

The Throne Room of God Who is There? Part I

Daniel E. Woodhead Ph.D.

Revelation 4:4

And round about the throne [were] four and twenty thrones [seats my translation says]: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold (KJV).

The text doesn't say who this is. The text didn't tell us who God the Father is, but we look at other text and we can see who that is when we go back to Daniel and we can see that it's God the Father sitting on the throne.

Elders

What we do have are these four clear characteristics of these Elders. So from these characteristics we can see who they are. The first characteristic is:

White Garments which in this book are symbols of salvation. Only human beings need salvation; human beings fell. No celestial being needs this as they were not lost to begin with. This would provide an indication that these [24 elders are humans that have] received salvation.

The third of the angels that fell who followed Satan, they will not get salvation. They're trapped forever. Only we can get salvation from our fall. Those angels that fell were lost [forever] and the other angels don't need salvation. There is no one who will get salvation on the other side if you don't accept it on this side. I think we know that. We only have the time we live on this planet to come to Christ and then it's over. We don't have any chance once we get to the other side.

There have been a sufficient number of heresies that have been promulgated since the Church Age dawned at the second chapter of Acts when the Holy Spirit came. They teach that you can get saved on the other side; you don't have to worry about it on this side. The Bible doesn't teach salvation after death. Whenever I think of that, I get an even harder pounding of my heart for those relatives of mine that aren't saved and for the people that don't know Christ. I have to restrain myself because I just want to knock on their foreheads, "Come-on, you've just got to see this, understand this." They just don't care. That hurts, doesn't it, when you've got relatives and friends and you want them to know and they can't know? Maybe someday they will, but I want for them more than they want for me

Wearing Crowns. This is a real strong clue because we get crowns for the works we've done for Christ while exercising our spiritual gifts in the body. The crowns here in the Greek are "stephanos". The stephanos is a crown that is given to a victor; it's not the crown called a Diadem that is already in possession of royalty. Queen Elizabeth got the Diadem because it was in her family. She didn't get it because she did something great to achieve the crown. The Lord

Jesus when he comes back is wearing a Diadem because of who He is, not because of what He's done. He is royalty so He has the Diadem.

This type of crown is given to the overcomer at the Bema Seat of Christ for the exercise of God given spiritual gifts for the body of believers. These 24 Elders are all wearing stephanos and this crown is the one that is given to the over-comers at the Bema Seat of Christ at the judgment time just after the Rapture.

Elders. This title is always used to describe humans in positions of authority either in the synagogue or the Church.

24 Elders. This represents the Church and not angels or other levels of celestial beings.

There was a division of the son's of Levi that took place in 1 Chronicles 24 & 25 where David divided up the sons of Levi for their work and their scheduling in the Tabernacle. He did this so they would have some semblance of order as for who was going to do what and at what chronological sequence they were to it. It is important to remember that the nation Israel is still on earth at this time.

We are going to see in a few chapters that 144,000 [Jews will] get anointed to go out and evangelize the world. The Church is already in heaven so these 24 would not represent the nation Israel. That only leaves the Church, so these are representatives of the Raptured Church that are in the Throne Room of God, wearing their crowns.

It's interesting that after the division of the Levites, we find another division in 1 Chronicles 25 where there is another division of the musicians. There are 288 musicians and they're divided up into 24 choruses. The heads of families in this group matches those who are in service in the Tabernacle to establish sequence and to establish what it is they're going to be doing in the Tabernacle and later, what service takes place in the Temple. These groups represented all of Israel.

Again, at this point in time during the Tribulation, the nation Israel is still on the earth. The Jews that got saved [between the cross and the rapture,] entered the Church - they're in heaven, but they're part of the Church now. They don't lose their national identity. When I say "Israel," I am talking about the nation of unsaved persons that are all Jews that are still on the earth.

Finally we see that the Church is a Kingdom of Priests. The Apostle Peter told us this in 1 Peter 2:9. He called us a "Royal Priesthood." This lets us know exactly who these Elders are.

Revelation 3:21 says to the church of Laodicea that we (believers) will be able to sit with Jesus on His Throne as He sits on God the Father's Throne. This then is clearly the raptured Church in heaven on Thrones in the Throne room of God.

We therefore see from these four clues that the 24 elders represent the raptured church after the judgment seat has been completed. They are on thrones because believers get to sit on thrones.

So far [in the Throne Room of God], we see who God the Father is, The Ancient of Days and we see who the Elders are.

Revelation 5:6

And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth (KJV).

The Holy Spirit is never described in the Bible as having seven horns and seven eyes.

Revelation 8:2

And I saw the seven angels, which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets (KJV).

However, God gave seven angels, which stand before God trumpets, seals and vials among other things to bring judgment on the earth.

Revelation 3:1

And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead (KJV).

The seven stars and the seven spirits of God and shown here to be one in the same. Which is further clarified in the next verse.

Revelation 1:20a

The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches (KJV).

The seven stars are explained here as the angels of the seven churches. So we have absolute consistency regarding the identification of the seven spirits. They are messenger angels, which stand before to deliver the seven messages to the seven churches and take peace from the earth through the implementation of the Great Tribulation.

Revelation 4:6

And before the throne [there was] a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, [were] four beasts full of eyes before and behind (KJV).

The seal of glass is representative of the Laver used in the Tabernacle and Temple for cleansing. It was referred to as a molten sea. (1 Kings 7; 23; 2 Chronicles 4:2) The surface of the water in the sea (Laver) is now still and hard because the time for cleansing is over and in the Throne Room of God all is Holy there is nothing impure and in need of cleansing.

The four beasts (actually creatures) represent the cherubim (Ezekiel 10). They are the highest order of celestial beings and have been presented in several Old Testament passages.

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 (KJV).

This description of the cherubims are similar to those found in Ezekiel chapter one and ten. In Ezekiel chapter one we are introduced to them as Ezekiel has a vision while he is on the banks of the river Chebar. He sees the same colors, the likenesses of a man, ox, lion and eagle. Further he sees the fire, the likeness of men's hands, calves' feet and four wings on each. They also were set upon wheels of fire that directed their movement, which seem to be like a gyroscope. They were led by the spirit and followed the spirit wherever they were told to go.



