

**A Glimpse into the Throne Room**  
**Revelation 4.1-11**

Sunday August 18, 2024

***After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”***

Jesus is speaking:

- *Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. Rev. 1.12-13.*
  - John is given the privilege of a glimpse into heaven where God dwells.
- The Lord reveals to John events that must take place.

***<sup>2</sup>At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. <sup>3</sup>And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.***

*At once I was in the Spirit...*

- Whether John was physically spirited into the Throne Room or was in a trance, what he saw was real and accurate.
- Paul relates such an experience:
  - *I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—2 Cor. 12.1-3*

*...behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.*

- *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. Is.6.1*
- *And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. Ez.1.26*
- **Essential to our understanding of the Book of Revelation is our focus upon Him seated on the Throne!!**

*And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.*

- John cannot give a physical description of Almighty God, he must resort to trying to describe the splendour surrounding Him:
  - *And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had*

*the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Ez.1.27-28*

- *God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth. John 4.24*
- Jasper, Carnelian, Emerald are luminous gems signifying the splendour and majesty of God

***<sup>4</sup>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.***

Scholars disagree upon the identity of the 24 elders:

- Some believe that they are angelic beings or other species of heavenly being,
- Some identify them as human representatives of God's chosen people, Israel and the Church
  - 12 tribes of Israel representing the OT witness, 12 apostles representing the NT witness
  - *It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed— on the east three gates, on the north three gates, on the south three gates, and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. Rev.21.12-14*
- The saints who persevere are given robes of white, crowns and promised reign with Christ:
- *Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. – Rev.2.10 (Smyrna)*
- *The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments... Rev.3.5 (Sardis)*
- *The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne... Rev.3.21 (Laodicea)*

**Regardless of who the 24 are, attention needs to be given to what they do!**

***<sup>5</sup>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,***

- Reminiscent of God's appearance to Israel in the wilderness.
  - *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. Ex.19.16-17*
- Validation of God's awesome presence and power

***<sup>6</sup>and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.***

- ...and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. Ex.24.10, see also Ezekiel 1.22,26, Rev.15.2
  - The sea is clear and calm, depicting complete peace

***And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> 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 beings are alert and knowledgeable
- They are similar to the Seraphim of Is.6.2 and to the cherubim of Ez.10.15-20
- Their faces reflect nobility (lion), strength (ox), wisdom (man) and swiftness (eagle)
- Others suggest they represent the 4-fold manner Jesus is portrayed in the Gospels:
  - Matthew – the Lion of Judah
  - Mark – the Servant who became the sacrifice for sin
  - Luke – the Son of Man
  - John – Jesus come from Heaven (soaring eagle)
- **Their sole purpose seems to be the continual worship and praise of God!**
  - They acknowledge His holiness and His eternity
  - *For thus says the One who is high and lifted up, who inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy: “I dwell in the high and holy place, and also with him who is of a contrite and lowly spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly, and to revive the heart of the contrite.* Is.57.15

***<sup>9</sup>And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup>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,***

***<sup>11</sup>“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.”***

- Note the response of the elders:
  - They fall from their thrones and cast their crowns and worship our Lord and God.
  - They relinquish their rewards to acknowledge and praise God.
  - *But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ.* Phil.3.7
- “John sees the Lord God Almighty enthroned in heaven, receiving unending praise as the holy, eternal creator and ruler of all.” **Biblical Theology Study Bible, p. 2287**

What do we learn:

1. Invitation into the Throne Room comes through Jesus alone. (*And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”*)
2. There is only One worthy to sit on the Throne. He is no one other than Almighty God, Creator.
  - He is Holy, Eternal and all Powerful.
  - He can reveal the future because He ordains it.
3. He is worthy of our worship and He will be worshiped!