

The Throne Room
Revelation 4

Review: Look at 1:19 and identify the three parts of the Book

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Revelation 4:1 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." (Rev. 4:1 NIV)

"After this..." =

1. It could mean _____, as in next in order after this vision of the 7 Churches. The phrase indicates a new vision, e.g. 4.1; 7.1, 9; 15.1; 18.1; 19.1.
2. It could mean _____, as in next in time.
- 3.

Question: The first thing that John sees is what?

Answer:

Note: Having been opened and remaining open. (Perf. Pass. Ptc)

Question: Is it a literal door?

Answer:

Note: The word “heaven” is _____. The word “heaven” is often translated in the singular but having a plural Greek form, e.g., Matthew 3:2, and should therefore be literally translated “Kingdom of the heavens.” This sentence does not have a plural form.

Other examples of heavenly visions:

_____ as he was being martyred in Jerusalem – Acts 7:56

The Apostle _____ in defense of himself - 2 Cor. 12:3-4.

_____ during the time of leadership transition – Isaiah 6:1

_____ in Babylonian exile – Ezekiel 1:1.

Question: What do all of these experiences have in common?

Answer:

Question: What is significant about the transition from here to there? In other words, why didn't Jesus just show him what was to come while he was here on earth? Why invite him to come up to his “dwelling place?”

Answer:

Some scholars and teachers say that Revelation 4:1 is speaking about the _____. This is reading into the text.

First, John was not “_____” as in the language of the Apostle Paul and 2 Thessalonians 4:13ff. The phrase “come up” is a command (imperative aorist active) and can be an overall command or an _____ from a superior to an inferior. It is different than “harpozo” [caught up] – future passive indicative; cp 1 Cor. 15:52 – “we will all be changed’ – same fpi) where an action is happening to a person without their volition. Some would argue that John didn't have a choice either. That may be true, but the language is clearly different.

Second, those who hold such a position place their _____ position over Scripture. Just because Jesus moves to the subject of the world system and the Jewish people does not mean that

_____ has been raptured [it may have] but simply that the focus has shifted. In fact, an argument can be made from the historicist perspective that if the church of Laodicea is the end time church it will need to go through some sort of _____ or testing to purify it or to at least publicly identify who is actually part of the true church just as the trial to come will reveal who the true Israel or the Remnant is. The overall argument is an argument from _____ and is not a sound argument in debate. It is not saying that the Rapture does not take place between chapters 3 and 4 but neither does it support it. It is presumed (by some).

Look at verse 2.

² At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. (Rev. 4:2 NIV)

As we saw in 1:10, John was in a place spiritually where the Holy Spirit could do supernatural things with him.

Question: What was before him?

Answer:

1.

2.

Question: What is the significance of a throne?

Answer:

Question: What is the significance of someone sitting upon it?

Answer:

Cp. Dan. 7:9; Jn. 19:13; Lk 22:69; Eph. 2:6; Col. 3:1

Look at verse 3.

³ And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. (Rev. 4:3 NIV)

Question: What two stones described the one sitting on the throne.

Answer:

(1) _____ – cp. Ex. 28:15-20

The last stone in the _____ of the High Priest. [Note: the last child born in the list would have been Benjamin; if...they assigned the stones in order of birth]

Its color can only be speculated upon but comparing it to Revelation 21:11, it is most likely a clear stone like a _____.

(2) _____ or Carnelian or Sardis – cp. Ex. 28:15-20

The first stone in the _____ of the High Priest [Note: this would have been Reuben, the first born]

It was bright _____ in color.

In other words, it represents the _____.

It also represents _____ and _____.

Question: How is the throne described?

Answer: A rainbow that shown like an emerald encircled it.

Question: What does the rainbow represent? Cf. Genesis 9:11-16.

¹¹ I establish my covenant with you: Never again will all life be destroyed by the waters of a flood; never again will there be a flood to destroy the earth."

¹² And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant for all generations to come:

¹³ I have set my rainbow in the clouds, and it will be the sign of the covenant between me and the earth.

¹⁴ Whenever I bring clouds over the earth and the rainbow appears in the clouds,

¹⁵ I will remember my covenant between me and you and all living creatures of every kind. Never again will the waters become a flood to destroy all life.

