

THE COMING OF THE LORD
SCENE ONE OF THE HEAVENLY THRONE ROOM
REVELATION 4

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INTRODUCTION

The word “*throne*” occurs at least 37 times in the book of the Revelation. It is why this book is sometimes called the “*Throne Room*.” In it the Sovereign God pours out His wrath on this wicked world just as has been prophesied that He would.!

We clearly see the LORD’s throne room in this chapter. It is preparatory to the judgments which begin in chapter 6 and end in chapter 19. The throne in chapter 4 is a throne of judgment and justice.

The slumbering judgment of God is about to awaken in this book as the third section of Revelation begins.

Revelation 1:19–“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;”

We said that verse one pictures the Rapture of the Church. Now we see the Apostle John before the throne.

I. THE PERSON ON THE THRONE OF GOD. (4:2-3)

John is taken immediately in the spirit to the throne room of Heaven. The quickness of this event is a picture of and reminds us of the Rapture!

1 Corinthians 15:51-52–“Behold, I show you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

God miraculously gave John a glimpse of Heaven and the future. He saw a throne and one sitting on it.

The appearance of the person on the throne was like a gem or a precious stone!

Revelation 21:11 describes the New Jerusalem as –“*Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*”

Jasper is also known as a symbol of wisdom. This stone reminds us of **the purity and wisdom of Christ!**

One commentator said that a **sardine stone was a blood red color like a ruby.** This stone reminds us of **the blood that Christ shed on the cross for our sin.**

Both stones give the idea of glory, beauty, sacrifice, and judgment. The person on the throne was obviously glorious!

The Jews would recall that **these stones were the first and last ones** in the breastplate of the High Priest. (Exodus 28:17-20)

These stones in the breastplate bore the names of the twelve tribes of Israel, the first one representing **Reuben, which means, “Behold a son”** and the last stone representing **Benjamin which means, “Son of my right hand.”**

The person on the throne is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

He is the Son of God who is about to reign in power and judgment.

He is the Alpha and Omega.

He is about to finish what he started.

He is our High Priest!

Hebrews 4:14-15–“Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. 15For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.”

As Christ is our High Priest, we are reminded that we are priests of the Lord too!

1 Peter 2:9–“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”

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As priests, we should exercise our responsibilities of intercession (or prayer) and sacrifice.

There are four key sacrifices the Christian can make:

- 1. The sacrifice of our bodies. Romans 12:1-2**
- 2. The sacrifice of praise.**
Hebrews 13:15—“By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”
- 3. The sacrifice of good works.**
Hebrews 13:16—“But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
- 4. The sacrifice of giving in the work of the Lord.**
(partnership [i.e. participation], social intercourse, or benefaction.)
*Hebrews 13:16—“But to do good and to **communicate** forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”*

The throne was surrounded by a beautiful, emerald green rainbow. Green is the color of growth and life. “*round about*” - eternity.

II. THE PRIESTHOOD AROUND THE THRONE. (4:4)

Twenty-four seats were around the throne.

Who are these elders sitting in these seats? I believe they are men who have been saved. I do not believe they are angels.

Angels are not redeemed, rewarded, or crowned that we know of.

Why are there 24? From 1 Chronicles 24, we learn that 24 elders were appointed by King David to represent the entire Levitical priesthood. The priests were divided into 24 groups, each group serving two weeks at a time in the temple which Solomon was to build.

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The priests were many thousands in number. They could not come together at one time. When 24 met, the whole priesthood was represented.

I believe these 24 elders around the throne represent the heavenly priesthood of all believers. The Church and the Old Testament saints are included. The Bible says that we are a royal priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9—“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”

These elders had white garments, a picture of righteousness, and they had gold crowns on their heads. These crowns were the victor’s crowns such as those which were given to the winners of athletic games.

These are the overcomers spoken of in Revelation 2-3.

III. THE POWER OUT OF THE THRONE. (4:5)

Lightning and thunder are indications of an approaching storm.

A storm is about to come to the earth as God pours out His judgment upon this wicked world.

What about the Seven Spirits of God before the throne?
(Look at Isaiah 11:1-5, esp. vs. 2)

IV. THE PORTRAIT BEFORE THE THRONE. (4:6a)

A sea of glass was before the throne of God indicating the peace, stability, and calmness of God’s presence.

We too can have peace and calm in our lives right now from the presence of the Holy Spirit and yielding to His control.

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Matthew 11:28-29—“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.”

The picture given us here is one of beauty. Have you ever seen a glassy lake surrounded by mountains? When the presence of the Lord controls our life, we too become beautiful in God’s eyes.

Psalm 90:17—“And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.”

V. THE PRAISE IN THE MIDST OF THE THRONE. (4:6b-11)

The word “beast” means “living creature.” The Greek word is “zoa” which forms our word “zoology,” the study of living creatures or animals.

There are several ideas about these creatures. Some feel they may be leaders of the realm they depict.

The Lion—the leader of wild beasts.

The Calf—the leader of domestic animals.

The Man—the pinnacle of God’s creation.

The Eagle—the leader of the fowls of the air.

Others feel these four creatures **represent the four Gospels in which Christ was portrayed to mankind:**

Matthew depicted Christ as King of Kings (the lion, king of beast).

Mark depicted Christ as the Suffering Servant (the calf, a beast of burden).

Luke depicted Christ as the Son of Man (the man).

John depicted Christ as the Son of God (the eagle, the creature of the heavens).

It is also interesting to note that the twelve tribes of Israel camped under these banners.

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Some camped with Reuben. . .symbolized by a man.

Some camped with Dan. . .whose symbol was an eagle.

Some camped with Ephraim. . .symbolized by the calf or ox.

The rest camped with Judah. . .whose emblem was a lion.

These creatures gave glory, honor, and worship to the Lord and those around the throne worship the Lord too. The word “worship” means “to ascribe worth.” We will feel unworthy to wear our crowns in the presence of Christ and will cast them at His feet.

All that we think we have accomplished will seem so insignificant when we see our Lord!

God created all things for His pleasure. God’s purpose for us is to do His will and bring honor and glory to Him.

This begins by trusting Jesus Christ as our Saviour. Have you done that? If not, why not do it today?

Conclusion

Jesus Christ is worthy to receive glory, honor, and power!

1. He is worthy because He was compassionate in His heart.

Paul said in *Galatians 2:20*—“. . .I live by the faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.”

2. He is worthy because He was clean and consecrated in His character and nature and living.

1 Peter 2:22—“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth:”
Hebrews 7:26—“For such a high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens.”

3. He is worthy because He was crucified for the worst of all sinners.

Romans 5:8—“But God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

4. He is worthy because He conquered in the conflict with Satan.

Hebrews 2:14—“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;”