

**A Journey Into the Heavens**  
**The Throne Room in Heaven**  
**November 18, 2015**

In chapter one of the book of Revelation, John was commanded to “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter (1:19). “The things which thou hast seen” obviously refers to the vision of the glorified Christ in chapter one, while “the things which are” signifies the messages to the seven churches in Asia in chapters two and three.

The third section, “the things which shall be hereafter”, evidently begins in Revelation 4:1, since John says a voice said to him, “Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be HEREAFTER.” The events about to be revealed to John were to happen \_\_\_\_\_ the previous visions and messages contained in chapters 1-3, as is clear in the hereafter, which in the Greek literally means “after these things.” This Greek word \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ verse one of chapter four, so the emphasis cannot be missed.

This alone would give some justification to the view of many expositors that John’s rapture to heaven is a picture of the \_\_\_\_\_ rapture of the church. However, there is more evidence. In chapters two and three, the churches are the central theme, but after chapter three, the churches \_\_\_\_\_. The next time we find the church, she is not on earth but in heaven as the bride of Christ (chapter 19). What happened to the church? (I Corinthians 15:51-52; I Thessalonians 4:16-17; Matthew 24:39-41)

With all of this in mind and with many things defined let us begin our study of chapter four.

## I. The \_\_\_\_\_ on the Throne (4:2-3)

Above all else, chapter four is a vision of the throne room of God. Thus the key word in this chapter is \_\_\_\_\_. As a matter of fact, the entire book of Revelation is a “throne book” because the word throne appears 45 times in the book, compared to only 15 times in the rest of the New Testament. The ONE sitting on the throne is identified in verse 8 as LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!

John described the Person on the throne in terms of two precious stones - jasper and sardine (4:3). \_\_\_\_\_ do not have the power to adequately describe what God’s essence is like, so John can only use comparisons. The brilliance and beauty of the glory of God is conveyed by the use of the jasper stone, which suggests translucent brightness, much like that of a bright, shiny, diamond.

The sardine stone, which is also known as a ruby, was ruby-red in color. These two stones were also the first and the last of the 12 precious stones on the breastplate of the high priest. (Exodus 28:17-21)

Thus, the Person sitting on the throne radiated an awesome beauty and splendor that words could not simply describe!

Then, John describes the throne’s overall appearance by saying... “and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald (4:3b). The rainbow was not merely an arc; it completely circled the throne vertically, creating a dominant emerald green. The rainbow reminds us of course of the covenant God made with Noah in Genesis 9:11-17, that He would not destroy the earth again by \_\_\_\_\_!

## II. The \_\_\_\_\_ Around the Throne (4:4-7)

The word pomp means “stately or brilliant display, splendor, magnificence.” It pictures not only the beauty but also all the reverence due the Source of divine government and power centered around the throne. Indeed, pomp is the proper word to describe the throne room because around the throne of God were... four and twenty seats (4:4). The word seats in the Greek (THRONOS) means “\_\_\_\_\_.”

So, around God’s throne were 24 lesser thrones on which were... four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold (4:4). Who are the 24 elders? There are at least a dozen views as to their identity, but these elders are probably best understood in light of I Chronicles 24&25.

In these chapters we find that King David divided the Levitical priesthood into 24 courses, or groups, to serve in the temple because there were so many priests they could not all serve at once. However, when one of these 24 groups served, they presented the whole priesthood. Thus, the 24 elders around God’s throne could represent the entire \_\_\_\_\_ priesthood which is who? (I Peter 2:5,9; Revelation 3:21)

The majesty around the throne is enhanced by the ...lightenings and thunderings...that proceed out of the throne (4:5). This is reminiscent of when God gave His \_\_\_\_\_ to men at Sinai, the mountain blazed with fire (Exodus 19:16,18).

Further pomp or magnificence of the throne area is seen in the fact that... before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind (4:6). The word translated beasts is the Greek word (ZOA), from which we get our English word zoo and zoology. The Greek word simply means “living ones.” Therefore, these are not vicious, wild beasts; they are simply living beings.

Verse seven gives us an idea of what these beasts represent. The Jews in ancient times believed God created four forms of life: (1) Wildlife, such as a lion or wolf; (2) Domestic Life, such as a CALF or an ox; (3) Man; (4) Flying things, such as an EAGLE or other birds. (Genesis 9:8-10)

Revelation 4:7 reminds us all creation will be redeemed, not just the human race. All living things now on earth are under the curse caused by sin, but in Heaven ALL will be redeemed. (Isaiah 11:6-9)

### III. The \_\_\_\_\_ Before the Throne (4:8-11)

The four living creatures were continually praising God, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come (4:8). Holy is used \_\_\_\_\_ times, perhaps one each for the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit.

When the four living creatures sing their song of praise, the 24 elders...fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever...(4:10). These elders vacated their homes to cast their crowns before the Lord God Almighty, for He \_\_\_\_\_ is...worthy...to receive glory honor and power...It is He who...has created all things...and it is for His...pleasure they are and were created (4:10-11).

Before God can be known as one's Redeemer, He must first be acknowledged as Creator of all things. To know where we should be going, we must first know where we came. Moreover, God cannot be praised as He should be unless He is the acknowledged Creator and Sustainer of \_\_\_\_\_.

Verse 11 makes clear the reason God created all things - for His \_\_\_\_\_. Thus, the doctrine of Creation described in the first book of the Bible is reaffirmed in the last book of the Bible! God created all things for His pleasure, INCLUDING \_\_\_\_\_!!