

The Book of Revelation - The Throne of God (Rev 4)

Series REV-04

As we proceed deeper into this great masterpiece of truth, we have learned that the Lord gave seven special messages to His servant John to record and send to the churches in Asia Minor. These seven core messages are vital for the people of God that will enable them to be prepared to warn the world with God's final message—the Third Angel's Message (which comprises the first two) and at last stand in the Day of the Lord, when probationary time closes on this world and the seven last plagues are poured out.

Before we begin this next study, REV-04 (Revelation 4), let us contemplate this inspired statement:

In the rainbow above the throne is an everlasting testimony that "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Whenever the law is presented before the people, let the teacher of the truth point to the throne arched with the rainbow of promise, the righteousness of Christ. The glory of the law is Christ; he came to magnify the law, and to make it honorable. Make it appear distinct that mercy and peace have met together in Christ, and righteousness and truth have embraced each other. When you look to his throne, offering up your penitence, praise, and thanksgiving that you may perfect Christian character, and represent Christ to the world, you abide in Christ, and Christ abides in you; you have the peace that passes all understanding. We need continually to meditate upon Christ's attractive loveliness. We must direct minds to Jesus, fasten them upon him. In every discourse dwell upon the divine attributes.

As the bow in the cloud is formed by the union of the sunlight and the shower, so the rainbow encircling the throne represents the combined power of mercy and justice. It is not justice alone that is to be maintained; for this would eclipse the glory of the rainbow of promise above the throne; men could see only the penalty of the law. Were there no justice, no penalty, there would be no stability to the government of God. It is the mingling of judgment and mercy that makes salvation complete. It is the blending of the two that leads us, as we view the world's Redeemer, and the law of Jehovah, to exclaim, "Thy gentleness hath made me great." {RH, December 13, 1892 par. 6, 7}

Revelation 4

Read through this chapter before continuing and make note of how many times the word "throne" is mentioned. This vision John had was of the Throne of the Most High".

There is much in this chapter for our contemplation and encouragement, praise God.

The picture described is one of

- a) a door opening in heaven and an invitation
- b) a throne set in heaven and He who sat thereon
- c) attendants—
 - i) 24 elders on 24 seats described
 - ii) four living creatures described

The question for consideration: what is taking place here? Yes, it's a throne scene, but when did it take place? [hint: use SOP if you need to and look at the chart, especially the picture above chapters 4 &5.] Is there a possible dual application?

The core description of the chapter is verses 3 to 6. The pinnacle point is dealing with the seven Spirits of God. We have already looked at this in chapter 1 and 3; we will see it again in chp.5. From Isaiah 11 and 4, we learned that these seven Spirits are necessary for our development of the character of Christ. In this verse 5, these seven Spirits are tied to what? _____ (answer is in the verse), which are found where in the sanctuary? _____.

_____ (Rev 1:20)

In class, we will be looking at the relationship between the answers above and the Seven Last words of Christ on the Cross. It is a powerful relationship that will enhance our understanding of *suffering* as we proceed through the book of Revelation.

24 Elders

Who are these elders? 1 Chron. 14:1-19 gives us a hint as to why the number, but what about the elders? Are they angels or humans? (give support for your answer, Bible and SOP)

Thought question: What does God have for me to learn from Rev 4? {Remember in every Bible discourse look for the attributes of Jesus character}

We will discuss the four living creatures in class.

Have a great study. God bless your prayerful efforts as you seek His face for more light. Amen!