

05/18/2025

Pastor John W. Brown

Calvary Chapel Central Phoenix

REVELATION

Chapter 04 AFTER THESE THINGS

I. INTRODUCTION

A. OK – let's summarize what we have studied so far in the book of Revelation.

1. Jesus told the Apostle John in **Rev 1:19 NKJV** Write *the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.*
 - a) ...the things which you have seen... - of course would have encompassed John's lifetime and his life with Christ.
 - (1) And certainly this is why we have the book of Revelation!
 - (2) John was obedient – and he DID write down what he had seen.
 - b) ...the things which are... = this time period represents the Church Age. The time of the 7 churches which we just completed in **Chapters 2 and 3**.
 - c) And finally the things which will take place after this. = That is, the things that will take place after the church age. = This is represented in **Chapters 4 through 22**.

B. So, in this scene we are about to study - the church has been raptured and the Lord is about to execute judgment upon the "earth dwellers" described in **Rev 3:10 NKJV** Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial (Christians) which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth (those who have not accepted the Lord before the rapture of the church).

1. This gives us the proper "picture" for the opening of **chapter 4**.
 - a) There is one word that you are going to hear a lot in this Chapter, and it is the word **"throne"**!
 - (1) It appears 12 times in these 11 verses and no less than 37 times in the book of Revelation.
 - (2) There is a reason for that - because the throne suggests judgment.
 - (a) And the next 18 chapters will unveil judgment like the earth, (and the people dwelling on it) have never seen and will never see again.
 - (b) Let's take a look at **chapter 4**!

II. **REV 4:1 NKJV** AFTER THESE THINGS I LOOKED, AND BEHOLD, A DOOR STANDING OPEN IN HEAVEN. AND THE FIRST VOICE WHICH I HEARD WAS LIKE A TRUMPET SPEAKING WITH ME, SAYING, "COME UP HERE, AND I WILL SHOW YOU THINGS WHICH MUST TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS."

A. The first thing we notice is ". . . a door standing open in heaven. . .!"

1. A door gives rite of passage from one place to another.
2. This door is in heaven and it is giving John the right to enter heaven.
 - a) Scripture tells us that there is only one door to heaven!

- (1) **Joh 10:9 NKJV** I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.
- (2) **Joh 14:6 NKJV** Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
 - (a) John would not have been permitted this privilege without being born again!

B. The next thing we notice is the "...voice like a trumpet..."

- 1. Paul has already described the rapture in **1Co 15:51-52 NKJV** Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— (52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.
 - a) This trumpet sound will close the dispensation of grace (the church age).
 - b) This trumpet of blessing will call God's children home!
 - (1) *I find it interesting that in the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation, the word "church" appears nineteen times. From chapter 4 on, however, it never appears. Why? Because in chapter 4, the church is taken off the scene and into heaven.*¹ Jon Courson
 - (2) John, in this chapter represents all of us who will be caught up in the air to meet the Lord!
 - (3) John was not only given a vision but invited to "come up here" = he was spiritually translated in heaven!

III. **REV 4:2-3 NKJV** IMMEDIATELY I WAS IN THE SPIRIT; AND BEHOLD, A THRONE SET IN HEAVEN, AND **ONE** SAT ON THE THRONE. (3) AND HE 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.

A. John had to be "in the spirit" because his earthly body had not yet been "transformed" for space and time travel!

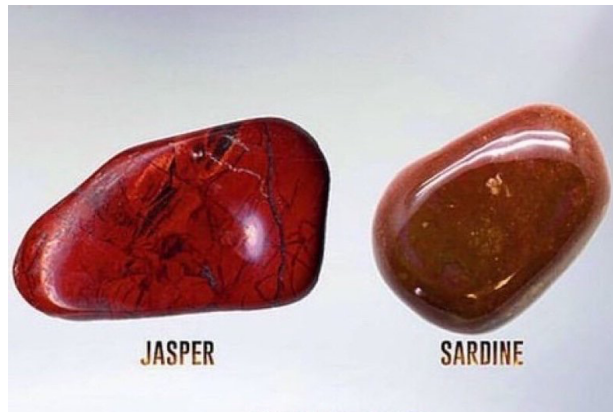
- 1. The first thing he saw upon entrance to heaven was "a throne set in Heaven."
 - a) The Greek word for "set" is present continuous, meaning that it "was being set" right before John's eyes.
 - b) Most commentators believe that this is the "judgment seat of Christ" before which all Christians must stand!
 - (1) Yes, ALL Christians will face a judgment!!
 - (a) **Rom 14:10 NKJV** But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.
 - (b) **2Co 5:10 NKJV** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.
 - (i) This is a judgment for what we have with Jesus and not for salvation!

¹ Courson, J. (2003) [*Jon Courson's Application Commentary*](#). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, p. 1695.

- (c) **1Co 3:13-15 NKJV** each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. (14) If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. (15) If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

B. ". . . **He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance.** . . ."

1. The Lord warned not to make any image of HIM because it "misrepresented" Him.
 - a) **Exo 20:4-5a NKJV** "You shall not make for yourself a carved image—any likeness *of anything that is* in heaven above, or that *is* in the earth beneath, or that *is* in the water under the earth; (5a) you shall not bow down to them nor serve them...
 - (1) God cannot be captured on canvas or carved in stone!
 - (2) This person that John saw was "like" jasper and sardius stones. Not in shape, but in brilliance and magnificence.
 - (a) Here is a picture of both stones.



- (b) And here is a Green Jasper Stone.



- (c) It should also be noted that there are some that say there are over 31 different types of Jasper!

