

Throne Room of Heaven



Revelation 4

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What are the three major parts of Revelation?

Rev 1:19 – *Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.*

“Write about the things that you have seen”

John saw “one who was walking among the lampstands” – the exalted and glorified Lord

“Write about the things that are now”

The “things which are” are the seven churches – present and future

“Write about the things that will take place later”

The things which shall come after the “church period” – when the evangelical churches are no more. (At the end of Chapter 3, there is no more mention of the church on earth)

Revelation 4:1-11

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.”

² *Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³And 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. ⁴Around 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. ⁵And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

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!”

⁹ *Whenever 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.”

V1 – What does the open door to heaven symbolize?

- Door to heaven: God gives us the opportunity to be with Him in heaven
- Come up here: a type of the rapture of the church
- Like a Trumpet speaking: the voice of God...
“with the trumpet call of God” (1 Thess 4:16)
- Things which must take place after this: generally chronological order of events

V2 – What does it mean that John was immediately in the spirit?

John’s human spirit given a vision by the Holy Spirit

V2-3 – What did John see & what is represented by what John saw?

- throne: a vision of Father God
- jasper, sardius, emerald: solid, precious, beautiful
- rainbow: promises of God (as following the flood)
- emerald: beautiful & valuable

v4 – What might the 24 thrones & elders represent?

- 12 sons of Jacob + 12 disciples = Israel & Church ruling with Christ
- clothed in white: righteousness (has resurrected bodies; not angels)
- crowns: have received rewards for good works
- THE REDEEMED ARE IN HEAVEN WITH GOD!

What do the following actives of the elders tell us about the church during the Tribulation?

- They watch the Lamb take the sealed scroll in Chapter 5
- They watch the mighty accession of those who are coming out of the Great Tribulation in Chapter 6

- They watch when the Seventh Angel sounds his Trumpet and the kingdom of this world becomes the kingdom of our Lord in Chapter 11
- They watch when the 144,000 are gathered on Mt. Zion in Chapter 14
- They rejoice over the conquest of Babylon in Chapter 14

WE WILL SEE AND KNOW THE ACTIVITIES
TRANSPIRING ON THE EARTH WHEN WE ARE IN
HEAVEN!

V5 – What came from the throne of God?

lightnings, thunders, and voices – commands from God

What might the seven lamps of fire represent?

- 7 lamps of fire = 7 spirits of God... the complete Spirit of God
- The 7-fold Spirit of God:
The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (Isaiah 11:2)

V6 – What does the sea of glass bring to mind?

- A calm, solidified body of water – water used for washing the sacrifices... but solid in heaven because not needed for cleansing the Saints
- sea of glass: an earthly representation of this heavenly feature was the “Molten Sea” in Solomon's Temple (2 Chronicles 4:2-6)

v6-9 – What are these living creatures?

special angelic beings (cherubim)

Ezekiel 10:20-21 – These were the living creatures I had seen beneath the God of Israel by the Kebar River, and I realized that they were cherubim. Each had four faces and four wings, and under their wings was what looked like the hands of a man.

What do the characteristics of the cherubim reveal about God?

- They prefigure the four aspects to which God would reveal Himself when He was incarnated, i.e. became human flesh as the Messiah
 - Lion – Symbol of Kingship (Matthew)
 - Ox – Symbol of Servant (Mark)
 - Man – Represents His perfect Humanity (Luke)
 - Eagle – Symbol of His Deity (John)
- Full of eyes: do not miss anything; reflects omniscience of God in His presence
- Holy, Holy, Holy... leads worship of God
- Is to come: praising Jesus

Where else do we see these cherubim in Scripture?

- They were at the Garden of Eden guarding the East Gate
- Symbolically represented as the Hebrews traveled out of Egypt during their 40 years of wandering; Standard of:
 - Flying Eagle (Dan, Asher Naphtali),
 - Lion (Judah, Issachar, Zebulun),
 - Man (Ruben, Simeon, Gad),
 - Ox (Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin)
- Likeness of two “Cherubim” were placed on top of the Ark of the Covenant (Ex 25:10-22)
- Likeness of the “Cherubim” were woven into the curtain of the Tabernacle and Temple (Ex 26:31)

What do the cherubim do?

- They stand on the steps of the Throne of God and they praise Him
- They carry out God’s decrees and His elective purposes

V10-11 – What do the 24 elders do?

- They worship God: Israel & the church give honor to Whom honor is due
- Cast crowns: acknowledge our blessings are all by the grace of God
- Worthy: God is the Almighty Creator
- By Your will they exist: God is in control of all things

What do the elders say about what God is worthy for?

Glory – recognition for what He has done

Honor – praise for what He has done

Power – authority because of what He has done

What do the elders say about why God is worthy?

He created and sustains all things.

He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.
(Colossians 1:17)

What applications should we take from John’s vision of the throne room of heaven?

- God is on the throne and in control of all things.
- There is honor given to God in heaven... so we should be honoring Him now on earth.
- Our blessings are all due to God.
- The church will be present with God in heaven prior to the pouring out of God’s wrath during the Tribulation.