

# 11 - THE THRONE ROOM OF HEAVEN (REVELATION 4:1-11)

### Review:

#### A. The Key Verse (Revelation 1:19)

- The key to understanding the book is found in Revelation 1:19.

Scripture: Revelation 1:19 (ESV)

Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

#### B. A Basic Outline

1. What You Have Seen (Chapter 1)
2. What is Now (Chapters 2-3)
3. What will take place later (Chapters 4-22)

#### C. A Basic Mindset

1. Don't be dogmatic about your interpretations.
2. Biblical prophecy only gives us a partial picture.

The Jews of Jesus' day did not completely understand the prophecies of the Messiah. It was only after His death and resurrection did the prophecies make sense.

#### I. The Invitation (Revelation 4:1)

- John is invited to come and see that which must take place in the future.

#### II. The Heavenly Throne (Revelation 4:2-3)

##### A. John's State (Revelation 4:2a)

- John was taken to heaven through an experience while still on the island.

##### B. The Throne (Revelation 4:2b)

- John saw a great throne in Heaven and the One who sits on the throne.

##### C. The One on the Throne (Revelation 4:3)

- The one on the throne had the appearance of a great diamond and ruby.

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- The throne was surrounded by a rainbow that appeared like emerald.

## III. The 24 Elders (Revelation 4:4)

### A. 24 Thrones

- Around the great throne are 24 smaller thrones.

### B. 24 Elders

- On each throne was an elder clothed in white with a gold crown.

#### **Biblical Note:** The 24 Elders

The apostle John does not identify the 24 elders. Scholars have presented several possibilities concerning the identity of the elders. (1) Because there are twelve tribes of Israel in the Old Testament and 12 apostles in the New Testament, the 24 elders represent all the redeemed of God for all time. (2) The 24 elders are the heavenly counterpart of the 24 priestly ranks who served in the temple (see 1 Chronicles 23:6; 24:7-18). (3) The 24 elders are an angelic group that provides worship around the throne.

## IV. The Seven Spirits of God (Revelation 4:5)

### A. Sounds

- From the throne came great lights and sounds.

### B. The Seven Spirits of God

- John sees the presence of the Holy Spirit as flames of fire before the throne.

Scripture: Acts 2:3-4 (ESV)

<sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

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

### A. The Location of the Creatures (Revelation 4:6)

- These creatures were dwelling around the great throne.

### B. The Description of the Creatures (Revelation 4:7-8a)

- These creatures are not human.
- These creatures have six wings.

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Scripture: Isaiah 6:2 (ESV)

Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

**Biblical Note:** The Four Living Creatures (Seraphim)

The four living creatures are angelic beings of high order. They serve as part of the worship around the throne and the government of heaven. Isaiah refers to them as seraphim. They surround God's Throne. They lead others in worship. They proclaim the holiness of God.

See: Isaiah 6:1-4; Ezekiel 1:5-25.

## C. The Service of the Creatures (Revelation 4:7b)

- The angelic beings continually praise and worship God.

## VI. Worship in Heaven (Revelation 4:9-11)

### A. Casting of Crowns by the Elders (Revelation 4:9-10)

- The elders ascribe glory to God as Sovereign by casting down their crowns.

### B. The Praise (Revelation 4:11)

- They attributed to God glory and honor and power.
- They acknowledged that He is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.