

## THE THRONE OF GOD REVELATION CHAPTER 4

### Revelation 4:1 – 3. A Door and A Throne

#### “After these things”

The Revelation of Jesus Christ has three parts/divisions (Revelation 1:19):

- Things which were – past tense – Revelation chapter 1
- Things which are – present tense – Revelation chapters 2 and 3
- Things which are to come – future tense – Revelation chapters 4 – 22

#### “Come up here”

- The location: “Heaven.” (FROM: Earth/Patmos, TO: Heaven...FROM: Church/People, TO: God”)
- Symbolizes: The rapture of the Church (1 Corinthians 15: 51,52; 1 Thessalonians 4:13 –18)
- The Church (The Bride of Christ) is not mentioned again until Revelation 19:7 – 9
- After Revelation chapter 3, the word “church” is not used again until Revelation 22:16

#### “A throne set in Heaven”

- “Throne” is a key word in Revelation 4 ... appearing 14 times in this chapter
- John sees God!
- Ruling over all things is God.
- John’s description of the LORD

### Revelation 4:4, 5. The 24 Elders and The 7 Spirits

#### Twenty-four thrones

- $12 \times 2 = 24$ . The number “12” is a key number in Revelation ... appearing over 20 times
- The number “12” symbolizes power/authority/government

#### Elders

- A person in some measure of authoritative position
- Elders are mentioned in both the OT and the NT
- Redeemed (righteous and rewarded) men; symbolized by white garments and crowns
- We do not know exactly who these elders are
- The word “elder” is never referred to angels

**The seven Spirits** – compare Isaiah 11:2

## Revelation 4:6 -8. The Four Living Creatures

### “Four living creatures”

- A different class of beings; may not be angels (Compare Revelation 5:11 and 7:11)
- They appear to be closest to the throne
- In Revelation 4, their sole duty is to worship God
  - In Revelation 6, they open the first four seals
- Revelation 15:7. “Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever.”
- Compare: Ezekiel 1 (four living creatures) and Isaiah 6:2 (seraphim)
- Each living creature is different from the other
- The four living creatures are united in their worship of God
- Their “beauty” is in their praise
- Their eyes: It takes all of their many eyes “to see Him” ... and every eye is “on Him.”
- Their words of worship (Revelation 4:8)
- They praise God’s: Holiness; His Name; His Faithfulness

### “Holy, Holy, Holy”

- “Holy” = God is “THERE” and all else is “HERE.”
- “Holy” = To cut or divide
- “Holy” = Sanctified; pure; different from all the rest; set apart; separate from the rest of creation; distinct in position, purpose; high and lifted up.

*God is separate in His:*

<i>Knowledge</i>	<i>Uniqueness</i>	<i>Power</i>	<i>Majesty</i>	<i>Wealth</i>
<i>Presence</i>	<i>Word(s)</i>	<i>Purpose</i>	<i>Worth</i>	<i>Glory</i>
<i>Beauty</i>	<i>Emotions</i>	<i>Character</i>	<i>Work</i>	<i>Dominion</i>
				<i>... and all else!</i>

### “Who was and is and is to come”

- I AM THAT I AM (Exodus 3:14)
- From everlasting to everlasting (Psalm 90:2)
- Without variableness or shadow of turning (James 1:17)

## Revelation 4:9 – 11. Our Crowns, His Due

The elders worship God

A praise and an offering

All of their crowns are due Him

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore thee,  
casting down their golden crowns around the glass sea;  
cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee,  
which wert, and art, and evermore shall be.**

**(Words by: Reginald Heber, 1826)**

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