



## The Book of Revelation: Week 10

### Chapter 4:

### At The Throne Of God

**Media & Notes at:**

[www.htchurch.com/revelation](http://www.htchurch.com/revelation)

**Video also available at:**

[www.htchurch.tv](http://www.htchurch.tv)

### Entering the next part of the Book...

- We are now moving into a very different portion of the Book. Chapter 4 begins a series of visions, and John's viewpoint flips between Heaven and Earth.
- Almost everything in the rest of the book reveals God's program of the end times, culminating in the setting up of Christ's Kingdom here in this world.
- Much of what John sees is in consecutive order. But there are also scenes in which we cut away to look at events, moving out of order.
- The main chronological sequence can be followed by tracking the 7 seals, 7 trumpets, and 7 bowls. This reveals the flow of God in time, as we observe the main events and judgments of the last seven years before Jesus returns.
- However, some other sections of the book are not necessarily in that chronology and we can discern that they are cutaway scenes or flashbacks.

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## Revelation 4

Chapters 4 and 5 are a pivotal section in Revelation which sets the tone for the rest of the book and show us the Father's Throne and the Exaltation of the Son.

*1 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.*

*3 And 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.*

*4 Around 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.*

*5 And 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.*

*7 The 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.*

*8 The 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,*

*10 the 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." (Revelation 4:1-11 NKJV)*

**1 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.”**

- John says after those things – the things which he had been seeing.
- He saw a picture of a door in Heaven. This was his passage into the third heaven. The third heaven is the abode of God and the holy angels.
- John heard a voice like a trumpet summoning him. It was not unknown for God to bring His prophets places in the realm of the spirit.
- Now John will be shown things which must take place after. Up until this point there has been no revelation of the future to him.

**2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. 3 And 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.**

- Once John arrives in that place, there is only one thing that captivates his sight and his imagination –a Throne!
- We have no real description of God; John avoids drawing us a real picture of God. This avoids idolatry!
- John sees some of God’s glory and majesty and he finds a way to talk about that without giving us an idea of God’s form. He compares the glory of God to three precious stones.

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- Jasper: many people render this as a diamond. This speaks of God's purity and holiness.
- Sardius: a ruby or blood red stone. This speaks of God's fiery passions and his judgments.
- A rainbow like an emerald around the throne: God's mercy and covenant faithfulness; life and the ability to generate life.
- This is the composite picture of the beauty of God John experienced. Only in God can these qualities things be mingled together in perfect righteousness!

**4 Around 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.**

- Who are these 24 elders? Some suggest it is meant to be a picture of priesthood, and intercession, because they were 24 families of priests.
- Others say that because 12 is the number of government, this represents the 12 patriarchs of Israel and the 12 apostles (God's chosen representatives).
- Imagine - human beings are before Him! They wear the *stephanos* crown: the crown of the conqueror, the victor in the games. So they may be martyrs.

**5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**

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- I believe this refers to the answers to prayer and the activity of God that is released from His Throne as the saints of God pray to Him. In Revelation 8 we read of “voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.”
- Here is another reference to the seven Spirits of God. The Holy Spirit is not a seven, but the way in which He manifests His working to humanity is sevenfold.

**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.**

- In front of God’s throne is an awesome crystal pavement, which looks like a sea, impossibly large.
- The living creatures are not “beasts!” The Greek word *zoa* simply means a living creature. The evil beasts in Revelation are completely different.
- These creatures are around the throne and at the same time in the middle of it. It seems that they support the Throne, and this would match the description that Ezekiel gave of the Throne of God.
- Being full of eyes means that they are full of revelation and wisdom.

**7 The 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.**

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- Again, this is similar to what Ezekiel saw. Why this appearance? Some connect it to animals which are the chiefs the higher animal categories. Some see within it different pictures of Christ. Others that it represents the flags of the four tribes that were at the corners as the people of Israel marched together.

**8 The 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!”**

- Notice that they do not rest ever, but offer God continual praise and worship. They emphasize the eternity of God – that He was, He is, and He will be, forever!
- These appear to be cherubs. The cherubs and the seraphs are the two highest classes or types of angels, and they are connected with the Presence of God.
- The word *cherub* may mean “mighty one.” The word seraph means a “burning one.” They see the burning glory of God and give Him praise in that glory.

**9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the 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.”**

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- At God’s throne there is continuous worship, and whenever the *zoa* give glory and honor and thanks to Him, redeemed mankind acknowledges Him, too!
  - True worship gives God glory. It gives Him the credit He deserves, and gives Him the recognition.
  - True worship gives Him honor. It recognizes His place and His position.
  - True worship gives Him thanks, acknowledging that all we have comes from the Creator of all.
- Notice the worship response on the part of the 24 elders... it is a good one for us to imitate!
  - First, they fall down before God.
  - Second, they cast their crowns before Him.
  - They say that God is worthy of glory, honor, and power, because He made all things through the power of His Will.

This overpowering scene prepares us for Chapter 5, when the Son of Man receives the Sacred Scroll that will set the end times plan of God in motion.

Jesus will be acclaimed and honored as He begins the process of taking the Kingdoms of this world and reigning here on this Earth for His Father!

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## CHAPTERS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

<b>Ch.</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Time</b>
1	Introduction; Visitation of Jesus to John	Earth	John's day
2-3	Letters to the Seven Churches	Earth	John's day
4	Vision of God's Throne	Heaven	Future, just before the start of the 70th Week
5	The Lamb and the Scroll	Heaven	Future, just before the start of the 70th Week
6	Opening of the first six Seals	Heaven and Earth	Future, in the 70th Week
7	144,000 sealed; a multitude in Heaven	Earth and Heaven	70th Week
8	Seventh Seal; Trumpets 1-4	Heaven and Earth	70th Week
9	Trumpets 5-6	Heaven and Earth	70th Week
10	A Mighty Angel; John commissioned again	Heaven and Earth	70th Week
11	The Two Witnesses; Seventh Trumpet	Earth and Heaven	70th Week (cutaway)
12	The Dragon and the Woman	The heavenlies; Earth	70th Week (cutaway)
13	The Two Beasts	Earth	70th Week (cutaway)
14	The Lamb, The Angels, and The Harvest	Earth, Heaven	70th Week
15	Worship in Heaven; Preparation for the pouring out of the Bowls	Heaven	70th Week
16	The Bowls of Wrath	Heaven and Earth	70th Week
17	The Woman and the Beast	Heaven and Earth	70th Week (cutaway)
18	Babylon the Great	Heaven and Earth	70th Week (cutaway)
19	Rejoicing and the Return of Christ	Heaven and Earth	70th Week
20	The Setting Up of the Kingdom of Christ	Heaven and Earth	70th Week into the Millennium
21	God with His People; the New Jerusalem	Heaven and Earth	The Millennium into Eternity Future
22	God's Presence in His City; Invitation and Warning	Heaven	The Millennium into Eternity Future