

Opening Scene

Revelation, Chapter 4-5

Becoming Closer

The Throne of God

(Rev 4:1-6 NIV) After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." {2} At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. {3} And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. {4} 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. {5} From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. {6} Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

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Throne

- Jasper, Carnelian, Emerald
 - On the breastplate
 - Seen later in the New Jerusalem
- Lightning & Thunder
- Sea of Glass
 - rare and expensive
 - purity
 - immense distance
- Seen in the Temple
- 7 lamps = 7 spirits

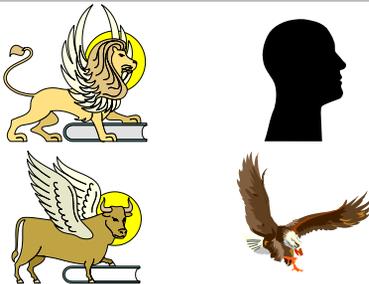
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The Four Creatures

(Rev 4:6-8 NIV) Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. {7} 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. {8} Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."

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The Four Living Creatures



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Seraphim

- Parallel passages
 - Isaiah 6:1-4
 - Ezekiel 1:4-21
 - Ezekiel 10:1-15
- Slight differences -- why?
- Why four?
 - "East of Eden"
 - Overshadowing the Mercy Seat
 - Satan once such (Ezekiel 28:11-19)
 - Conclusions
 - Geographic?
 - In the Holy of Holies

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24 Elders

(Rev 4:9-11 NIV) Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, {10} the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say: {11} "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

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24 Elders

- Description
 - robes of white
 - crowns
 - worship
- 24 courses
 - 1 Chronicles 24:3-4,19
 - Hebrews 9
- 12 tribes plus 12 Apostles?
- Symbolic of all believers of all time?
- Redeemed and raptured or?????

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A look at Revelation 5:9

- "hast redeemed **us**" (KJV)
- "didst purchase for God with thy blood **men** from every tribe..." (NASV)
- "with your blood you purchased men for God" (NIV)
- "with your blood you bought men for God" (Jerusalem)

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Praise to God

- (Rev 4:11 NIV) "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."
- Worthy
 - glory
 - honor
 - power
 - Creator
 - Sustainer

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The Scroll

- (Rev 5:1 NIV) Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.
- Scroll
 - "writing on both sides"
 - seven seals

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Who is worthy?

(Rev 5:2-4 NIV) And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" {3} But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. {4} I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

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Three Questions

- What is the scroll?
 - record of the future (Historicist?)
 - title deeds to the earth (Futurist)
 - Maybe we should just wait and see!
- Why does John weep?
 - He was promised a revelation (4:1)
 - Amos 3:7
 - God can't deliver what man can't receive

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Three Questions (cont..)

- Why can't someone else open it?
 - Title deeds ==> kinsman redeemer
 - Title deeds ==> rightful owner
 - right of creation
 - right of redemption
 - The nature of the Trinity

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The Titles of Christ

(Rev 5:5-7 NIV) Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals." {6} Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing in the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. {7} He came and took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne.

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Titles



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Worship the Lamb

(Rev 5:8-14 NIV) And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. (9) And they sang a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation. (10) You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth." (11) Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders. (12) In a loud voice they sang: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" (13) Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, singing: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!" (14) The four living creatures said, "Amen," and the elders fell down and worshipped.

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The Elders

- Harp - traditional instrument of praise
- Incense
 - (Psa 141:2 NIV) May my prayer be set before you like incense; may the lifting up of my hands be like the evening sacrifice.
 - Symbol of things "up in the air"
 - Intercession

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Concentric Circles

praise and honor and glory and power
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain...
Songs of the Elders: You are worthy...