

THE THRONE ROOM OF GOD

Introduction:

1. Chapter 1 served as an introduction to the book, its theme, and its central focus.
2. Chapters 2 & 3 recorded letters to the seven churches in Asia Minor and allowed a glimpse of the relationship between Jesus and His followers.
3. Chapter 4 begins the real symbolic means of stating the message of the book.
4. It begins with God – and a view of His throne in Heaven.

I. John Called to the Throne (4:1-2)

- A. John had been told to write of three things (1:19).
 1. That which he had seen was the vision of Jesus among the lamps.
 2. The “things which are” referred to the current condition of the churches.
 3. Now, he is to see and write of the things which must be hereafter.
- B. When John looked, he saw an open door allowing him access into Heaven and the throne room of God.
 1. Keep in mind that this is a vision.
 2. It does not necessarily mean that John actually went into Heaven.
- C. This opening of Heaven had happened before (Ezekiel 1:1; Matthew 3:16; John 1:51; Acts 7:56; 10:11).
- D. Here, John is allowed to see the events of his day from both man's and God's perspective.

II. God upon His Throne (4:3-5)

- A. Immediately, John was allowed to see both the throne of God and the One who sat on it.
- B. This is not the first time God's throne has been revealed.
 1. Isaiah 6:1-3
 2. Ezekiel 1:1, 25-28
 3. Daniel 7:9-10
- C. The descriptions that follow are meant to create a sense of awe in the reader by emphasizing the glory, grandeur, and beauty of God.
- D. God is described as possessing the dazzling brilliance of fine jewels (cf. 21:11; Psalm 89:14-15; 97:2-3).
- E. There was a rainbow surrounding the throne – symbolizing both the graciousness and faithfulness of God.
 1. His brilliance is filtered through His grace (cf. 1 Timothy 6:16).
 2. His faithfulness is seen in the certainty of His word (cf. Genesis 9:13).
- F. Surrounding God's throne were 24 other thrones on which were seated 24 elders.
- G. From God's throne there came lightnings, thundering, and voices – representing God's power and majesty.
 1. This hearkens back to the manifestation of God's presence on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16; 20:18).
 2. Furthermore, it is a reminder of the justice and judgment of God (cf. Psalm 18:13-14; 144:5-8).

The Book of Revelation

Lesson Eleven

Revelation 4:1-11

- H. Before God's throne was the Holy Spirit, symbolized by seven burning lamps of fire.
 - I. No matter how things looked on the earth, God was still on His throne – aware and in control.
- III. Beings around the Throne (4:6-8)
- A. The transcendence of God is emphasized by the fact that before His throne was a sea of glass.
 - 1. Now, man is separated from God due to the flesh (John 1:18).
 - 2. As we overcome through the fire of tribulation, we draw closer to Him and stand on the sea of glass (Revelation 15:2).
 - 3. In eternity, the sea will be taken away, we will be like God, and we shall see Him as He is (Revelation 21:1; 1 John 3:1-2).
 - B. Furthermore, surrounding God and His throne are the mighty hosts of angels – beasts, or living creatures.
 - 1. The seraphim of Isaiah 6 have six wings and worship God.
 - 2. The cherubim of Ezekiel 1 have four wings, four faces and conduct the desires of God.
 - 3. The living creatures of Revelation are similar, yet different from both. *{They have six wings but only one face. They are full of eyes and praise the God of Heaven.}*
 - 4. It seems that they represent some order of angel or may stand for all of God's heavenly host.
 - 5. The lion may symbolize courage; the ox, strength; the man, wisdom; and the eagle, speed.
 - C. Also around the throne are the 24 elders.
 - 1. They represent the saved of both the Old and New Testaments (cf. 15:3; Hebrews 9:15; 11:40; Ephesians 2:16; etc.).
 - 2. They are clothed in white, symbolizing their purity and holiness – enabling them to worship God.
 - 3. They wear the golden crowns of victory (2:10; 2 Timothy 4:8).
 - 4. They reign with Christ (5:10; Ephesians 2:6; Romans 5:17).
- IV. Worship before the Throne (4:9-11)
- A. When the living creatures worship God, the 24 elders do the same.
 - B. They cast their crowns before Him showing their submission to His authority and their dependence upon Him for victory.
 - C. God is worthy of worship simply because He is God, man's Creator.

Conclusion: *From Patmos to Heaven*

- 1. Often in life, we live in the troubles of Patmos.
- 2. We must learn to look up during trying times and see a glimpse of Heaven.
- 3. There we will see God – the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
- 4. There we will see His throne and be comforted by His faithfulness.
- 5. There we will see the saved and be motivated to endurance.
- 6. There we will see our goal and be encouraged to fight the good fight.
- 7. "Set your affection on things above" – Colossians 3:2.