THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
Placerita Baptist Church
Only 8 seats left.
1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.
3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.
Revelation 4:1–11

5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. 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 something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.
Revelation 4:1–11

7 The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle.

8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”
9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,
Revelation 4:1–11

11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”
PILLARS of CREATION
Planetary Nebula NGC 6751 in constellation Aquila
Messier 104, Sombrero Galaxy
Helix Nebula
I. What you have seen (Rev 1).
II. What is now (Rev 2–3)—the seven churches of Asia Minor.
III. What will take place after these things (Rev 4–22).
A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

1. John’s Position (4:1–2)
   a. “a door standing open in heaven”
   b. “‘Come up here’”
   c. “Immediately . . . in the Spirit”
   d. Near “a throne . . . in heaven”
In order to honor Mr. Olsen’s copyright, the image is not reproduced here. Please go to the URL above to see the picture for yourself—it is well worth viewing.
Question for Discussion

Why does John spend so much time describing the scene in heaven?
A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

2. John’s Vision (4:3–8:1)
   a. “behold, a THRONE” (4:3–11; see v. 2)
      (1) The Persons Involved
         • The One on the Throne (vv. 2–3, 8, 11; cf. 5:7)—the Father
         • The Twenty-four Elders (vv. 4, 10–11)
         • The Seven Spirits of God (4:5; cf. 1:4; 5:6)
         • The Four Living Creatures (4:6–9; cf. 5:8)
A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

The One on the Throne (vv. 2–3, 8, 11; cf. 5:7)

• v. 8 – “THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY”
• v. 9 – The Eternal One (Creator?)
• Not the Son (5:5, 7; 6:16; 7:10)
• Not the Spirit (4:5; cf. 19:4)
A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

The Twenty-four Elders (vv. 4, 10–11)

- **24 thrones**: cf. Colossians 1:16
- **24 elders**: cf. Exodus 24:1, 9; Psalm 107:32
- “clothed in white garments”: cf. John 20:12; Acts 1:10
- “golden crowns on their heads”: cf. Revelation 9:7
- Their worship: of the Eternal God (Creator?), not Savior
A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

The Twenty-four Elders (vv. 4, 10–11)

• Their “new song”: cf. 5:8–10
• “each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints” (5:8)
• Their literal individuality (5:5)
• The 24 elders are distinguished from the “wife” of the Lamb (19:4–7).
The Seven Spirits of God (4:5; cf. 1:4; 5:6)

- Each text must be dealt with in its own context.
- One Spirit in His seven-fold power or manifestations? See Isaiah 11:2, but only six manifestations.
- Last mention is Revelation 5:6 where they are said to be “sent out into all the earth”—cf. Hebrews 1:14.
## A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

### The Four Living Creatures (4:6–9; cf. 5:8)

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<tr>
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<th>Revelation 4–5</th>
<th>Ezekiel 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>Number</td>
<td>4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Faces</td>
<td>lion, calf, man, eagle</td>
<td>lion, calf, man, eagle</td>
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<td>Location</td>
<td>“in the center and around the throne” (4:6)</td>
<td>“above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne” (1:26)</td>
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<td>Wings</td>
<td>6 (4:8)</td>
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A. The Seven Seals (4:1–8:1)

The Four Living Creatures (4:6–9; cf. 5:8)

Isaiah 6:1–3 (seraphim above the throne)
Genesis 3:24 (cherubim guarding)
Exodus 25:10–22 (cherubim covering)
Ezekiel 10:15 (living creatures = cherubim)
Question for Discussion

What can we learn about worship and prayer from the two songs/prayers of the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders?
Implications Regarding Jesus Christ

Revelation 4 implies by context:

• Throne room is readied for the entrance of a great King.
• The appearing of Jesus Christ will affect even spirit beings near the throne of God.
• Jesus Christ is so great that only heaven can reveal His greatness.
• Jesus Christ is one with the Father, who receives the praise in this chapter.