

08182024 Revelation 4 Part 2....As we read on in this book, we are no longer looking at things from the standpoint of time but of eternity. in this third section the apostle John witness the future... which is then given to us...for our comfort and encouragement as we wait upon our Lord's coming for our rescue, His judgment against a wicked world and the establishment of his long awaited Kingdom...the home of righteousness...we move into the transition between the earthly and the heavenly pictures from the present to the future

After this *ESV Revelation 4:1* ....***“Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”***

- The viewpoint of John throughout the rest of the book of Revelation is to be from heaven.
- the church, which has occupied center-stage through the opening chapters, is never mentioned again until the final chapters.
- What is he coming up there For?
- Twice in that verse, at the beginning and the end, we are told that John will now be shown what will take place **"after this"** **Meta Tauta—**

He is now there...and upon entering the door to a particular room or place....

*ESV Revelation 4:2* ***“At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.***

**The first thing he saw was a throne. A Throne is the seat of absolute authority.. the word throne appears 58 times the new testament 43 times just in this book and 14 in this chapter alone ib fact There are only five chapters where the word "throne" is not found.**

## Now This particular throne is a central theme of the book of Revelation.

- For suddenly John found himself suddenly in the Supreme Headquarters the control center of the universe! Must have blown John's mind
- John saw a figure seated upon the throne but he could not see his features through the dazzling lights that danced about the throne.
  - \*\*\*\*Today... Next John looks around ...sees the companions of God, the court of heaven,

*Revelation 4:4 ESV "Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads."*

- The whole description is that of a special council in the very being held. It is not to be taken as a description of the ordinary heavenly state, but of a special assembly gathered for a definite purpose"
- Just as in the time of King Josephat...when he sought the Lord's guidance through the prophet [Micaiah. \(ma kye yah\)](#)  
*NIV 1 Kings 22:19 Micaiah continued, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne with all the multitudes of heaven standing around him on his right and on his left.*
- **The 24 elder's** There has been much debate as to who these twenty-four elders represent. Some say angels, twelve sons of Jacob, and their tribes and twelve apostles..Many commentators take them to be redeemed saints, both of the Old and New Testaments; which I tend to agree with...
- These represent the whole Church of the Firstborn and the saints

of old, the blessed and holy ones whom God hath made kings and priests unto himself.

- Their white robes tell of their righteousness, their victory, their joy, as white robes ever do; and their golden crowns the peculiar possession of the priest of God, tell of their high and holy functions in the presence of God.

*Jesus speaking to the church of Sardis*

*NIV REV 3: 5 The one who is victorious will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out the name of that person from the book of life, but will acknowledge that name before my Father and his angels.*

- And how shall he acknowledge their name? God told Moses to the crowns of the priests in the O.T.

*ESV Ex 39:30 They made the plate of the holy crown of pure gold, and wrote on it an inscription, like the engraving of a signet, “Holy to the Lord.” <sup>31</sup> And they tied to it a cord of blue to fasten it on the turban above, as the Lord had commanded Moses*

- The priest's office was to intercede with God for man and with man for God, to he - as was he, the great High Priest, the Lord Jesus Christ - in sympathy, seeking to unite man to God, even as God was willing to unite himself with man.

**And John sees still other symbols.**

*Revelation 4:5-6a ESV From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.*

- Besides colors from the throne...John sees and hears something else , "

ESV REV 4: 5a... From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings<sup>[a]</sup> and peals of thunder, These are the same sights and sounds Moses experienced with the giving of the Law on Mount Sinai.

*ESV EX 19:16 On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled. <sup>17</sup> Then Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they took their stand at the foot of the mountain. <sup>18</sup> Now Mount Sinai was wrapped in smoke because the LORD had descended on it in fire. The smoke of it went up like the smoke of a kiln, and the whole mountain trembled greatly. <sup>19</sup> And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. <sup>20</sup> The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. Just as John was called up to heaven!*

- The mountain was shaking constantly with great rumblings and thunders, it was covered by dark clouds lit by lightning flashes. It was so awesome a sight that the people of Israel were stunned with fear. These sounds are a symbol, therefore, of the commands and judgments of God.
- Revelation is basically the time when God at last turns from grace to judgment.
- All through the Bible He has been a gracious God, appealing to people to open their minds, seeking to instruct them anew, to make them stop and listen and adjust to the truth.
- But at last He must turn to judgment. That is what this book is

all about: It tells us how God at last visits judgment upon all wicked people.

