

# “The Majestic Throne”

(Rev 4:5-11)

Part 1 of 2



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

# Scripture Reading



Revelation 4:1-4 (NASB)

1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. 3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

# Scripture Reading



5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; 6 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. 7 The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME."

# Scripture Reading



9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

# Exposit Rev 4:5



5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

☞ “Out from the throne”

☞ “seven lamps”



# “Out from the throne”



“Out from the throne came flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder...”

- ❧ What a majestic scene
- ❧ After describing the One sitting on the throne like a jasper and sardius stone in appearance
- ❧ And after describing the rainbow around the throne like an emerald in appearance
- ❧ John now describes the what is coming out from the throne and that is lightning + sounds/peels of thunder



# "Out from the throne"



☞ I think we've all encountered or experienced lightning and sounds/peels of thunder to one degree:

☞ Especially those out in certain states:

- ☞ LA
- ☞ TX
- ☞ MS
- ☞ OK
- ☞ MO
- ☞ IL
- ☞ KS
- ☞ FL [recently pegged #1 lightning capital]

☞ And we've had a fair share of that here in California



# "Out from the throne"



What is lightning and thunder and are they the same thing?

The screenshot shows the National Weather Service website. At the top, there are logos for NOAA and the National Weather Service. The main header reads "NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE" with "NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION" below it. A navigation bar includes links for HOME, FORECAST, PAST WEATHER, SAFETY, INFORMATION, EDUCATION, NEWS, SEARCH, and ABOUT. The page title is "Understanding Lightning: Thunder" under the "Safety" National Program. The content explains that thunder is the sound of a nearby lightning flash, can be heard up to 10 miles away, and is caused by the rapid expansion and contraction of air heated by the lightning discharge. It also provides a method for estimating the distance to a lightning strike by counting seconds between the flash and the sound.

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**  
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

HOME FORECAST PAST WEATHER SAFETY INFORMATION EDUCATION NEWS SEARCH ABOUT

## Understanding Lightning: Thunder

Safety  
National Program

[Weather.gov](#) > [Safety](#) > Understanding Lightning: Thunder

Thunder is the sound caused by a nearby flash of lightning and can be heard for a distance of only about 10 miles from the lightning strike. The sound of thunder should serve as a warning to anyone outside that they are within striking distance of the storm and need to get to a safe place immediately!

Thunder is created when lightning passes through the air. The lightning discharge heats the air rapidly and causes it to expand. The temperature of the air in the lightning channel may reach as high as 50,000 degrees Fahrenheit, 5 times hotter than the surface of the sun. Immediately after the flash, the air cools and contracts quickly. This rapid expansion and contraction creates the sound wave that we hear as thunder.

Although a lightning discharge usually strikes just one spot on the ground, it travels many miles through the air. When you listen to thunder, you'll first hear the thunder created by that portion of the lightning channel that is nearest you. As you continue to listen, you'll hear the sound created from the portions of the channel farther and farther away. Typically, a sharp crack or click will indicate that the lightning channel passed nearby. If the thunder sounds more like a rumble, the lightning was at least several miles away. The loud boom that you sometimes hear is created by the main lightning channel as it reaches the ground.

Since you see lightning immediately and it takes the sound of thunder about 5 seconds to travel a mile, you can calculate the distance between you and the lightning. If you count the number of seconds between the flash of lightning and the sound of thunder, and then divide by 5, you'll get the distance in miles to the lightning: 5 seconds = 1 mile, 15 seconds = 3 miles, 0 seconds = very close.

Keep in mind that you should be in a safe place while counting. Remember, if you can hear thunder, chances are that you're within striking distance of the storm. You don't want to get struck by the next flash of lightning.



# "Out from the throne"



☞ A couple of things from this article

a. The article warned that if you hear thunder, especially the crack/click, you are dangerously close to its path

b. Lightning is 5x hotter than the surface of the sun (50,000 degrees Fahrenheit)

☞ The closer the lightning and thunder are from each other, the closer you are

☞ For those of us who have seen and experienced lightning and thunder can attest it's pretty terrifying

# “Out from the throne”



- ❧ From here I'd like the Israelites to attest to this terrifying experience in Exodus
- ❧ Because the only time both “lightning” and “thunder” are referenced in the same verse is in Ex 19, 20
- ❧ And this was when God appeared to them at Mt Sinai in a thick cloud
- ❧ I'd like for us to read that account in Ex 19



# Exodus 19



Exodus 19 (3 months after the Exodus, during their wilderness wanderings, before the giving of the 10 Commandments)

1 In the third month after the sons of Israel had gone out of the land of Egypt, on that very day they came into the wilderness of Sinai. 2 When they set out from Rephidim, they came to the wilderness of Sinai and camped in the wilderness; and there Israel camped in front of the mountain. 3 Moses went up to God, and the LORD called to him from the mountain, saying, "Thus you shall say to the house of Jacob and tell the sons of Israel: 4 'You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles' wings, and brought you to Myself. 5 Now then, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My own possession among all the peoples, for all the earth is Mine; 6 and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the sons of Israel."

