



I. The Introduction to Chapters 4 - 19

- The Holy Spirit directs John to move from the seven churches into “things which shall take place after this”. (Rev. 1:19)
- (4:1) Meta tauta = after these things... transitional point
- Other prominent pictures of heaven:
 - Isaiah 6:1-8
 - Ezek. 1:1-28
- John uses symbols – however, NOT everything is symbolic!
- **Interpretational truth: The symbol is always less than reality!**
- Chapters 4 – 19 deal with God’s judgements preceding Christ’s earthly reign – known as the “Messianic Woes” or the “Great Tribulation”
- 7 seals, 7 trumpets, 7 signs, and 7 bowls = God’s wrath
- Chapter 4 provides the focus of WHERE the judgement comes from

II. John Enters Heaven (vs. 1 – 2a)

Verse 1

I looked (horao = look in order to perceive – 70 times in Rev!) and there (behold = aha! You Look! You Look!)

Before me was a door (3:8 – an open door) standing open in heaven.

And the voice

I had first heard (30 times! - Rev. 1:10 – Jesus speaking) speaking to me like a trumpet (loud (84) call to action)

“Come (anabaino = command = spring up) up here”

“I will show you what must (deeo = will) take place”

Preterist = Prior to John (AD95), **Historicists** = after John before now (AD95 - present), **Futurists** = after now. **Seems to point to after John...has not happened yet...therefore future yet!**

Interesting note:

The word “church” does not occur in chapters 4 – 19! This lends some simple support to a rapture prior to this on earth.

Verse 2

At once (eutheos = immediately, without delay)

I was in the spirit... (Rev. 1:10 – no article)

Where was John’s body during this time?

His body if left on earth was in the midst of time while his spirit was in heaven outside of time – how much time passed during this experience? Was this a vision or was it physical?

Paul heard testimony of a man who went up to the third heaven (2 Cor. 12:1-4)

Parallels between the visions of the Book of Revelation and the visions of the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

THE VISION	EZEKIEL	REVELATION
1. The Throne Vision	Chapter 1	Chapter 4
2. The Book Being Opened	Chapters 2-3	Chapter 5
3. The Four Plagues	Chapter 5	Chapter 6:1-8
4. Those Slain Under the aAltar	Chapter 6	Chapter 6:9-11
5. The Wrath of God	Chapter 7	Chapter 6:12-17
6. The Seal on the Saint’s Foreheads	Chapter 9	Chapter 7
7. The Coals from the Altar	Chapter 10	Chapter 8
8. The 1/3 Destruction	Chapters 5:1-4 and 12	Chapter 8:6-12
9. No More Delay	Chapter 12	Chapter 10:1-7
10. The Eating of the Book	Chapter 2	Chapter 10:8-11
11. Prophecy against the Nations	Chapters 25-32	Chapter 10:11
12. The Measuring of the Temple	Chapters 40-43	Chapter 11:1-2
13. Comparing Jerusalem to Sodom	Chapter 16	Chapter 11:8
14. The Cup of Wrath	Chapter 23	Chapter 14
15. The Vine of the Land	Chapter 15	Chapter 14:18-20
16. The Great Harlot	Chapters 16, 23	Chapters 17-18
17. The Lament Sung Over the City	Chapter 27	Chapter 18
18. The Scavenger’s Feast	Chapter 39	Chapter 19
19. The First Resurrection	Chapter 37	Chapter 20:4-6
20. The Battle of Gog and Magog	Chapter 38-39	Chapter 20:7-9
21. The New Jerusalem	Chapters 40-48	Chapter 21
22. The River of Life	Chapter 47	Chapter 22

Parallels between the visions of the Book of Revelation and the visions of the Prophet Daniel

THE VISION	DANIEL	REVELATION
1. Three and a half time period (a time, 2 times and ½ a time)	Chapter 12:7	Chapter 11:9, 11
2. The ten horns	Chapter 7:8	Chapters 12:3, 13:1; 17:3, 8
3. The Leopard, the Bear, and the Lion	Chapter 7:4-6	Chapter 13:2
4. The Beast mouthing boasting and blasphemies	Chapter 7:8, 11	Chapter 13:5
5. The war against the Saints	Chapter 7:21	Chapter 13:7
6. The worship of the Beast’s statue	Chapter 3:5-7, 15	Chapter 13:15
7. The Son of Man coming on the Glory-Cloud	Chapter 7:13	Chapter 1:7 and 14:14

III. John Sets the Scene (vs. 2b – 8a)

Verse 2b

- 1) **There before me (behold) was a throne** (thronos= royalty) **in heaven**

The throne (14,43,58) is the centerpiece and theme of chapter 4

- 2) **with someone sitting on it**

Despite what people want to believe – God is ON His throne!

