

**“The Throne of God: Part 1”**  
**Revelation 4:1-11**

Introduction: As we enter into the third division of the Revelation that John experienced on the Isle of Patmos (Revelation 1:19- “...things which shall be hereafter...”), we must remember that the church is not present on the earth during the Tribulation (I Thessalonians 1:10, 5:9-10). The future judgments involve Israel and the Gentile nations, not the church. This is the time of Jacob’s trouble (Jeremiah 30:4-7) and does not apply to the church. God uses the Tribulation, His judgment, to refine Israel. These judgments involve the seals, trumpets, and vials. Notice a brief outline of the remainder of the book of Revelation.

1. The Throne in Heaven Revelation 4-5
2. The Tribulation on Earth Revelation 6-19
  - a. The First Part of the Tribulation (3 ½ years) Revelation 6-9
    - (1) The Seven Seals Revelation 6, 8
    - (2) The Seven Trumpets Revelation 8, 9, 11
  - b. The Middle Pause of the Tribulation Revelation 10-15
  - c. The Last Part of the Tribulation (3 ½ years) Revelation 16-19
    - (1) The Seven Vials Revelation 16
    - (2) Satan’s Religious System is Destroyed Revelation 17
    - (3) Satan’s Economic and Political System is Destroyed Revelation 18
    - (4) Satan’s Military System is Destroyed Revelation 19
3. The Millennial Kingdom of Christ Revelation 20:1-6
4. The Battle of Gog and Magog Revelation 20:7-10
5. The Great White Throne Revelation 20:11-15
6. The New Heaven and the New Earth Revelation 21-22

Body: Chapters four and five of Revelation changes scenes from the earth to heaven. The focus is on the throne of God which is mentioned twelve times in chapter four and five times in chapter five. Chapter four reveals God’s throne of government while chapter five reveals His throne of grace. John (Revelation 4:2) is very similar to Paul in the manner in which he sees things (II Corinthians 12:1-7), however John is allowed to communicate those to future readers (Revelation 1:11). Let us notice what he saw.

- I. The Revelation of His Rapture Revelation 4:1-2- “*After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*”
  - A. “*After this...*” refers to the time after the church dispensation. Notice the other “after this” phrases in Revelation. Revelation 7:1, 9, 15:5, 18:1, 19:1
  - B. “*...I looked...*” may refer to the glimpses of Christ’s appearing.
    1. Hebrews 9:26- “*...hath he appeared...*”
    2. Hebrews 9:24- “*...now to appear...*”
    3. Hebrews 9:28- “*...shall he appear...*”

- C. What is the door in verse one?
1. John 10:7- *"...I am the door of the sheep."*
  2. John 10:9- *"I am the door..."*
- D. Why was the door opened in heaven? Obviously to receive the church.
- E. There are the promises of Jesus second appearing in the Word of God.
1. By Jesus
    - a. John 14:2-3- *"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."*
    - b. John 14:28- *"Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I."*
  2. By James
    - a. James 5:7- *"Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."*
    - b. James 5:8- *"Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh."*
  3. By John
    - a. 1 John 2:28- *"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."*
    - b. Revelation 1:7- *"Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen."*
- F. There is the:
1. First Coming of Christ – For the Cross 1 Peter 1:10-11- *"Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ..."*
  2. Second Coming of Christ – For the Crown 1 Peter 1:11- *"...and the glory that should follow."*
- G. The first coming was for the salvation of my soul while the second coming is for the salvation of the saints bodies. Romans 8:23- *"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."*
- H. There is an order to the resurrection. 1 Corinthians 15:20-24- *"But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept. For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. **But every man in his own order:** Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power."*
- I. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ is in two phases.