# Exodus 19



7 So Moses came and called the elders of the people, and set before them all these words which the LORD had commanded him. 8 All the people answered together and said, "All that the LORD has spoken we will do!" And Moses brought back the words of the people to the LORD. 9 The LORD said to Moses, "Behold, I will come to you in a thick cloud, so that the people may hear when I speak with you and may also believe in you forever." Then Moses told the words of the people to the LORD.

10 The LORD also said to Moses, "Go to the people and consecrate them today and tomorrow, and let them wash their garments; 11 and let them be ready for the third day, for on the third day the LORD will come down on Mount Sinai in the sight of all the people. 12 You shall set bounds for the people all around, saying, 'Beware that you do not go up on the mountain or touch the border of it; whoever touches the mountain shall surely be put to death.'

# Exodus 19



13 No hand shall touch him, but he shall surely be stoned or shot through; whether beast or man, he shall not live.’ When the ram’s horn sounds a long blast, they shall come up to the mountain.” 14 So Moses went down from the mountain to the people and consecrated the people, and they washed their garments. 15 He said to the people, “Be ready for the third day; do not go near a woman.”

16 So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, **that there were thunder and lightning flashes** and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain.

# Exodus 19



## The LORD Visits Sinai

18 Now Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently. 19 When the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and **God answered him with thunder**. 20 The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain; and the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up. 21 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, "Go down, warn the people, so that they do not break through to the LORD to gaze, and many of them perish. 22 Also let the priests who come near to the LORD consecrate themselves, or else the LORD will break out against them." 23 Moses said to the LORD, "The people cannot come up to Mount Sinai, for You warned us, saying, 'Set bounds about the mountain and consecrate it.'"

# Exodus 19



24 Then the LORD said to him, “Go down and come up again, you and Aaron with you; but do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, or He will break forth upon them.” 25 So Moses went down to the people and told them.

# Exodus 19



- ❧ What a majestic scene
- ❧ What I'd like for us to take away from this account is in v. 16-18:

16 So it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that **there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound**, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. 17 And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. 18 Now **Mount Sinai was all in smoke because the LORD descended upon it in fire**; and its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked violently.





# Exodus 19



In other words:

- ☞ When God descended from heaven to earth to meet His people in Mt Sinai account it can be felt, seen and heard as there was a visible manifestation of:
  - ☞ thunder + lightning + thick cloud+ loud trumpet + smoke + earthquake
  - ☞ BROWNIE POINTS: Which Person of the Trinity descended to meet them?



# Exodus 19



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**GOD THE FATHER! THE LORD YAHWEH!**



# CONJECTURE



Can I support this by Scripture? That this was in fact God the Father that descended on Mount Sinai and NOT the Lord Jesus Christ? There are many ways I can support this, but in the interest of time, will use just one, and it's been our go-to passage throughout this study:

Daniel 7:9-10

9 "I kept looking  
Until thrones were set up,  
And the Ancient of Days took His seat;  
His vesture was like white snow  
And the hair of His head like pure wool.  
His throne was ablaze with flames,  
Its wheels were a burning fire.

10 "A river of fire was flowing  
And coming out from before Him;  
Thousands upon thousands were  
attending Him,  
And myriads upon myriads were  
standing before Him;  
The court sat,  
And the books were opened.

# CONJECTURE



From Daniel 7:

❧ The Ancient of Days = God the Father

❧ Son of Man = God the Son

❧ In this vision, it was God the Father who took His seat [on His throne]

❧ In this same vision, Daniel mentions a small but impactful detail

❧ "Its [the throne's] wheels were a burning fire"

❧ NUGGET OF TRUTH: Told you before that the throne was mobile! 😊

❧ All that is to say what is clear in the OT is that the LORD = God the Father = the Ancient of Days who sat on the throne and presided

❧ David said "The LORD (Yahweh) said to my Lord (kurios), sit at My right hand" Ps 110:1

❧ Thus, Daniel calls Jesus the Son of Man; David calls Him my Lord (kurios)

❧ Thus, in Exodus 19, God the Father was the One who paid a visit to His people on Mt. Sinai (The Father put the throne that has wheels in "Drive" and drove down 😊)

# “Out from the throne”



Back to our key verse, when John says:  
“Out from the throne came flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder...”

- ✧ John was describing what he felt, seen and heard and that the lightning and sounds and peals of thunder were all a visible manifestation that accompanied the glory of the One sitting on the throne
- ✧ John experienced what the Israelites experienced back in Ex 19!
  - ✧ When God spoke we hear THUNDER!
- ✧ They both were in the very presence of Him who sits on the throne!
- ✧ I can only imagine John’s adrenaline rush!

