

THE BOOK OF REVELATION, REVISITED

Wednesday, Nov. 18, 2020 / First Assembly of God / Ft. Myers, FL
with Pastor Dan Betzer

IN THE THRONE ROOM OF HEAVEN

Revelation Chapter Four and Five

We spent several weeks in the first three chapters of the magnificent book of Revelation, which dealt with Christ's summation of the seven churches in Turkey (Asia) which corresponded to the seven distinct church ages from that time til this.

Now, as we enter chapter four, we find ourselves in the throne room of Heaven. So what has happened between chapters 3 and 4? The Rapture. I am convinced we are NOT in the Tribulation period at this time for Christ has not taken His redeemed from the earth yet. But, He will and, we believe, it could be soon, though no one knows the time of the Rapture.

Matthew 24:36

But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. (The very words of Jesus Himself)

Revelation 4:1-2

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. [2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

If you would ask many (most???) Christians where they will go at the moment of the Rapture, they probably will look at you like a deer caught in the headlights of an approaching semi-truck. They have no idea; yet this portion of Revelation tells us exactly where we are going and what will happen.

- 1 1. “A door was opened in heaven...” The “door to heaven” is
2 Jesus Christ.

3
4 John 14:6

5 ***Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man***
6 ***cometh unto the Father, but by me.*** Many other avenues to Heaven
7 are suggested in our time; yet they are false hopes. “No man cometh
8 to the Father but by ME,” said Jesus. That ends the discussion!

- 9
10 2. “The first voice which I heard...” Whose voice? I believe it is that
11 of Christ Jesus Himself!

12
13 Revelation 1:15

14 ***And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace;***
15 ***and his voice as the sound of many waters.*** I cannot imagine
16 hearing that beckon call. But every believer in Jesus (living or dead)
17 will one day hear it...

18
19 I Thessalonians 4:16

20 ***For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with***
21 ***the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the***
22 ***dead in Christ shall rise first...***

- 23
24 3. “A throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.”
25 (Verse 2) That “one” is God.

26
27 Psalm 47:8

28 ***God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of***
29 ***his holiness.***

30
31 Ezekiel 1:26-28

32 ***And above the firmament that was over their heads was the***
33 ***likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and***
34 ***upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance***
35 ***of a man above upon it. [27] And I saw as the colour of amber, as***
36 ***the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance***

1 *of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins*
2 *even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had*
3 *brightness round about. [28] As the appearance of the bow that is*
4 *in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the*
5 *brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness*
6 *of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell upon my face,*
7 *and I heard a voice of one that spake.*

- 8
9 4. Can you even imagine this moment? None of us can, but Scripture
10 give us some hints:

11
12 Revelation 4:3

13 *And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone:*
14 *and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto*
15 *an emerald.*

16
17 The jasper was a many colored stone (seen in the breastplate of the high
18 priest: see the picture on next page)

19
20 Exodus 28:20

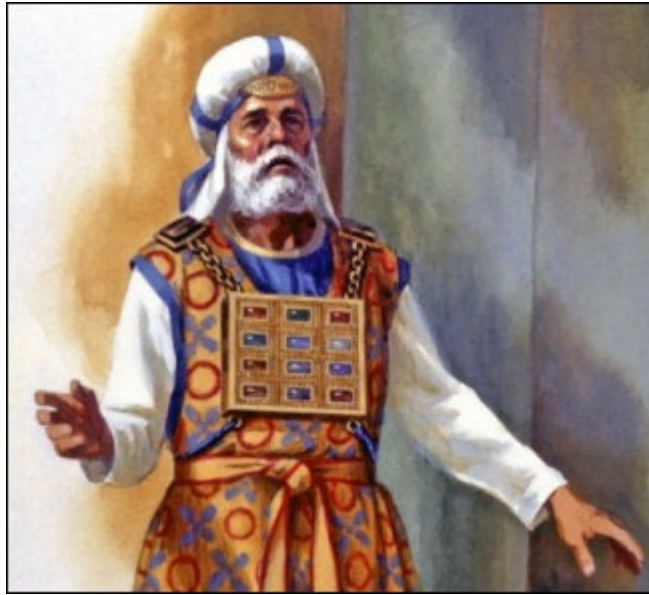
21 *And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set*
22 *in gold in their inclosings.*

23
24 Apparently John saw no distinct facial features only the brilliance and
25 brightness of precious stones.

26
27 A well-cut jasper seems to show light emanating from it, rather than
28 reflecting some other source of light. In chapter one of scripture we
29 see light:

30
31 Genesis 1:3

32 *And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.* But that light did
33 not come from our sun for it was not yet created. God Himself was the
34 source of light. He was the One Who torched the sun and other light and
35 energy producing heavenly bodies. He is that Light shining forth from the
36 throne, which John beheld and so shall we.



1
2 This picture shows the high priest wearing the breastplate, with its 12
3 precious stones, including the jasper.

