

Revelation Chapter 4 - The Throne of God

Revelation 4:1 – 3. A Door and A Throne

After these things.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ has three parts/divisions (Revelation 1:19):

- Things which were – past tense – Revelation chapter 1.
- Things which are – present tense – Revelation chapters 2 and 3.
- Things which are to come – future tense – Revelation chapters 4 – 22.

A door. Jesus said, "I am the Door." (John 10:9) The way of entrance into the presence of God.

Come up here.

- The location: "heaven." (From "earth/Patmos" to "heaven" ... from "church/people" to "God.")
- The rapture of the Church. (*See supplemental handout and chart.*)
- The Church (The Bride of Christ) is not mentioned again until Revelation 19:7 – 9.
- The word "church" is not used again until Revelation 22:16.

A throne set in Heaven.

- Key word in Rev 4: "throne" appearing 14 times.
- John sees God! --- *IMPOSSIBLE TO TEACH!*
- Ruling over all things is God.
- John's description of the Lord: *"He is beautiful beyond description; too marvelous for words; too wonderful for comprehension; Like nothing ever seen or heard ... Majesty enthroned above."* (Lyrics from song: *I Stand in Awe of You*; by Beth Croft)

Revelation 4:4, 5. The 24 Elders and The 7 Spirits

Twenty-four thrones.

- $12 \times 2 = 24$. The number "12" occurs over 20 times in Revelation.
- 12 symbolizes power/authority/"perfect" government.

Elders.

- One in some measure of authoritative position – mentioned in both the OT and NT.
- redeemed (righteous & rewarded) men; symbolized by white garments and crowns
- (Perhaps they are the: 12 tribes ... 12 apostles)
- They are not angels.

"Lightnings, thundering and voices." ... Awesome "Terrible" Power!

The seven Spirits – cp. Isaiah 11:2

Revelation 4:6 – 8. The 4 Living Creatures

Four living creatures.

- A different class of beings; not angels. (See Rev 5:11 and 7:11.)
- They appear to be closest to the throne.
- Their sole duty is to worship God.
- In Revelation 6, they open the first four seals.
- Revelation 15:7. “Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.”
- Compare: Ezekiel 1 (four living creatures) and Isaiah 6:2 (seraphim).
- Each is different from the other. But, united in their worship.
- Their “beauty” is in their praise
- Their eyes: It takes all of their eyes “to see Him” and, every eye is “on Him.”
- Their words of worship. (Revelation 4:8) They praise God’s: 1) Holiness; 2) His Name; 3) His Faithfulness

Holy, Holy, Holy.

“Holy” = “God is “THERE” and all else is “HERE” ... (to cut or divide); sanctified; pure: different from all the rest: set apart; separate from the rest of creation; distinct in His position and purpose; high and lifted up.

God is separate in all of His ways. He is separate in His:

Knowledge	Uniqueness	Power	Majesty
Presence	Word (s)	Purpose	Worth
Beauty	Emotions	Work	Wealth

Who was and is and is to come.

- I AM THAT I AM (Exodus 3:14)
- From everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 90:2)
- Without variableness or shadow of turning (James 1:17)

Revelation 4:9 – 11. Our Crowns, His Due

- The elders worship God.
- A praise and an offering.
- All of their crowns are due Him.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,
casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,
which wert, and art, and evermore shalt be.

(Words by: Reginald Heber, 1826)

Velma Jean Sanders

© 2014 www.GodsWordAlive.org P.O. Box 34215 Omaha, Nebraska 68134
Permission is granted for non-commercial (free) distribution provided this notice appears.