

Have No Fear, The End is Near

A Practical Discussion on the
Book of Revelation

10.7.09

The Throne Room – Rev. 4

Revelation 4:1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,

⁶ and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: ⁷ the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!" ⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

The Throne Room

- Door standing open in heaven
 - John is given access to see the "control tower" of the universe.
- Jesus speaking – "I will show you what must take place after this"
 - Points to the whole period prior to Jesus 2nd coming, from then through now
- One seated on the throne
 - God is king
- Jasper, carnelian, and an emerald rainbow
 - Only details of God's appearance given

The Throne Room

- Jasper – similar to a diamond
 - God's majesty or purity in view
- Carnelian – a red stone
 - God's wrath or judgment in view
- Emerald rainbow
 - God's grace or mercy in view
- The twenty-four elders
 - Distinct from the church, because they speak of the church in the third person (5:10)
 - They may be angelic beings that stand as representatives of the Old and New Testament people of God. Twelve tribes and twelve apostles, hence the number 24. There were also 24 divisions in the Aaronic priesthood (see 1 Chronicles 24).

The Throne Room

- Lightning and thunder
 - In several other places in the book, these accompany God's judgment.
- Seven torches
 - OT imagery, represents the Holy Spirit
- Sea of glass, like crystal
 - Numerous Scriptural images come into play here: waters completely subdued by God as with the Red Sea, a heavenly counterpart to the sea in Solomon's temple, or God as supplier of refreshment.
- The four living creatures – Angelic representatives of all nature
 - Eyes: They see everything, mirroring God's vision
 - Six wings: Uninhibited movement
 - First – Lion: Greatest of the wild animals
 - Second – Ox: Greatest of the domesticated animals
 - Third – Man: Ruler over all animals
 - Fourth – Eagle: Greatest of the birds

The Throne Room

- The cheer of heaven
 - “Holy, holy, holy”
 - “Lord God Almighty”
 - “Who was and is and is to come”
 - Notice the structure – 3 sets of 3
 - SNL – “the perfect cheer”
- Cast their crowns
 - Key point of this passage: They derive their honor and glory from God alone!

Summary

- God is worthy!
- God is in control of history, nature, and His church.
- Majesty and power radiate out from him.
- All the beings around the throne, in His presence, derive their glory from Him. They reflect His majesty.
- Think about what Jesus taught us to pray:
 - Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.