

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
June 29, 2022
Revelation Chapter 4
The Throne of God

Revelation 4:1-11 KJV

After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. [2] And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. [3] 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. [4] And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. [5] And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: 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 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. [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. [8] And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him ; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. [9] And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, [10] The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, [11] Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Reading Commentaries can lead to some very interesting and imaginative explanations when studying the book of Revelation. The only trustworthy commentary on these passages was written by God Himself. We can best make sense of this study by letting scripture interpret scripture. We will be looking to many of the books of the Old Testament as chief references in the coming weeks. One recurring resource is the writing of the prophet Ezekiel. In fact we will see that Ezekiel and Revelation are parallel books. Revelation does not really present us with much new material. At least not if you spend time studying God's Word. John's vision of the future has been shown to us throughout God's Word. Our small group will receive a handout detailing these comparative works but for tonight as we study Revelation Chapter 4 we will find it described in Ezekiel chapter 1. Read and compare both and note the detailed similarity while also noting the fantastic additional details that Ezekiel provides. While we can get lost in fantasy trying to find interpretations for these details we can also trust God's Word for the truth. A full explanation of Ezekiel 1 can be produced on request but for this lesson we will infill some basic symbolic understanding. Verses 5-9 are later described as cherubim 10:8-15. Like God, the cherubim can manifest as multiple beings. In this case each had four faces. Their wings speak of the swiftness of God and their number of six unite them to man. These visions as well as

God's whole plan of salvation is focused on mankind as God reaches out with His plea. Their wings positions show respect for God. Their legs show the same burnished brass as Christ in revelation 1:15 speaking of judgement which this whole book is about. Their hands and wings were connected as in all the temple instruments showing their fully surrounding and all encompassing God. John may have been faced by one side of each cherub accounting for the same creatures described uniquely in each prophecy. The four creatures speak of the 4 ensigns of the four camps each composed of three tribes of Israel placed at each side of the wilderness tabernacle. Numbers 2. The Jewish Talmud fills in these creature roles. Judah's standard had a lion in its colours, according to Jacob's prophecy of that tribe, Genesis 49:9, Ephraim had an ox, Reuben had a man, Dan an eagle. These four also represent Christ in the four gospels and in His Nobility, strength, humanity and swiftness. The wheels tell us of God's grand chariot and His omnipresent Spirit and ever involved motion on behalf of His love for man. The eyes represent God's all seeing omniscience. Do not forget these are visions given the prophets to allow them to understand and report back to those whom God loves. We hear of the brilliance of God's Light in the gems and the promises of God in the rainbows. We look as well to Isaiah 11:1-5 to comprehend the seven Spirits of God which reveal His perfect light given to Israel in Exodus 25:31-40 and His church in Revelation 1:20. The visions of these two prophecies bear witness to one another to give us great detail of the Glory of God and His Throne. One purpose is evident throughout. He rules the universe. He rules our lives. He rules the earth and mankind, past, present and future. All glory is assigned to Him. All will worship Him. All will fall at His feet. Every enemy. Every slanderer. Every hater. All who hold evil in their hearts. Romans 14:11, Philippians 2:10. As God in this fourth chapter of Revelation prepares to fully reveal Christ to us, we must first recognize His preeminence and Supreme rule over all. He establishes His reign over all here so He may next introduce us to Jesus. The Lion and the Lamb of chapter 5. Getting your worship in order will allow you to organize your whole life under His Lordship and relieve you of the anxiety of trying to sit on your own throne.