C. Next - notice the rainbow! ...**and there was a rainbow around the throne.**

1. This rainbow - unlike anything we have ever seen - is "around" or "round-a-bout" the throne.
2. This rainbow is a complete circle, whereas we lose part of ours due to the

horizon!

- a) [The Bible refers to the rainbow only 4 times.](#)
 - (1) The first is in [Genesis](#) promising mercy to mankind even in the midst of judgment.
 - (2) The second is in [Ezekiel 1:28](#) as Ezekiel describes his vision of God.
 - (3) The third is here in [verse 3 of Rev. 4](#).
 - (4) And lastly in [Rev 10:1](#) again dealing with a vision of the Lord and His throne.
 - (a) So, unmistakably, John is in the throne room of God

IV. [REV 4:4 NKJV](#) AROUND THE THRONE *WERE* TWENTY-FOUR THRONES, AND ON THE THRONES I SAW TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS SITTING, CLOTHED IN WHITE ROBES; AND THEY HAD CROWNS OF GOLD ON THEIR HEADS.

- A. There are at least 4 reasons why these elders are redeemed human beings and not angels:
 - 1. All angels are the same age. There can be no "elders" among them.
 - 2. The term "elder" is only used in the Bible for human men.
 - 3. These "elders" are wearing white, a promise to overcoming believers.
 - 4. And these "elders" are also wearing crowns that were promised to "overcomers".
 - a) We never see angels crowned in the Bible.
- B. These 24 "elders" represent all believers of all ages.
 - 1. But they are also individual men, the representative "elders" of all humanity!
 - a) There are in [Genesis](#) - 24 patriarchs listed in the line of the promised seed of Abraham.

In my opinion, however, the twenty-four elders refer to the twelve patriarchs and the twelve apostles because on each of the twelve gates into the New Jerusalem is the name of one of the patriarchs; and on each of the foundations is the name of an apostle (Revelation 21). If this is the case, the twenty-four elders would symbolize God's people in entirety—the patriarchs representing the Old Testament believers, the apostles representing the New Testament believers.² Jon Courson

- b) Perhaps these are those men. No one is absolutely sure!

V. [REV 4:5 NKJV](#) AND FROM THE THRONE PROCEEDED LIGHTNINGS, THUNDERINGS, AND VOICES. SEVEN LAMPS OF FIRE *WERE* BURNING BEFORE THE THRONE, WHICH ARE THE SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD.

- A. When we hear thunder and see lightning – there is usually a storm coming!
 - 1. The “storm” of judgement is on the horizon!
 - 2. If you will remember, the same thing happened at Sinai when the Law was given. Then - like here, the Lord was dealing with the law!

² Courson, J. (2003) [Jon Courson's Application Commentary](#). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, p. 1697.

B. As we have said, the number 7 in scripture symbolizes completion and fullness.

1. So, then, seven separate spirits represent the "fullness" and "completeness" of the Lord's Holy Spirit!

VI. **REV 4:6-9 NKJV** 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. (7) THE 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. (8) THE 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!" (9) WHENEVER THE LIVING CREATURES GIVE GLORY AND HONOR AND THANKS TO HIM WHO SITS ON THE THRONE, WHO LIVES FOREVER AND EVER,

A. (First let's look at The SEA OF GLASS)

1. **2Ch 4:2-6 NKJV** Then he made the Sea of cast *bronze*, ten cubits (15 feet) from one brim to the other; *it was* completely round. Its height *was* five cubits (7.5 feet), and a line of thirty cubits (45 feet) measured its circumference. (3) And under it *was* the likeness of oxen encircling it all around, ten to a cubit (18 inches), all the way around the Sea. The oxen *were* cast in two rows, when it was cast. (4) It stood on twelve oxen: three looking toward the north, three looking toward the west, three looking toward the south, and three looking toward the east; the Sea *was set* upon them, and all their back parts *pointed* inward. (5) It *was* a handbreadth thick (3 inches); and its brim was shaped like the brim of a cup, *like* a lily blossom. It contained three thousand baths (17.4 thousand gallons). (6) He also made ten lavers, and put five on the right side and five on the left, to wash in them; such things as they offered for the burnt offering they would wash in them, but the Sea *was* for the priests to wash in.
2. **Exo 30:18-21 NKJV** "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, (19) for Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it. (20) When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, lest they die. (21) So they shall wash their hands and their feet, lest they die. And it shall be a statute forever to them—to him and his descendants throughout their generations."
 - a) These priests were already washed by the blood of the Lamb, therefore the sea before John was hard and crystalline. The priests were able to "walk" right into the presence of the Lord!
Now let's take a look at these 4 living creatures:



b) ;>) Perhaps a little more like this:



- c) There is much speculation about these creatures, and no doubt, each face is significant and symbolic.
- d) But one thing is for sure, they are there to worship the Lord
- e) Day and night they cry:
 - (1) . . ."Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" . . .
 - (2) It is interesting that their "holy's" are in threes. Perhaps for the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!
 - (3) Or maybe it is for God's work of creation, redemption, and final restoration!
 - (4) Whatever the reasons, they dedicate their existence to glorifying and honoring the Lord eternally!
 - (5) And notice what happens when they do!

VII. REV 4:10-11 NKJV THE 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 "elders" cannot worship the Lord while they are on their own thrones.

1. They are compelled to fall at His feet in worship!

2. Notice also that although their crowns were earned and deserved, they were unbecoming in His presence!
3. Their thrones seemed unimportant and insignificant compared to Him.

VIII. CONCLUSION

- A. **Rev 4:11 NKJV** "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. Before we can trust in a Savior, we must believe that we have a creator!
 2. These heavenly beings have no problem believing that He is the creator of all things!
 4. Therefore, they give Him praise as such!