

## Revelation 4: The Throne Room

Revelation 4:1

2 Corinthians 12:2-7

- The third heaven, the highest heaven, the dwelling of God, also called “paradise”, suggesting the beauty and splendour of the place.
- What is he to see? What must take place and what must take place? Judgment.

At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.

What is a rainbow doing connected with the government of God?

Genesis - flood - sign of grace - symbolic of the limit on judgment of God

Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.

Crowns

- Crown of life (Revelation 2)
- Crown of righteousness
- Crown of glory
- Crown of incorruptible (1 Corinthians 9)
- Crown of rejoicing

24 elders

David said, “Of these, twenty-four thousand are to be in charge of the work of the temple of the LORD...”

24 elders are representatives of the church.

From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.

This all speaks of judgment.

Also, in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the centre, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.

### Four living creatures

Cherubim

Genesis 3:24; Exodus 26:31; Exodus 25.

Full of eyes - indicates scrutiny, knowledge, wisdom - watch for everything and are sent to minister to the saints.

Cf. Ezekiel 1:5-11.

Features of a lion, a calf; the face of a man; and a flying eagle.

- Lion - strength and ferocity;
- Calf - domestic role = to serve
- Man - ability to reason
- Eagle - speed.

Role to assist God in judgment.

“As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. They will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” Matthew 13:40-42

“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.”

Matthew 24:30-31

I saw in heaven another great and marvellous sign: seven angels with the seven last plagues—last, because with them God’s wrath is completed Revelation 15:1.

Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls filled with the wrath of God, who lives for ever and ever Revelation 15:7.

Occupied with worship!

Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

Isaiah 6

What is directed "toward" the throne? Worship!

Oratorio

Act 1 - chapter 4 - worship of God as creator.

Act 2 - chapter 5 - worship of God as Redeemer

Acts 3 – chapter 6 - wrath of the Lamb

Acts 4 – remaining chapter - uncountable number from every tribe and nation

"Worship is by definition an assault on the naturalistic philosophy that dominates our age; materialism denies the existence of spirit or another world, worship proclaims it ... worship must be in spirit and in truth and above everything else worship assumes that we know what ultimate reality is. Worship is based on God and so in order to worship God we must not only know who God is, but we must know God." John Lennox

"He is the One who was, and is, and is to come" (vs. 8) - speaks of God's eternity.

"From everlasting to everlasting, You are God." Psalm 90:2

3 kinds of *beings*.

Those who have a beginning and will have an end – animals.

Those who have a beginning, but no end – angels and people.

Then the One who has no beginning and no end – that is God.

Whenever the living creatures give glory, honour and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever.

“Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?” Exodus 15:11

1 Chronicles 17:20, Psalm 86:8; Psalm 89:6

... the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever.

Six times elders fall down before God and the Lamb: Rev 5:8, 14, 7:11; 11; 16; 19:4

They lay their crowns before the throne and say: “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

God himself is a source of morality.

God alone is worthy to receive glory and honour and power!

AMEN!