

Revelation #13**September 25, 2022****Series Title: The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon****Today's message: Revelation chapters 4 and 5. "Part 2: The Throne Room of God," from Revelation 4:1-11!****Introduction: Principle:** God is in complete control of the universe, even down to the minutiae of our daily lives!

- I. A Review of points of interest concerning Revelation 4 and 5
 - A. John is called up to the throne room of heaven and sees the Throne of God the Father in chapter 4. And, in chapter 5, John sees the Lamb of God approach the throne of God the Father and take the scroll from His hand. It is the Lamb, the redeemer, who will initiate the judgments of God in the Day of the Lord.
 - B. **Main Principle: Revelation 4 and 5 sets the stage for imminent unveiling of the future historic events from Heaven's viewpoint.**
 1. **Revelation 4:** John is physically called up to the throne room in heaven and witnesses the God the Father sitting on His glorious throne. The Throne of God is the center focus of Heaven itself! And, John witnesses the inhabitants of Heaven surrounding the Throne and worshipping God!
 2. **Revelation 5:** While witnessing the glory of the Father and His throne, John sees a scroll in the Father's hand and the Lamb of God taking the scroll from the Father's hand in preparation for the opening of the seven seals.
 - a) The opening of the seals is the beginning of the Day of the Lord, which will culminate in the glorious redemption of the earth and God's ultimate and eternal rule.
 - C. Key points concerning the perspectives of Revelation 4 and 5
 1. It is a Throne of Judgment: While we may rejoice at the revelation of the throne of God the Father, we must not miss the meaning of it. 4:5 reveals the ominous "flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder," which should alert us

to the realities of the imminent terrors of God's judgments that are forthcoming in Revelation 6-19.

2. God is Sovereign over all Creation: Revelation 4 directs us to see God's sovereign right as Creator of heaven and earth to both redeem and to judge His Creation.
 - a) John MacArthur writes concerning the song concluding Revelation 4, "Their song anticipates paradise lost becoming paradise regained."
3. The Lamb as Redeemer and Executor: Revelation 5 directs us to the song of the 24 elders as they sing the song of redemption in 5:9-10. This song praises the Lamb for the ultimate victory of the redemption of His people, when He gathers His people "from every tribe and language and people and nations," once and for all!

II. Revelation 4 & 5: The Throne Room of God: **Part 2: The Throne Room of God** (4:2-11)

- A. Remember, (4:1) John is called up to Heaven. "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.'"
- B. (4:2-3a) The Sovereign God **on the Throne**— the Preeminent Central Focus of Heaven!
 1. (4:2) "Immediately, I was in the Spirit; and there it was—a throne stood in Heaven, with One seated on the throne."
 - a) "Immediately": without an interval between the command to "come up here" and John being in the Spirit.
 - (1) An instantaneous transport to Heaven
 - b) "I was in the Spirit"
 - (1) The second time John is "in the Spirit". See 1:10
 - (2) Whether spiritual or physical, this "in the Spirit" also includes the *endowment of power by the Spirit* to receive the *revelation from God* as to the things that are to come.
 - (a) See Ez. 2:2; 3:12-14; Gal. 1:16; Eph.3:3
 - (3) Two other times that John was actually **transported** in the Spirit are disclosed in Revelation: 17:3 into the wilderness; and 21:10 to a mountain.
 - c) "and there it was— a throne stood in Heaven"
 - (1) John says, "Behold!" Like, "look at that!", or "There it was!"
 - (2) "a throne *stood* in Heaven"
 - (a) Throne: the place of God's authority and permanence
 - (i) Is it a piece of furniture in heaven? Whether or not a real throne, no doubt it is symbolic of

God's absolute rule and authority over all things created, whether things in Heaven or on earth.

- (a) See the song of the elders in 4:11.
- (b) "...stood" or *set*
 - (i) Immovable, fixed; durable, unshakeable
 - (ii) It underscores God's permanent, fixed, immovable authority over everything!
- (c) "...and One sitting on the Throne"
 - (i) In the Bible, prophets often saw the glory of God before they received a great revelation.
 - (a) Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1; Daniel 7.
 - (ii) Here the One on the throne is God the Father
 - (a) Not Christ. Christ comes to take the scroll from the Father as He sits on the throne.
 - (iii) To carry out judgment upon the wicked.
 - (a) In Revelation 6:16-17 it is "the One who **sits on the throne**, along with the Lamb" who carries out wrath on the earth!
 - (b) Revelation 20:11
 - (iv) To carry out salvation for the redeemed!
 - (a) Revelation 7:10: "Salvation belongs to our God, who **sits on the throne**, and to the Lamb."
 - (v) He rules over everything that transpires in the Revelation!!
 - (a) Even the evil that transpires requires His permission before acting
 - (i) See 6:4; 7:2; 9:3; 13:5, 7, 14, 15
- (d) (4:3a) His appearance is like jasper and sardius stones,
 - (i) Surely this typifies His transcendent and radiant, eternal glory, which encircles Him like a halo.
- (e) **Application:** God's immovable throne should embolden us with the confidence that God is in complete control of the universe, even to the minutiae of our daily lives!
 - (i) See Psalm 115:3; Romans 8:28; 2 Cor. 12:9

- (a) “It is folly to think that God provided grace for every trouble except the one you are in today.” C.H. Spurgeon