1. There is the Rapture—Jesus Comes **For** His Saints. It is a Surprise.
  - a. Revelation 4:1-2
  - b. Titus 2:13- *“Looking for that blessed hope...”*
  - c. In the Rapture, Jesus comes **for** His saints.
  - d. The Rapture is a surprise.
    - (1) Matthew 24:42- *“Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”*
    - (2) Matthew 24:44- *“Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.”*
    - (3) Mark 13:32- *“But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.”*
    - (4) I Thessalonians 4:16- *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God...”*
    - (5) John 12:28-29- *“Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him.”*
2. There is the Revelation—Jesus Comes **With** His Saints. It is Seen.
  - a. Revelation 19:11-21
  - b. Titus 2:13- *“...and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;”*
  - c. In the Revelation Jesus comes **with** His saints.
  - d. The only way that Jesus can come with His saints is if He has already come for them.
    - (1) Zechariah 14:5- *“...and the LORD my God shall come, and all the saints with thee.”*
    - (2) Colossians 3:4- *“When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.”*
    - (3) 1 Thessalonians 3:13- *“To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”*
    - (4) 1 Thessalonians 4:14- *“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”*
    - (5) Jude 1:14- *“And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints”*
    - (6) Jude 1:15- *“To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”*
  - e. The Revelation is seen.
    - (1) Revelation 1:7- *“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”*

- (2) Zechariah 13:6- *“And one shall say unto him, What are these wounds in thine hands? Then he shall answer, Those with which I was wounded in the house of my friends.”*
- (3) Acts 1:9-11- *“And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”*
- (4) Matthew 24:30- *“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*
- (5) Luke 21:27- *“And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory.”*
- (6) Matthew 25:31- *“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory”*
- (7) II Thessalonians 1:7-10- *“And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power; When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.”*

J. The Rapture is also in two phases.

1. Dead in Christ 1 Thessalonians 4:16- *“...and the dead in Christ shall rise first”*
  - a. John 11:25- *“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”*
  - b. Philippians 3:11- *“If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.”*
  - c. I Corinthians 15:52- *“...and the dead shall be raised incorruptible...”*
2. We Which are Alive 1 Thessalonians 4:17- *“Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*
  - a. John 11:26- *“And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?”*
  - b. I Corinthians 15:52- *“...and we shall be changed.”*
  - c. I Corinthians 15:51- *“Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed”*

K. There is typology in the Bible that alludes to the second coming of Christ.

1. Peter refers to the transfiguration of Christ on the mount which was a type of His second coming. II Peter 1:16- *“For we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”* II Peter 1:17-18
  - a. Matthew 17:1-3

- b. Moses was a Type of the Resurrected Saints
  - c. Elijah was a type of the Translated Saints
  - d. Peter, James, and John was a Type of the Jewish Remnant that Shall See Him When He Comes
2. Joseph was a type of Christ and he was espoused to, and married Asenath, a Gentile bride, during the time of his rejection by his brethren, and before the famine, which typified the tribulation.
  3. Moses was also a type of Christ in receiving his Gentile bride after his rejection by his brethren and before they passed through the tribulation under Pharaoh.
  4. 1 Thessalonians 1:10- *“And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”*
  5. 1 Thessalonians 5:9- *“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ”*
  6. Enoch is a type of the translated saints in that he was caught out before the flood. The flood being a type of the tribulation. Noah and his family is a type of the Jewish remnant (the 144,000) that will be preserved through the tribulation.
  7. Eve was in the body of Adam before she became the bride of Adam.
- L. Notice three things found in verse one that parallel with 1 Thessalonians 4:16.
1. There is a Voice
    - a. Revelation 4:1- *“...and the first voice which I heard...”*
    - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16- *“...with the voice of the archangel...”*
  2. There is a Trumpet
    - a. Revelation 4:1- *“...was as it were of a trumpet talking with me...”*
    - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16- *“...and with the trump of God...”*
  3. There is a Declaration – Come Up Hither
    - a. Revelation 4:1- *“...which said, Come up hither...”*
    - b. 1 Thessalonians 4:16- *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout...”*

