



# The Revelation of Jesus Christ

## Chapter 4

Now, at chapters 4 and 5, we enter a new phase of the revelation, a glimpse into Heaven and a veiled look at God's grand plan for the overcoming the world. These things will be told in apocalyptic language familiar to readers of Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah, which will serve to provide a broad outline of God's plan of victory, while veiling the specifics in a mystery. Students are encouraged to look through Daniel, Ezekiel, and Zechariah for a sort of Rosetta Stone for understanding some of the meanings of the symbols found in Revelation.

That being said, you should know that we are now entering into the difficult portion of the book of Revelation. Some of the symbols will be difficult to grasp; some of the prophecies will be frightening; but the point of it all was and is intended to be encouragement to the saints. Jesus never sugar-coated discipleship for His followers; they knew what they were "signing up for". This revelation from the Lord is in that same vein, so that we won't be shocked when the world becomes overwhelmingly corrupt, when it becomes a crime to be a Christian, or when it looks as if Christianity has been completely eradicated from the earth.

### Revelation 4

#### A VISION OF THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

- Having read through Rev. 4 and 5, let's also read through Daniel 7:9-14.

After these things

I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said,

Daniel 7 Compared to Revelation 4 and 5		
The prophet looks	Dan. 7:9	Rev. 4:1
See a throne in Heaven	Dan. 7:9	Rev. 4:2
God's appearance described	Dan. 7:9	Rev. 4:3
Fire before the throne	Dan. 7:9-10	Rev. 4:5
Myriad of myriads of angels	Dan. 7:10	Rev. 5:11
Book(s) are opened	Dan. 7:10	Rev. 5:1-5
A Divine Figure receives an eternal kingdom	Dan. 7:13,14	Rev. 5:5-13
The kingdom is composed of all nations	Dan. 7:14	Rev. 5:9
The prophet is distressed at the vision	Dan. 7:15	Rev. 5:4
The prophet receives wisdom regarding the vision	Dan. 7:16	Rev. 5:5
Saints are given authority to reign over a kingdom	Dan. 7:18, 22, 27	Rev. 10
Ends with God's eternal reign	Dan. 7:27	Rev. 5:13-14

“Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”<sup>2</sup> Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a **throne** was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the **throne**.<sup>3</sup> And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the **throne**, like an emerald in appearance.<sup>4</sup> Around the **throne** were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.<sup>5</sup> Out from the **throne** come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;<sup>6</sup> and before the **throne** there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of

- How many times is “throne” used here? Why?
- Who was speaking? (see 1:10,12ff)
- What are some qualities of trumpets (as we think about why His voice is compared to a trumpet)?
- What are we being invited to see? (v. 1)
- Why was it important for John to be “in the Spirit (or spirit)” to see these things?
  - Who is the One sitting on the throne?
  - How would you describe His appearance?
  - What other prominent place is a rainbow mentioned in the Bible? What would the rainbow possibly mean?
  - What properties does an emerald have?
  - Why is the rainbow compared to an emerald?
- 24 elders and 24 thrones
  - Who sits on thrones? (for example, Rev. 3:21)
  - Matthew 19:28 (also Luke 22:30) tells us what?
  - Why 24 thrones and 24 elders rather than 12?
  - What else do you know of, besides the apostles, that there were 12 of?
  - Why are they wearing white robes?
  - What kind of crowns are they wearing?

eyes in front and behind. <sup>7</sup> The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup> And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say,

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

<sup>9</sup> And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the **throne**, to Him who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the **throne**, and will worship Him who lives forever and

- What are the crowns made of?
- What are victory crowns usually made of?
- What does this indicate?
- So given who these elders are, where they are sitting, what they are wearing, and the kind of crown that they wear, what does this verse tell us?
- What other famous place in Scripture do you see the flashes of lightning and peals of thunder?
- The seven lamps are identified as the seven Spirits (the Holy Spirit), but where else do you see seven lamps?
- A “sea” is often pictured as being the Gentile nations, but where else is there a sea?
- Four living creatures:
  - Ezekiel 1:5-18 / Ezekiel 10:9-21. Also called \_\_\_\_\_
- Where else do we see these creatures in the Bible?
- What is the point of describing these creatures with eyes all around?
- What is the meaning of “Who was and who is and who is to come”?
- Why do the elders cast their golden crowns of victory before the throne of God, as the cherubim give their praise?
- This praise you expect to be heard in Heaven (it ought to be so on earth, too), so why does John include this in His revelation?

ever, and will cast their crowns before the **throne**, saying,

11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

- Consider the living context of the Christians who first read this revelation:
- Who willed the world to exist? Who created the world? Who rightfully owns the world? Who ultimately controls the world?