4
5 Exodus 28:29

6 *And Aaron shall bear the names of the children of Israel in the*
7 *breastplate of judgment upon his heart, when he goeth in unto the holy*
8 *place, for a memorial before the Lord continually.*

9
10 Exodus 39:10-13

11 *And they set in it four rows of stones: the first row was a sardius, a topaz,*
12 *and a carbuncle: this was the first row. [11] And the second row, an*
13 *emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. [12] And the third row, a ligure,*
14 *an agate, and an amethyst. [13] And the fourth row, a beryl, an onyx,*
15 *and a jasper: they were inclosed in ouches of gold in their inclosings.*

16 17 THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS

18
19 The following pages are vital to your understanding of the Tribulation,
20 which we fervently believe follows the Rapture. First the scripture, then
21 the commentary: Revelation 4:4

22
23 *And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the*
24 *seats: I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and*
25 *they had on their heads crowns of gold.*

1 Who are these twenty-four elders? What do they have to do with us? Let's
2 take a good look:

3

4 *These elders are significant because they SEATED, they are ROBED, and*
5 *they are CROWNED. These significant things suggest that these twenty-*
6 *four elders are the symbolic representation of the Church.*

7

8 Ephesians 2:6

9 *And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly*
10 *places in Christ Jesus...*

11

12 Revelation 19:8

13 *And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean*
14 *and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

15

16 I Timothy 4:8

17 *Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the*
18 *Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only,*
19 *but unto all them also that love his appearing.*

20

21 *So - the 24 elders are seen in Heaven in their glorified position at the very*
22 *outset of the Tribulation. So the Rapture must precede the Tribulation, in*
23 *the opinion of the teacher.*

24

25 *In this regard, let's consider Revelation 3:10:*

26 *Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee*
27 *from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try*
28 *them that dwell upon the earth.*

29

30 *Those words were addressed, as you may recall, to the church in*
31 *Philadelphia, made up of true believers. The phrase "hour of temptation"*
32 *can be translated to "the hour of testing" and is a reference, I believe, to*
33 *the Tribulation.*

34

35

36

THE PHENOMENON FROM THE THRONE

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19

Revelation 4:5

And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

I have occasionally heard some well-intentioned saint declare, “When I get to Heaven, I’m going to go jump in God’s lap and smother Him with kisses.” I don’t think so. There is lightning coming from the throne.

This indicates a storm is headed to earth. That storm will be God’s judgment, which is described in subsequent chapters of Revelation. That judgment has nothing to do with the Redeemed saints of God who will be safely home in Heaven with God when the judgment comes. Oh, how vital that each of us is right with God and covered by the precious blood of Jesus!



An artists' concept of the seraphim with the appearance of a lion.

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

Revelation 4:7

And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

This “sea of glass” means its appearance; it looked like glass. Clear glass had not yet been invented in the days of the Apostle John.

Not all angels are the same; nor do they all have the same responsibilities. These seraphim are the four, I believe, who constantly attend God, crying out His holiness. The prophet Ezekiel also described them:

Ezekiel 1:5-12

Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. [6] And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. [7] And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf's foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. [8] And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces and their wings. [9] Their wings were joined one to another; they turned not when they went; they went every one straight forward. [10] As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle. [11] Thus were their faces: and their wings were stretched upward; two wings of every one were joined one to another, and two covered their bodies. [12] And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.

One of the great kings of Judah was Uzziah who reigned for over a half century. When Uzziah died, Isaiah made the pilgrimage to the Temple to mourn his passing; but when he entered the Temple he saw something quite shocking:

1 Isaiah 6:1-5

2 *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a*
3 *throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. [2] Above it*
4 *stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his*
5 *face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. [3]*
6 *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of*
7 *hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. [4] And the posts of the door*
8 *moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled*
9 *with smoke. [5] Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am*
10 *a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean*
11 *lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts.*

12

13 One of my most referenced books is “Lectures in Systematic Theology”
14 by Dr. Henry Thiessen. On page 198 he describes these seraphim:

15

16 *They are distinct the cherubim (other types of angels). God is said*
17 *to be seated before the cherubim but the seraphim stand above him.*
18 *Their duties: They lead heaven in the worship of God Almighty and*
19 *purify God's servants for acceptable worship and service. They are*
20 *concerned with worship and holiness.*

21

22 You have already noticed from the text that they differ in facial
23 appearances, one like a lion, one like a calf, one like a man and one like a
24 flying eagle. John noted carefully their presence before God's throne:

25

26 Revelation 4:8-11

27 *And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they*
28 *were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy,*
29 *holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. [9]*
30 *And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that*
31 *sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, [10] The four and twenty*
32 *elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that*
33 *liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,*
34 *[11] Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power:*
35 *for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and*
36 *were created.*

1 These four magnificent creations of God set the pace for what we will do
2 in Heaven: we will primarily worship God. They do not just applaud, note
3 in verse 8 above the word “saying.” Yes, we sometimes clap our hands
4 in God's honor, but speaking out our praise and worship is far
5 more scriptural.

6

7 There will be the “casting of our crowns” (our rewards, if we have any,
8 read I Corinthians, chapter 3) at God's throne and feet. One writer
9 observed that it would be embarrassing for us to wear crowns in God's
10 presence for He alone is worthy of the praise and honor.

11

12 When next we meet, we see in God's hand the scroll of divine judgment
13 on Earth and the Lost during the coming seven years of judgment. It does
14 not involve the followers of Christ. We are only observers. But oh, what
15 a terrible thing the Tribulation will be. You do not want to be here when
16 it comes!