- II. The Revelation of His Rulership Revelation 4:2- *“And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.”*
- A. The first thing John saw when entering heaven was a throne. Its prominence is because of Who sits on the throne. (Butler)
  - B. The throne was not vacant, but someone sat on the throne. (Larkin)
  - C. Who is on the throne?
    1. God the Son Approaches the Throne Revelation 5:6
    2. God the Spirit is Before the Throne Revelation 4:5
    3. It must be God the Father.
  - D. Who is around the throne?
    1. The Four and Twenty Elders Revelation 4:4, 7:11
    2. The Seven Spirits of God Revelation 4:5
    3. The Four Beasts Revelation 4:6, 7:11
    4. The Lamb Revelation 5:6
    5. The Angels Revelation 5:11, 7:11
  - E. Psalm 47:8- *“God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.”*

- F. It is Established Psalm 93:2- *“Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting.”*
- G. It is Executive Psalm 89:14- *“Justice and judgment are the habitation of thy throne: mercy and truth shall go before thy face.”*
- H. It is Everlasting Psalm 45:6- *“Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right scepter.”*
1. Lamentations 5:19- *“Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation.”*
  2. Hebrews 1:8- *“But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.”*
  3. There is a constant emphasis today on witnessing for Christ and working for Christ, but not enough is said about worshiping Him. We ought to worship Him for His majestic throne. (Wiersbe)
  4. Heaven is a place of worship, and God’s people shall worship Him throughout all eternity. Perhaps it would be good for us to get in practice now! (Wiersbe)
- III. The Revelation of His Redemption Revelation 4:3- *“And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.”*
- A. Note: Did Ezekiel see the same thing? Ezekiel 1:26-28
- B. Redemption is Seen in the Stone
1. Hardness- *“jasper”*
    - a. A jasper stone is clear (Revelation 21:11) and may be what we call a diamond today. (Ironsides)
    - b. The jasper emphasizes the hardness connected with the government of God. God’s laws are fixed and firm, unyielding and unrelenting. (Phillips)
    - c. Jasper represented Reuben, the oldest of the twelve sons of Jacob.
  2. Holiness- *“sardine”*
    - a. Sardius is a deep, fiery, flashing red and may be what we call a ruby today.
    - b. It reminds us that our God is a consuming fire. (Phillips)
    - c. It suggests the holiness connected with the government of God. God is holy and His anger against sin burns and flashes like the glow of the sardius stone. (Phillips)
    - d. Sardine represented Benjamin, the youngest of the twelve sons of Jacob.
  3. The jasper and the sardius stone together represent the humanity connected with the government of God.
    - a. Exodus 28:17, 20
    - b. The first and last of these stones was the jasper and the sardius. These stones together at the throne of God reveal that not only is there an element of hardness and holiness around the throne, but there is not a divorcement from humanity at the throne either. (Phillips)
    - c. This was a picture of safety and security. The children of Israel were sinful, defiled, and unworthy, but the high priest ministered daily and continually for their cleansing while he carried their names, each individually, upon his heart.
  4. Notice the reversal of the stones.
  5. Imagine what these stones would look like in comparison to Psalm 104:2.

6. Psalm 104:2- *“Who coverest thyself with light as with a garment: who stretchest out the heavens like a curtain”*

#### C. Redemption is Seen in the Sign

1. The rainbow encircled the throne; it was not just an arc, but a complete circle. A circle symbolizes complete perfection. (Phillips)
2. In this world we only see half a rainbow, or the half of things, but in heaven we shall see the whole of things. (Larkin)
3. The rainbow reminds us of God’s covenant with man after a sacrifice (Genesis 8:20-22). God saw and smelled before He sent. Genesis 9:12-17
4. Judgment is about to fall, but the rainbow reminds us that God is merciful, even when He judges. (Wiersbe)
5. Habakkuk 3:2- *“O LORD, I have heard thy speech, and was afraid: O LORD, revive thy work in the midst of the years, in the midst of the years make known; in wrath remember mercy.”*
6. Scientifically, a rainbow is produced by the refraction of light through the droplets of water. The curved surfaces of the raindrops refract the light rays, breaking them into the seven visible colors of the rainbow called the solar spectrum. A storm and a sun are required to make a rainbow. But the rainbow always appears after the storm is over. The rainbow is the symbol of receding judgment; it indicates that the storm is past. (DeHaan)
7. Usually, a rainbow appears after the storm; but here, we see it before the storm.
8. There is a difference between Noah’s rainbow and the one around the throne of God. Noah’s was composed of seven primary colors: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo, and violet. The one around the throne is emerald. It signifies that God is a covenant keeping God and that his promises as to the earth shall be fulfilled. (Larkin)

#### D. Redemption is Seen in the Symbol

1. The emerald was the stone of Judah, the first stone in the second row of the breastplate. Judah was the tribe out of which the king was to come, and the name Judah means “praise”.
2. The emerald was the wedding stone for the house of Israel.
3. It was green which speaks of eternal freshness and endurance.

