

## Covenant Bible Study

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Revelation 4

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### An Outline of Revelation

#### Revelation 1:19

*19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.*

Chapter One:                                   The Things You Have **Seen**  
Chapters Two and Three:                The Things That **Are** (Seven Churches)  
Chapters Four - Twenty Two:         The Things That **Will Take Place**

#### Prologue

- Promises of **Blessing** for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 1:1-8*)

#### Things You Have Seen

- Vision of the Glorified **Christ** (*Revelation 1:9-20*)

#### Things Which Are

- Christ's Messages to the **Seven Churches** (*Revelation 2:1 – 3:22*)
  - o Ephesus (2:1-7)
  - o Smyrna (2:8-11)
  - o Pergamum (2:12-17)
  - o Thyatira (2:18-29)
  - o Sardis (3:1-6)
  - o Philadelphia (3:7-13)
  - o Laodicea (3:14-22)

#### Things That Will Take Place (All Future – Very Important to Remember)

- Vision of Heavenly Throne Room, Where John Witnesses the Worship of God the Father & Jesus Christ (*Revelation 4:1 – 5:14*)

#### Revelation 4

*1 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, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. 3 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. 4 And 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. 5 And from the throne proceed 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; 6 and before the throne there was, as it were, a sea of glass like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. 7 And 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. 8 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." 9 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, 10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."*

How do you picture heaven? Better music, better streets, better homes, better worship - - we compare it to earthly things/all we know... No comparison -

*1 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, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."*

### The Door

Are you thinking of a door - don't. entrance to heaven...

- The door is simply the **entrance** to heaven, not necessarily an actual door.
- It is **Christ** that is serving as an escort for John

#### 3 Heavens in Jewish Culture/Mentality

1. **Atmosphere** (Clouds/Rain/Lightning - Acts 1:9-10)
2. **Universe** (Studied by Astronomers - Genesis 1:14)
3. **Highest** Heaven (1 Peter 3:22 and Psalms 68:33)

*2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. 3 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.*

### The Throne

- The throne of God stands for the **majesty** of God.
- We enter into some sort of **court** in heaven, representing God's majesty.

### Description of God the Father

God the Father is often described as light, rather than describing His form. (1 Timothy 6:16, **psalm 104:2**)

- Indescribably **Light**
  - o Jasper - clear stone, like a diamond
  - o Sardius - red stone
  - o Emerald - Green stone

*4 And 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. 5 And from the throne proceed flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder.*

### 24 Elders

- We **do not know who** they are.
  - o Twelve tribes X2? Apostles X2?
  - o Priests in Israel were divided into 24 different "courses". (1 Chronicles 24:7-18)
  - o 12 patriarchs and the 12 apostles combined
  - o Symbolic representatives of the faithful people of God
- They must be **rewarded** believers with wonderful **responsibility**.
- White garments are a symbol of **purity**.
- The crowns are crowns of **achievement** rather than: diadem (monarch's crown) -passed from generations  
If you spend your Christian life trying to figure it out, you surely will not be one of them!

*And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; 6 and before the throne there was, as it were, a sea of glass like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. 7 And 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. 8 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."*

### **The Seven Lamps**

- These are not the earlier mentioned lampstands
- These are torches that represent the seven spirits of God mentioned previously in Chapter One.
  - A Reference to Seven Specific Angels in Heaven  
Guardian Angels Spoken of in other Jewish Writings  
Cannot be, Angels are great, but still created beings
  - A Reference to Seven Specific Virtues of the Holy Spirit (based on Isaiah 11:2)  
*Isaiah 11:2*  
*2 And the Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him,*  
*The spirit of wisdom and understanding,*  
*The spirit of counsel and strength,*  
*The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.*
  - A Reference Back to the Seven Churches  
Every Individual has a "Share" of the Holy Spirit  
The "Share" of the Holy Spirit Which God gave to each of 7 Churches
  - Most Likely: The Holy Spirit in all His fullness

### **Sea of Glass**

- Symbol of Distance
- Symbol of Purity

### **Four Living Creatures**

1. Full of eyes – they don't miss anything
2. always near the throne and the lamb
3. Six wings and full of eyes
4. Constantly praising and worshipping God
5. Very similar to the four creatures in Ezekiel's vision – likely the same
6. Ezekiel's four creatures were definitely cherubim (cherub angels)
7. The Cherubim are angelic beings who are close to God and the guardians of His throne.
8. The four living creatures most likely stand for everything that is noblest, strongest, wisest, and swiftness in nature.
9. The lion is supreme among beasts.
10. The ox is supreme among cattle.
11. The eagle is supreme among birds.
12. The human is supreme among all creatures.

9 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, 10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,  
11 "Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."

### Revelation 5

1 And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. 2 And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?" 3 And no one in heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book, or to look into it; 4 And I began to weep greatly, because no one was found worthy to open the book, or to look into it; 5 and one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals." 6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. 7 And He came, and He took it out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

### The Scroll

- The Scroll is held by God the Father.
- They are seeking someone to open the scroll.
- Sometimes translated as "Book" – same word we have been translating as scroll – scroll is the better translation
- Seven Seals represent extreme secrecy. ancient days had a wax seal with kings ring mashed into the wax
- It was a record of what is to happen in the last days – God's judgment.
- John weeps wondering if he will never know!

### The Lamb

- The Lamb is Christ
- Still bearing the marks of having been slain
- The seven horns for omnipotence or power
- The seven eyes for his omniscience of infinite knowledge
- Lion of Judah (From Jacob's blessing – Genesis 49:9)
- The root of David (Isaiah's Prophecy)

### Why does Jesus get the scroll?

#### John 5:21-22

21 "For just as the Father raises the dead and gives them life, even so the Son also gives life to whom He wishes. 22 "For not even the Father judges anyone, but He has given all judgment to the Son, NASB

#### John 5:27

27 and He gave Him authority to execute judgment, because He is the Son of Man. NASB

### **Change from weeping and waiting to praising!**

*8 And when He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, having each one a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy art Thou to take the book, and to break its seals; for Thou wast slain, and didst purchase for God with Thy blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. 10 "And Thou hast made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."*

*11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." 13 And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying,*

*"To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."*

*14 And the four living creatures kept saying, "Amen." And the elders fell down and worshiped.*

### **The prayers of the saints**

*Psalms 141:2*

*2 May my prayer be counted as incense before Thee;*

*The lifting up of my hands as the evening offering.*

### **Praise builds!**

- The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders
- many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands,
- Every created thing** which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them