16 Whenever the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

(Gen. 9:11-16 NIV)

Answer: God's self-reminder of the _____ to never destroy the earth with water. In this case its emerald and not the normal spectrum of color. Emerald is green and speaks of life. Therefore, this is a covenant of life, a covenant of mercy and grace.

Look at verse 4.

Question: What surrounded 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. (Rev. 4:4 NIV)

Answer:

Question: Who are these individuals?

Answer: _____ but we can have an educated guess. It has been speculated that they represent the Old Covenant with the 12 tribes and the New Covenant with the 12 disciples. The only problem with this is that John would have recognized this and most likely would have been more specific, especially if he saw himself.

Look at 1 Chronicles 24:7-19. David had the _____ divided into 24 groups to serve in the tabernacle and under Solomon, the Temple. Biblically, the number 24 is associated with the priesthood.

Look at 1 Chronicles 25:6-31. David also had Asaph divide up his family into 24 family groups to provide a prophetic word through _____ for the tabernacle and under Solomon, the Temple.

Question: How does John describe the elders?

Answer:

1. Cp. Rev. 3:5, 18; 19:8

2.

Question: What entity is known as being both priests and rulers with Christ?

Answer: Cp. Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 2 Tim. 2:12.

Note: Psalm _____ is said to have 24 things Christ will do as ruler and high priest.

Look at verse 5a.

Question: What came from the throne?

5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. (Rev. 4:5 NIV)

Answer: Cp. Ex. 9:23ff (first mentioned);
Ex. 19:16ff, Jer. 25:30-31.

Represents _____ and _____.

Look at verse 5b/c.

Question: What was before the throne?

In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. (Rev. 4:5 NIV)

Answer: 7 _____ representing the 7 _____ of God.
Cp. Is. 11:1; Zech. 4:1-10.

Note: The lamp can be a _____ oil lamp or a _____ used in the night.

Look at verse 6a.

Question: What else was before the throne?

6 Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. (Rev. 4:6 NIV)

Answer: Something that looked _____ or shined like a reflective surface. Cp. Ex. 24:9-10.

Look at verse 6b-8.

Question: What was in the center and around the throne?

Answer:

Question: How are they described?

Answer:

1.

2. They are described as like:

a lion –
an ox –
a man –
a flying eagle –

or

a lion –
an ox –
a man –
an eagle –

or certain tribes of Israel (banners or standards that flew over their camps)

the lion =
the ox =
the man =
the eagle =

Compare this with Ezekiel 1:4-14.

Note that Ezekiel saw them in total having all four faces with but with four wings (Cherubim).

Look at Ezekiel 10:15.

Question: What are these creatures?

Answer:

Question: According to Revelation 4:8, how many wings did they have and how are they described.

Answer:

Note: The difference between cherubim and seraphim seem to be the amount of wings they have. Cherubim covered the ark of the covenant (2 wings) and were the ones who protected the eastern entrance of the Garden of Eden with flaming swords. They are the predominant angelic beings found in the Scripture. Seraphim are only found in Isaiah 6. They are called by the early church, “the fiery ones” either because of their burning love for God or for their use in judgement against humanity (Num. 21:6, 8; Deut. 8:15; comp. Isa. 14:29; 30:6). They seem to be of the highest order of angels, such as Gabriel and Michael – angels of the Presence (Lk. 1:19).

Question: Including Isaiah’s account, what can we further determine about these creatures.

Answer:

Question: What was their main purpose?

Answer:

Note: The phrase “LORD God Almighty” is first used in connection to _____ in 2 Samuel 5:9-10. “The LORD God Almighty was with him.” It is used strictly in the Old Testament and in Revelation in the New.

Note: The “holy, holy, holy,” declaration is found in Isaiah 6:3.

Look at verses 9-11.

Question: What happens as the creatures declare the truth about the one on the throne?

Answer: The 24 elders (the symbolized church) fall down before him who sits on the throne and they _____ him. They also cast their _____ before him making another declaration – that all worth, glory, honor, and power should go to him as the Creator, Sovereign, and Sustainer over all things.