### IV. The Revelation of His Royalty Revelation 4:4-11

#### A. The Royal Seats Revelation 4:4- *“And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.”*

1. The rainbow was around the throne vertically, while these heavenly beings were around the throne horizontally. (Wiersbe)
2. Who are the four and twenty elders?
3. Are they angels? (Wiersbe)
  - a. Angels are not numbered. Hebrews 12:22- *“But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels,”*
  - b. The angels are distinguished different than the elders. Revelation 5:11, 7:11
  - c. Angels will not judge the world. 1 Corinthians 6:2-3, Revelation 20:4

4. Are they the twelve patriarchs and the twelve apostles?
  - a. Matthew 19:28- *“And Jesus said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”*
  - b. Revelation 20:4
  - c. What about the twelve gates (twelve tribes) and twelve foundations (twelve apostles)? Revelation 21:10-14
5. Are they the priests that David divided into twenty-four courses? 1 Chronicles 24:1-4
  - a. Were they in the priestly white raiment? Revelation 4:4
  - b. The Tabernacle and the Temple were patterns of what was in heaven.
  - c. Hebrews 8:5- *“Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, See, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.”*
  - d. Hebrews 9:23- *“It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.”*
  - e. The “Throne” that John saw in Heaven corresponds with the “Mercy Seat” of the Ark of the Covenant. The “Four Beasts (Living Ones)” with the “Cherubim” that guarded the “Mercy Seat.” The “Four and Twenty Elders” with the “Priestly Courses” that officiated in the Tabernacle. The “Seven Lamps (Spirits)” before the “Throne,” with the “Seven Branched Candlestick” of the Holy Place of the Tabernacle. The “Sea of Glass” with the “Brazen Laver” for cleansing, that stood in front of the Tabernacle. The “Altar” under which John saw the “soul of Martyrs” with the “Altar of Burnt Offering.” If the “Throne” section of the “Heavenly Tabernacle” corresponds with the “Most Holy Place” of the “Mosaic Tabernacle,” and the “Four and Twenty Elder” section with the “Altar of Incense” and “Seven Lamps of Fire” corresponds with the “Holy Place,” then the “Sea of Glass” and the “Altar” should correspond with the “Court” of the Tabernacle. This will help us to relatively locate what John saw in the Heavenly Tabernacle. (Larkin)
6. Why are they called elders? Is not that a term for representatives of the church? (Butler)
7. The white robes and palm branches speak of victory. Revelation 7:9 (Wiersbe)
8. White also speaks of righteousness. Revelation 19:8
- B. The Royal Spirits Revelation 4:5- *“And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.”*
  1. The thunderings and lightnings proceeding from the throne remind us that God’s judgment is something to be feared. (Phillips)
  2. Lightnings, thunderings, and voices emanating from the throne make it clear that a dreadful storm is about to burst on that world below. (Ironside)
  3. Hebrews 12:21- *“And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)”*