- The symbols here of lightning's, rumblings and peals of thunder, are repeated several times through the book of Revelation. When you see them you will realize that you have come again to the call of God's people and the increase of God's judgments against evil.
- I have not time to read them all to you but, here are is one them which you can look up yourself:

NLT Rev 11 <sup>18</sup> The nations were filled with wrath, but now the time of your wrath has come.

It is time to judge the dead and reward your servants the prophets, as well as your holy people, and all who fear your name, from the least to the greatest. It is time to destroy all who have caused destruction on the earth.” <sup>19</sup> Then, in heaven, the Temple of God was opened and the Ark of his covenant could be seen inside the Temple. Lightning flashed, thunder crashed and roared, and there was an earthquake and a terrible hailstorm.

And before this throne...

*ESV Rev 4:5B.....and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God*

- Lets take a moment to look at the number 7....The Hebrews considered seven a sacred number because it was the number of the Sabbath, standing for completion and perfection.
- Number seven appears 54 times in Revelation, more than any other number.
- We have already seen the seven churches making a complete

picture of the problems of any church. Then there are the seven lamp stands, the seven stars, and the seven spirits of God.

- Still to come are seven scroll seals, seven angels with seven trumpets, seven angels with seven bowls with seven plagues, seven thunders, 7000 killed, a seven headed dragon with seven crowns, a seven headed beast, seven mountains and seven kings.
- So as we continue to study Revelation, notice when the number seven is used that whatever is being talked about is perfect or complete.
- **The torches of fire.** These are said to be "the seven Spirits of God" - the holy and perfect Spirit of God in the varied diversity of his operations

*NLT ISA 11:2 And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on him—the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. <sup>3</sup> He will delight in obeying the LORD. He will not judge by appearance nor make a decision based on hearsay. <sup>4</sup> He will give justice to the poor and make fair decisions for the exploited. The earth will shake at the force of his word, and one breath from his mouth will destroy the wicked. <sup>5</sup> He will wear righteousness like a belt and truth like an undergarment.*

- The witness of the Spirit as a burning torch...judgment and salvation
- Not lamps, like those that symbolized the seven Churches, and which were after the manner of the seven-branched lamp which stood in the holy place in the ancient temple; but these were torches rather than lamps,

6. Then further off, beyond that central space, was the "sea of glass," like crystal. Clear, bright, reflecting the lights that shone upon it, but not tempest-tossed and agitated, unstable and ever restless but calm and strong, firm and restful, - such was this sea.

- And he saw a great sea of crystal before the throne.  
ESV REV4:6a and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.
- it is a sea of glass, like crystal, and its clear calmness, its firm strength, its **perfect** stillness –
- we are told that the redeemed "stand upon" it – massive expanse like the ocean...as far as the eye could see...

*NLT Rev 15:2 I saw before me what seemed to be a glass sea mixed with fire. And on it stood all the people who had been victorious over the beast and his statue and the number representing his name. They were all holding harps that God had given them.*

*Ezekiel saw it except from the earth looking up*

*ESV EZE 1:22 Over the heads of the living creatures there was the likeness of an expanse, shining like awe-inspiring crystal, spread out above their heads. <sup>23</sup> And under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward another. And each creature had two wings covering its body. Incredible....*

**The final characters that John sees are described in Verse 6-8: Revelation 4:6b-8 ESV“.....And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face**

of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. And the four living creatures, **each of them with six wings**, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” ....

- These are angelic creatures. But appear kinda like winged humans and animals, excepts covered with eyes all over their bodies, even under their wings we are told.
- **How do we know they are angels?** If you read the first chapter of Ezekiel, you will see that Ezekiel saw similar creatures, which he describes in similar ways. He calls them "cherubim."

