

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

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Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

- 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”—Heaven will be John’s viewpoint throughout this entire vision.
 - b. ““Come up here””
 - c. “Immediately . . . in the Spirit”—John’s body remained on Patmos.
 - d. Near “a throne . . . in heaven”—God’s throne mentioned in Revelation repeatedly.
 2. John’s Vision (4:3–8:1)
 - a. “behold, a THRONE” (4:3–11; see v. 2)
> Lightning and thunder: Exodus 19:16; Revelation 8:5; 11:19; 16:18.
 - (1) The Persons Involved
 - The One on the Throne (vv. 2–3, 8, 11; cf. 5:7)—*the Father*
 - ✓ 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)
 - 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
 - ✓ Their “new song”: cf. 5:8–10

“Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people

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and nation. You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.”

- ✓ “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 note that there are 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.
- The Four Living Creatures (4:6–9; cf. 5:8)

	Revelation 4–5	Ezekiel 1
Number	4	4
Faces	lion, calf, man, eagle	lion, calf, man, eagle
Location	“in the center and around the throne” (4:6)	“above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne” (1:26)
Wings	6 (4:8)	4 (1:6)

See: 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*)

Questions for Discussion

- a. Why does John spend so much time describing the scene in heaven?
- b. 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 says nothing directly about Jesus, because it sets the stage for His appearing in Revelation 5. But, Revelation 4, within that context, does imply:

- ▶ The throne room is readied for the entrance of a great King.
- ▶ The appearing of Jesus Christ will affect even the 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.