4. Exodus 19:16- *“And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.”*
5. Exodus 19:18- *“And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire: and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly.”*
6. The seven Spirits of God symbolize the Holy Spirit in His fullness. (Phillips)
7. The seven Spirits of God cross references. Revelation 1:4, 3:1, 5:6, Isaiah 11:2
- C. The Royal Sea Revelation 4:6- *“And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal...”*
  1. There is nothing more fluctuating and changeable than the sea. It symbolizes the wicked in their restlessness. (Phillips)
  2. Isaiah 57:21- *“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.”*
  3. Glass is transparent and fixed. A sea of glass suggests something no longer fluid, no longer capable of change. (Phillips)
  4. God’s judgment will be transparent as crystal, and it will be fixed and beyond recall. (Phillips)
  5. Glass reflects the glory of God. (Butler)
- D. The Royal Symbolism Revelation 4:6-9
  1. Their Place Revelation 4:6- *“...and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.”*
    - a. Are these beasts cherubims? Does each reflect an aspect of the likeness of the Lord? Are they so much like the Lord because they are so much with Him? (Phillips)
    - b. Exodus 37:9- *“And the cherubims spread out their wings on high, and covered with their wings over the mercy seat, with their faces one to another; even to the mercy seatward were the faces of the cherubims.”*
    - c. Ezekiel 10:20-22
  2. Their Portrayal Revelation 4:7- *“And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.”*
    - a. Do they reflect the gospels?
      - (1) Matthew – Lion
      - (2) Mark – Calf
      - (3) Luke – Man
      - (4) John – Eagle
    - b. Do they parallel God’s covenant with Noah? Genesis 9:8-10
      - (1) Noah – Man Genesis 9:8
      - (2) Fowl – Eagle Genesis 9:10
      - (3) Cattle – Calf Genesis 9:10
      - (4) Beast of the Earth – Lion Genesis 9:10
    - c. Do they represent the camps of Israel? Numbers 2:2
      - (1) Judah – Lion
      - (2) Ephraim – Ox
      - (3) Reuben – Man

(4) Dan – Eagle

- d. In the camping and marching order of Israel in the Wilderness, there was a fixed relation of the Twelve Tribes to the Tabernacle. In camp the Tabernacle rested in the middle. The Camp of Judah, composed of 3 Tribes, rested on the East, with its Standard bearing the figure of a **LION**. The Camp of Ephraim, composed of 3 Tribes, rested on the West, with its Standard bearing the figure of an **OX**. The Camp of Reuben, composed of 3 Tribes, rested on the South, with its Standard bearing the figure of a **MAN**. The Camp of Dan, composed of 3 Tribes, rested on the North, with its Standard bearing the figure of an **EAGLE**. Thus the Tabernacle in the centre of the Camp, the place of God's Presence, was surrounded and protected by Standards that bore the figures of Ezekiel's and John's "Living Creatures." Numbers 2:1-3:39 (Larkin)
  3. Their Plea Revelation 4:8- *"And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."*
    - a. The holiness of God is emphasized in the praise given Him by the four living creatures. Only on earth is God dishonored. (Butler)
    - b. The job of praising God is never complete, therefore, they rest not day and night praising God. (Butler)
    - c. The eternity of God is praised here. (Which was, and is, and is to come.) (Butler)
    - d. Could these beasts be seraphims?
    - e. Isaiah 6:2-3- *"Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."*
    - f. They are full of eyes, implying clear insight into matters. (Phillips)
    - g. Their eyes were before and behind (4:6) and within (4:8). This reveals their intelligence and spiritual insight of things past, present, and to come. (Larkin)
  4. Their Praise Revelation 4:9- *"And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,"*
- E. The Royal Salutation Revelation 4:10-11
1. They Cast their Crowns Revelation 4:10- *"The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,"*
    - a. Angels do not possess thrones and crowns like the New Testaments saints. (Larkin)
    - b. Regardless who the beasts and twenty and four elders are, they worship the only true and living God. Revelation 5:8-12
    - c. They take off their crowns, which symbolize their own right to rule, and cast those crowns at His feet. They abandon their right to rule to Christ's alone. (Phillips)
  2. They Cast their Compliments Revelation 4:11- *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

- a. Their praise was that God had created all things. Lehman Strauss said, “There are not songs of evolution in heaven, only of creation.”
- b. Worship is the right that belongs to the worth-ship of the Lord. (Phillips)
- c. It is the function of telling Him how absolutely worthy He is to receive our praise and our adoration. (Phillips)

Conclusion: We can certainly say that there is a lot of activity around the throne of God. From the rapture to the throne, to the revelation around the throne, to the reverence because of the throne, God’s name is to be praised. May we worship Him now because He is worthy of our praise.