*ESV EZE 1:5 And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, <sup>6</sup> but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. <sup>7</sup> Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. <sup>8</sup> Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: <sup>9</sup> their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. <sup>10</sup> As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle.*

- **He calls them "cherubim."** Hebrew for Blessors or Mighty Ones.. Greek aggelos ...english angels
- ESV EZE 10:1 Then I looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the **cherubim** there appeared above them something like a sapphire, in appearance like a throne.*
- **Interestingly....When God instructs Moses to build the**



**Cherubim for the Mercy Seat, he doesn't specify the fact that they have wings but refers to their wings as if everybody already understood that Cherubim are always winged (Exodus 25:20).**

- **Isaiah describes them in his 6<sup>th</sup> chapter and he calls them "Seraphim" ("burning ones"). Sometimes they have six wings, sometimes only four.**

*ESV ISA 6:1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" <sup>6</sup> Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar*

- **Six the number of man... These creatures therefore are somehow associated with God's government of the created universe. We are very ignorant people when it comes to natural phenomena, but here are creatures who understand and help God rule the natural world.**
- *Eyes symbolize discernment and knowledge. Wings describe rapidity, swiftness of movement.*
- **Faces depict the major qualities of life in the created universe. A lion speaks of power; an ox of patience; a man of intelligence; and an eagle of swiftness.**
- These living creatures are the ones who summon the four horsemen in Chapter 6. They say to these riders, "Come!" and call them into activity. They work at leading creation to worship its Creator. While also dispense judgment on behalf of God his

people.... 185,000 destroyed in a night

- Notice that the four living creatures say “Holy, holy, holy.” Could it be that they are saying, “Holy is the God of the past, holy is the God of the present, and holy is the God of the future”? Or could it be that they are in the presence of the Trinity (Lord God Almighty) and they are saying, “Holy is the Father (Almighty), holy is the Son (Lord), and holy is the Spirit (God)”?
- Be sure of this: they surround the throne and they know the character of the One-in-Three they are worshipping.
- The chapter closes with the worship of all heaven for the creative wisdom, power, righteousness, justice of God.

*4:9-11 ESV “And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, “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.”*

- Remember angels were created before man....they have known God since before the creation of the natural...for they are super natural, immortal...and help God care for this creation...

*NLT Heb 1: <sup>14</sup> Therefore, angels are only servants—spirits sent to care for people who will inherit salvation.*

- *They have witnessed the awesomeness of God, his power creativity, love, patience, forgiveness, long suffering...*
- *Jesus coming to earth to save his creation...and his beloved*

*human beings, his crucifixion etc...*

- *They have seen the fall of Satan and the other fallen angels...the destruction they have wreaked on mankind... and they are going to witness and participate in his His justice, judgment and restoration of all things...*

*NLT 1Peter1: 12 They were told that their messages were not for themselves, but for you. And now this Good News has been announced to you by those who preached in the power of the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. It is all so wonderful that even the angels are eagerly watching these things happen.*

- *So they cant help but* worship and give glory, honor, and thanks to the One on the throne. They cannot help it when they see the magnificence of God and all he has done...his grace and his perfect Judgment.... In doing so they acknowledge that he is eternal and Almighty.

**And each time they glorify the Lord, something else happens  
Notice that the 24 elders always follow the lead of the four living creatures.**

The inner essence of worship is to know God truly and then respond from the heart to that knowledge by **loving** God, **being satisfied** with God above all earthly things. And then that overflows **demonstrable acts** of praise from our hearts to our lips and **demonstrable acts** of love in serving others for the sake of Christ. What is a crown compared to what god has done for us...they throw it down

So we can say with confidence!!

*NLT 2 Corinthians 4:<sup>16</sup> That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our spirits are<sup>[a]</sup> being renewed every day. <sup>17</sup> For our present troubles are small and won't last very long. Yet they produce for us a glory that vastly outweighs them and will last forever! <sup>18</sup> So we don't look at the troubles we can see now; rather, we fix our gaze on things that cannot be seen. For the things we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.*

end