

The Throne Room

4:2-3, 5 = And immediately I was in the Spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne....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....and out of the throne proceeded lightnings, thundering, and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of Go.”

The Central Object of Heaven is the _____ of God.

John finds himself transported upward, where he arrives in the throne room of God. Imagine what an experience that must have been. He had heard about heaven and preached about heaven, but now he is seeing the very home of God. Only a handful of people in history have been invited to witness this holy location. When we look at their recorded experience, we actually get a very detailed view of God’s throne room:

- 1) Isaiah = Isaiah 6:1-3
- 2) Ezekiel = Ezekiel 1:26-28 – A century after Isaiah, Ezekiel sees the 4 living creatures that he identified as Cherubim (4 wings and 4 faces)
- 3) Daniel = Daniel 7:9-14 – He went into a courtroom and saw the “Ancient of Days”
- 4) Paul = 2 Corinthians 12:2-5 – Paul may have seen the “rest of the story”, but he was not given permission to teach it.
- 5) John = Revelation 4-5 – John saw the throne room in brilliant high definition and, like the others before him, each one of the colors, characters, numbers, etc. have deep meaning!

The Throne’s importance:

- The throne is referred to eight times in Revelations 4:1-6 and eighteen times altogether in chapters 4 and 5.
- The rabbis believe that the throne of God is the fixed _____ of the universe.
- It is a literal throne.
- The word throne is used _____ times in both testaments and always refers to a literal throne.

JOHN’S DETAILS OF THE THRONE ROOM

1. General description of the Throne

- The one on the throne was like jasper and a sardine stone.
 - **The jasper and Carnelian are the _____ and _____ stone on the High Priest’s breastplate – Exodus 28:15-20**
 - The red sardine stone was the first stone of the priests’ breastplate.
 - The jasper stone was the last (12th) stone on the breastplate.
- Behind the throne, there is a rainbow like an emerald. (4:3)

- There are 24 thrones situated around the throne of God. (4:4)
- There are thunder, lightning and voices coming from the throne. (4:5)
- Sea of Crystal
- Living creatures in worship

2. There were seven lamps of fire (4:5)

- Revelation 1:4 and 4:5 speak of the seven Spirits of God around the throne. The phrase seven Spirits of God does not mean that there are seven different Holy Spirits.
- It is referring, rather, to the seven characteristics of the **one** Holy Spirit. These seven characteristics are found in Isaiah 11:2.
 - The Spirit of the Lord
 - The Spirit of Wisdom
 - The Spirit of Understanding
 - The Spirit of Counsel
 - The Spirit of Power
 - The Spirit of Knowledge
 - The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord
- **Note: Rev. 5:6 tells us the Lamb has seven eyes with which he watches the continents and seven horns which represent his authority over those continents.**

3. The four angelic beings (4:6)

- What are these four living creatures around the throne? They are described as having four faces and six wings, crying, Holy, holy, holy...
- **Note: These four beings had the faces of a man, an eagle, an ox and a lion. These are the emblems for the tribes: Judah, Reuben, Manasseh, and the tribe of Dan.**

POSSIBLE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE LIVING CREATURES:

- 1) The faces of these creatures represent the attributes of God:
 - a. Lion = _____ and strength
 - b. Calf / Ox = _____ – revealing God’s serving, sacrificial nature
 - c. Man = Intelligence and _____
 - d. Eagle = Highest heavenly being
- 2) The four ways that the Gospel writers project Jesus:
 - a. Matthew – Jesus is the Lion of Judah
 - b. Mark – Jesus is the ox, the servant of all.
 - c. Luke – Jesus is the Son of Man.
 - d. John – Jesus is the eagle, the lofty eternal Word, the highest heavenly being
- 3) In Numbers 2:2, the camp of Israel was strategically positioned around the tabernacle. **There were four main tribes positioned** around the tabernacle and every tribe had a specific standard or flag:
 - a. East – _____ – The head of a lion on a standard
 - b. West – _____ – An ox on a standard

- c. South – _____ – A man on a standard
- d. North – _____ – An eagle on a standard

According to the scripture, these creatures praise God and carry the throne of God as a chariot. (Ezekiel chapters 1 & 10) In the Bible, we see angels, cherubim, and seraphim. In Greek, however, these creatures are called zoa. The living creatures help reveal the mysteries to John (Rev. 6:1-7) = Each time the creature called come and see a different horse of the apocalypse began to march.

3. Elders and Thrones

The word elder is *presbuteros*, meaning an ordained leader in the church. The elders are seen all though this book: Rev. 4, 5, 7, 11, 14 and 19.

- In the New Testament, elder refers to an elder in the church. (Acts 14:23, 15:2-6)

Who are these Elders?

- 1) Some believe that these elders are a complete representation of Old and New Testament Leadership: twelve sons of Jacob and twelve apostles of the Lamb.
- 2) These elders represent us and our eternal _____ Order:
 - a. To understand this fully, we must examine 1 Chronicles 24. In this passage, there are 24 elders appointed by King David to represent the entire Levitical priesthood.
 - b. He divided the priests into 24 courses that served for two weeks at a time in the temple. The priests were thousands in number.
 - c. They could not all come together at one time; but, when the 24 elders met in the temple precincts in Jerusalem, the whole priestly house was represented.
 - d. This order was still in effect during the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5)

Note:

- These elders were definitely men and not angels.
- Angels are not redeemed (Revelation 4:4)
- They had white robes
- Angels do not receive a victor's crown (4:4) - The word crowns is *stephanos* promised to overcomers in Revelation 2:10 and 3:11.
- This cannot be angels because the term *elder* is always used in the Bible to describe men.

Question? If these elders are men, redeemed men, twelve from the old and twelve from the new covenant, then the question must be answered. If the elders around the throne are the Apostles or other redeemed saints while the Tribulation is taking place, how did they get there? The Apostles died after the resurrection of Christ. How did they get there? Only one logical answer prevails: a _____ rapture!

5. The Heavenly Temple

John introduces us to sacred furniture and continuing to reveal this furniture throughout the book. **The sacred furniture reveals that in heaven there is a temple.**

- There is a menorah in heaven (4:5)
- There is a golden altar in heaven (8:3)
- There is an Ark of the covenant in heaven (11:19)
- There are doors on the temple in heaven (11)

The only thing missing is the _____ . = Jesus removed the veil when He was crucified, Hallelujah!!! Now we have free access to God!!!

- **Exodus 23:8-9** = God told Moses to make Him a dwelling among the people after the pattern that He showed him.
- **Numbers 8:4** reveals that God even gave Moses the pattern for all the furniture.
- **1 Chronicles 28:11** = Solomon built the temple according to the pattern that was given to David by the Spirit. **Hebrews 8:5, 9:23-24** tell us that the earthly tabernacle and the temple were just a shadow or figure of the real thing in heaven.

GOD HAS ALWAYS WANTED TO GIVE MAN A LITTLE OF HEAVEN ON EARTH - HE HAS ALWAYS DESIRED FOR MAN TO ENJOY THE BEAUTY OF HIS PRESENCE!