In the Throne Room
PART I
Revelation 4

MAIN THOUGHT  Before the TRIBULATION begins (Rev. Ch. 6-19), let us learn to WORSHIP (ascribe worth to) Him who sits on the THRONE (14x in ch. 4; 46x in Rev.).

WORSHIP THE CREATOR

- The last section of Revelation begins: what will take place later (1:19).
- Heaven’s door is OPEN to those who believe (3:8, 20; Ark – Gen. 6:19; Matt. 7:7) and SHUT to those who do not (Matt. 25:10-12; Lk. 13:25-27; 2 Thess. 1:8-9).
- Come up here (two witnesses – 11:12): to John (like Moses – Ex. 19:20), but also the RAPTURE (Latin – catch up) of the church (1 Cor. 15:52; 1 Thess. 4:17).

UPON THE THRONE – ALMIGHTY GOD (2-3).
- The Throne (1 Kings 22:19; Psa. 47:8; Isa 6:1; Ezek 1:26-28; Dan 7:9-10; Matt. 5:34-35; 23:22; Heb. 1:3) has someone sitting on it (avoiding the tetragram [6:16; 7:10]).
- Symbolism is used for no one has ever seen God (John 1:18; 1 Tim. 6:16 – inexpressible light): (1) JASPER – clear like a diamond (21:11); (2) CARNELIAN (GK = sardis) – red in color; (3) 360° RAINBOW (Ezek. 1:28) – here before, not after the storm; a reminder of God’s mercy in judgment (Gen. 9:16; Heb. 3:2).

AROUND THE THRONE – 24 ELDERS (4).
- What a sight – the VERTICAL 360° RAINBOW and the HORIZONTAL 24 ELDERS ON THRONES (5x) surrounding God’s throne (Daniel’s thrones empty – Dan. 7:9).
- These were Jacob’s 12 sons (ISRAEL) and the 12 apostles (CHRISTIANITY) together in heaven (Rom. 1:16; 11:26) – 24 in all reigning with Christ (22:5).
- DRESSED IN WHITE shows their purity and that they had overcome (3:4-5).
- CROWNS OF GOLD (10; GK = stephenos [victor] not diadema [king]).

OUT OF THE THRONE – STORM SIGNALS (5a). The flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder remind us of the coming storm (TRIBULATION) and the awesome power of God (16:18; Ex. 19:16; Rom. 11:22).

BEFORE THE THRONE – LAMPS AND A SEA (5b-6a).
- The SEVEN LAMPS symbolize the Holy Spirit (1:4; 3:1).
- The SEA OF GLASS clear as crystal shows God’s purity (Ex. 40:30; John 13:5).

IN THE CENTER OF THE THRONE – 4 LIVING CREATURES (6b-8).
- Special angels like CHERUBIM with four faces (Ezek 1:4-10; 10:20) : lion (Matthew), ox (Mark), man (Luke), eagle (John), and SERAPHIM (Isa. 6:1-4).
- Lord God ALMIGHTY (9x Rev./12x NT/31x Job– 1:8) – his power over nature.

PRAISE TO THE THRONE (9-11). Revelation is the Psalter of the NT; its focus is on praise to God the CREATOR (ch. 4) and REDEEMER (ch. 5). The heaven’s declare the glory of God in creation (Psa. 19:1); many do not (Rom. 1:25).
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