never age, therefore, to call them “elders” a misapplication.....
- Finally, is there Biblical evidence found to support that these “24 elders” do represent the Church?

# Around the Throne

- Consider the following
  - First.....
    - They are seated in thrones denoting royalty...
    - I Pet 2: 9...But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR *God's* OWN POSSESSION, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...
    - Rev 4: 10-11
  - Second.....
    - They have "crowns of gold" on their heads.....

# Around the Throne

- II Tim 4: 8.... Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.
- Because they are called "elders" ....
  - They distinct from the four living creatures.....(Rev 4: 7-8)
  - They are distinct from angels....(Rev 5: 2)
  - They have a distinct message...(Rev 5: 3-5)
- Yet all three join in one voice (Rev 5: 11-14)

# Around the Throne

- These "24" are significant in this.....
  - I Cor 9: 24-25...Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.
  - These "24" are wearing a "crown of victory."
- Question.....
  - How victorious is the church in the Tribulation?
  - Rev 13: 7...And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them; and authority over every tribe and people and tongue and nation was given to him.

# Around the Throne

- This re-affirms the Pre-Tribulation rapture of the Church.....
  - Rev 5: 8-10
    - They are holding harps
      - Instruments of thanksgiving
    - They have golden bowls full of incense
      - Which are the prayers of the saints....
      - Rom 8: 26-27...
      - It is the cry of the Christian's heart that reaches the throne of God.....as a sweet-smelling incense..

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- In conclusion, Vs 5.....”which are the 7 Spirits of God?”
  - I thought there is only one Holy Spirit?
    - Isa 11: 1-2.....
    - Spirit of the Lord; Spirit of wisdom
    - Spirit of understanding; Spirit of counsel
    - Spirit of strength; Spirit of knowledge
    - Spirit of the fear of the Lord
- Matt 3: 11..... “As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.