Atheism = no throne, Humanism = man on the throne

Verse 3

The one who sat there had the appearance (homoios = like)

- A) **Jasper** (precious stone – probably clear or white)
B) **Carnelian** (sardion = blood colored precious stone)

First and last stone on the priests breastplate – Ex. 28

- 3) **A rainbow of emerald encircled the throne**

A rainbow made of emerald stones – green mostly



White Jasper



Emerald

- There is no form in the description of the one who sits on the throne only colors and emanations of light.
- Some say the rainbow represents God's covenant to Noah and generations after him (Gen. 9:11-17)

Verse 4

- 4) **Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones.**

Lesser thrones than the main one

- 5) **Seated on them were twenty-four elders.**

- A) **dressed in white**
B) **had crowns (stephanos) of gold on their heads**

Angels or humans?

Why 24? – some say 24 courses of priests (I Chron. 24)

or 12 tribes + 12 disciples? Elders generally represent the saints.

III. John Sets the Scene (vs. 2b – 8a)

Verse 5

- 7) **From the throne**

- A) **flashes of lightning**
B) **rumblings** (phone = sounds of voices/singing)
C) **pearls of thunder**

Seems to be similar to Mount Saini (Ex. 19 and 20; Rev. 8:5,11:19)

- 8) **Before the throne seven lamps were blazing.**

These are the seven spirits of God.

Seven blazing lamps = seven angels (3:1, 5:6, 8:2)

Verse 6

- 9) **Before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, (could be water) clear as crystal (like clear quartz)**



Verse 6b

- 10) **In the center, around the throne**

- A) **four**
B) **living**
C) **creatures** (appear to be cherubim)
i) **Covered with eyes**
a) **in front and in back** (like school teachers)

Verse 7

- ii) **First was like a lion**
iii) **Second was like an ox** (moschos = young bull)
iv) **Third had a face like a man**
v) **Fourth was like a flying eagle**

Similar to Ezekiel chapter 1 and 10 and Isaiah 6:1 - 3

Verse 8

- vi) **each had six wings**
vii) **was covered with eyes**
a) **all around**
b) **even under his wings**

Theories about the four living creatures:

- The four divisions of the tribes of Israel:
Judah – **Lion** Ephraim – **Ox**
Reuben – **Man** Dan – **Eagle**
- The division of creation – **Lion** – king of wild animals, **Ox** – king of domesticated animals, **Eagle** – king of birds, **Man** – king over all animals.
- Some say it represents the four gospels
- Represents creation with animals, man, and wings of angels.

IV. What Happens in Heaven (vs. 8b - 11)

Verse 8b

Day and Night (no rest needed in heaven!)

They never stop saying,

“Holy, holy, holy” (3 X holy = hagios = set apart)
is the Lord God Almighty (pan krator = holding)
who was, and is, and is to come” (eternal fact)

The purpose of all those in heaven = worship God!

Verse 9

Whenever the living creatures give

- A) **glory** (doxa = state of splendor)
- B) **honor**, (time = reverence due to worth)
- C) **thanks** (eucharistia = the act of loving remembrance)

**to him who sits on the throne
and who lives for ever and ever**

All the focus in upon God and praising Him

Verse 10

the twenty-four elders

- A) **fall** (pipto = to prostrate) **down before him
who sits on the throne**
- B) **and worship** (proskyneo = pay homage) **him
who live for ever and ever**
- C) **They lay** (ballo = cast/throw) **their crowns
before the throne and say**

The elders are prompted to worship by the living creatures.
The tradition of casting and taking up your crowns.

Verse 11

D) they say

- i) **you are worthy** (axios = weighed correct)
- ii) **our Lord** (kyrios) **and God** (theos)
- iii) **to receive**
 - a) **glory and**
 - b) **honor and**
 - c) **power** (dynamis = our effort)
- iv) **For YOU**
 - a) **created all things**
 - b) **by your will they were created**
 - c) **have their being”**

Prayer Concerns: