

The Throne of God Revelation 4

I. John is Translated to Heaven – 4:1-3

1. "After this" John calls attention to "messages to the churches"
After Jesus evaluated & charged each of His churches
2. John sees a door standing open in heaven– 1
And he hears a voice speaking to him
The sound of that voice is like a trumpet
The voice invites him to come up into heaven
The Lord speaks to him saying:
"I will show you what must take place after this"
God wants us to know how His plan will be fulfilled
3. At once he was taken into heaven – 2
This was done "in the Spirit"
The Holy Spirit took his spirit & lifted him to heaven
Perhaps similar to Paul's experience in
2 Cor. 12:1-4
John's eyes were focused on the Throne in heaven–2
And on the One who was seated on the throne
4. The One seated is described in expressions of glory – 3
He had the appearance of "jasper and carnelian"
These are brilliant "gem stones" like those in High Priest's breastplate
Ezekiel had a similar experience in Ezekiel 1
Around the throne was a rainbow with appearance of emerald
Note this also in Ezekiel 1:28
In God's covenant with Noah He called it "His bow" as a sign of His promise - Gen. 9:12-17

II. 24 Elders Around the Throne – 4:4

1. John saw 24 thrones circled around the Throne
Seated on those thrones were 24 elders
They were clothed in white garments
There is no radiance or glory in them as seen in jewels
The white garments come from the redemption of the Lamb's blood
In Rev. 5 these 24 elders are seen cleansed through Christ – 5:8-10
They also had golden crowns on their heads
In verse 10-11 we will discover what these elders do with these crowns
2. These 24 speak as representative of God's people
This number will be found several times for this purpose
From the Old Testament we have 12 tribes of Israel
In the New Testament we have the 12 apostles
In the New Jerusalem we have 12 gates named for 12 tribes – Rev. 21:12
We also have 12 foundations named for the 12 Apostles – Rev. 21:14

Together these 24 form the family of God around His Throne

III. A Solemn Scene – 4:5-6

1. "From the Throne" comes a call to attention – 5
Flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder
It is an instant challenge to hear what God says
Remember the voice in 4:1 "I will show you what must take place"
Before the Throne were "burning 7 torches of fire"
"Which are the seven spirits of God"
7 being complete, fullness of God's Holy Spirit – Isa. 11:2-3
2. Before the Throne there was, as it were a sea of glass, like crystal – 6
This is seen more clearly in Rev. 15:2-3 as God's people stand before God's Throne on a Sea of Glass experiencing victory over the enemy
Like Moses song of victory over the army of Pharaoh

IV. 4 Living Creatures – 4:6-8

1. Around the Throne on each side – 6
Four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind
2. First living creature like a lion – 7
Second living creature like an ox
Third living creature with the face of a man
Fourth living creature like an eagle in flight
3. Each of them with 6 wings are full of eyes all around & within - 8
Day and night they never cease to say:
"Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, Who was & is & is to come"
"Living Creature" is identified for us in Ezek. 10:20
These are the Cherubim, special angels guarding God's Throne
Leaders of worship prompt 24 elders – 9-11

V. 24 Elders Worship – 4:9-11

1. When these Cherubim worship the One on the Throne – 9
They "give glory and honor & thanks to Him"
"The One who lives for ever and ever"
2. The 24 elders respond in worship – 10
They fall down before Him who is seated on the Throne
They worship Him who lives forever and ever
3. They cast their crowns before the Throne saying: - 11
"Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
To receive glory and honor and power,
For you created all things,
And by your will they existed
And were created"