C. (4:5a) “And **from the throne** came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder”

1. A preview of God’s wrath. This is why we must look at this scene in the throne room of God as indicative of His terrible judgment to come.
2. We’ve seen this before in Scripture
 - a) Exodus 19:16, from Mount Sinai. “On the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.”
3. And in Revelation, as particular judgments are released.
 - a) See Revelation 8:5; 10:3-4; 11:19; 16:17-18

D. (4:5b-6a) “...**before the throne**...”

1. “Seven burning torches of fire, which are the seven Spirits of God”
 - a) MacArthur: “This phrase describes the Holy Spirit in all His fullness (Isaiah 11:2; Zech. 4:1-10). Torches are associated with **war** in Judges 7:16, 20 and Nahum 2:3-4. John’s vision depicts God as ready to make war on sinful, rebellious humanity and the Holy Spirit as His **war torch**. **The Comforter of those who love Christ will be the Consumer of those who reject Him.**
2. “...before the throne there was as it were sea of glass, like crystal.”
 - a) In the midst of the terrors of the coming judgment and wrath ready to be released upon the earth, the indescribable tranquility of God rules Heaven.
 - (1) Later, in Revelation 15:2, we see those saints who suffered death in the tribulation, who were victorious over the beast standing here, beside this sea of glass!
 - (a) “And I saw what looked like a sea of glass mixed with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and over the number of his name.”
 - (2) Some interpreters believe this sea of glass may symbolize the “river of life,” which flows from the Temple during the Millennium.
 - (a) Revelation 22:1: “Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb...”

E. (4:3b-4, 6b-8a) **“Around the throne”**

1. (4:3b-4) **Around the throne** there was a rainbow...and 24 thrones with 24 elders seated on the thrones.

- a) The rainbow that was like and emerald in appearance.

- (1) The Rainbow provides a Divine guarantee of comfort and covenant faithfulness even in the midst of the flashing and thundering judgments seen coming from God's throne (4:5)..

- (2) The rainbow should remind us of God's covenant faithfulness, mercy and grace as was displayed in Genesis 9:13-17 after He judged the world with the flood.

- (a) “God's attributes always operate in perfect harmony. His wrath never operates at the expense of His [covenant] faithfulness.” –MacArthur

- (b) The New Covenant, which was sealed in the Blood of Christ, guarantees our peace with God, which comes by grace through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ! (Romans 5:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:21)

- b) The 24 thrones and 24 elders seated on the thrones **around the throne**.

- (1) We believe that these “elders” are representative of the Church of Jesus Christ who are present in Heaven after the Rapture.

- (a) These are clothed in white (Rev. 3:5; 3:18; 19:8

- (b) They wear crowns (the overcomers). (Rev. 2:10; also, 1 Cor.9:25; 2 Tim. 4:8; James 1:12)

- (c) They reign with Christ as promised numerous times as seen in Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4; Matt.19:28; Luke 22:30; 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim 2:12 (source: MacArthur, Garland)

2. (4:6b-8a) **Around the throne** are the Four Living Creatures

- a) The description:

- (1) Full of eyes in front and behind

- (2) Likenesses:

- (a) A lion

- (b) An ox

- (c) Has a face like a man

- (d) An eagle

- (3) Six wings. We learn from Isaiah 6:5 that

- (a) With two wings they cover their faces

(b) With two wings they cover their feet

(c) With two wings they fly

(4) They worship

(a) In Isaiah 6:3 as they are flying they call out to one another, "Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty; they whole earth is full of His glory."

(b) In Revelation 4:8b, we again see them actively worshipping God.

(i) In fact, they never cease to worship God!

F. (4:8b-11) To Him Who sits on the Throne

1. We end chapter 4 with the Creatures and the Elders (representative of the Raptured Church) directing worship to God who sits on His throne!
2. (4:8b) The Creatures worship God
 - a) In His holiness, "Holy, Holy, Holy" (Isaiah 6:3)
 - b) His Almighty power, "The Lord God Almighty" (Gen.17:1: El Shaddai)
 - c) His eternality, "Who was and is and is to come!" (Ps.90:2; 93:2; 1 Tim.1:17)
3. (4:10-11) The Elders respond to their worship of God, who sits on the throne:
 - a) Their position: They fall down before God
 - b) They cast their crowns before the throne
 - c) They ascribe to God His Right to alone receive worship (glory and honor)
 - d) They ascribe Him His right to worship because He created all things.

III. Application:

A. Worship:

1. How central is the worship of God in your life? How could you implement the pattern of worship we see in Revelation 4? What hinders you from worshipping God who sits on the throne? How could you better prepare your mind for worship?

B. Covenant:

1. The throne of God in Rev. 4 reveals a coming judgment. But it is surrounded by a rainbow. That rainbow should trigger thoughts of gratitude to God for the gift of His Son Jesus Christ and the New Covenant of peace with God that is ours because Christ Jesus shed His own blood for your soul. How could this energize your worship of God who sits on the throne?

C. Sovereignty of God

1. Remember the main principle? God is in complete control of the universe, even down to the minutiae of our daily lives! If you are a believer, how can this knowledge help you in the thing you are struggling with the most today? God

knows, and God cares. Work through your greatest struggle in prayer, trusting our Sovereign God to help you.