

## **Revelation - Chapter 4 and 5 Summary Worship in Heaven and Triumph of the Lamb**

In keeping with the outline that Jesus gave John in the first chapter of Revelation, John has seen the glorified Jesus as He is in Heaven and will be when He returns and the letters to the seven churches on how to keep their spiritual fires burning until Jesus returns. Now God unfolds to John the details of the future, “what will take place later.”

““Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.”

(Revelation 1:19, NASB95)

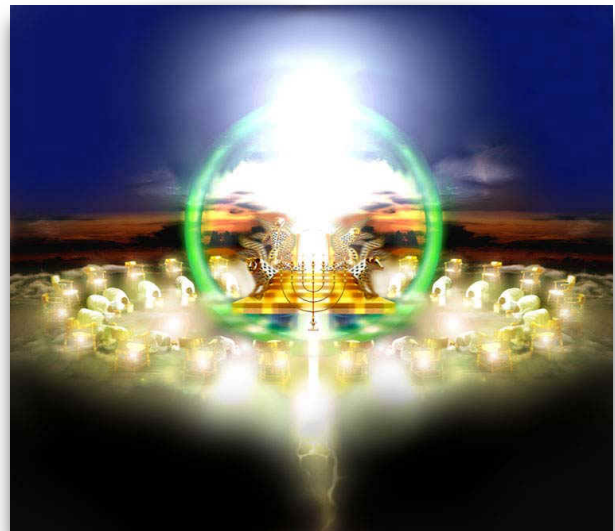
John witnesses the throne room of God in all its splendor, worship in Heaven, and finally the Lamb, Jesus Christ, securing from God the title deed to the earth. The songs of worship in Heaven anticipate paradise lost becoming paradise regained. The events described in these two chapters anticipate the events about to strike the earth.

Although not explicitly stated in Revelation the Rapture of the Church has occurred and reference to the Church does not appear again until Chapter 19 and 22 (1 Cor 15:51-53; 1 Thes 4:16-17; Rev 19:7; 22:16). This means that in John’s vision the Church Age has ended and the Church is not a participant in the scenes of the tribulation that follow. Saints who come to know the Lord during the Tribulation period are described as saved Israelites or saved Gentiles.

### **Throne of God**

John sees an incredible and spectacular display of the throne and glory of God. The throne appears to be standing because it is not a physical structure but symbolic of the temple in heaven.

John sees jasper a clear stone indicating purity that will be in the foundation of the New Jerusalem (Rev 21:19-20) and carnelian a fiery blood red ruby representing Christ’s blood sacrificed for the Church and God’s blazing warmth about to be poured out on the rebellious world. There is also a green perfect circle around the throne representing eternal life.



In relation to the nation of Israel the jasper and carnelian are the first and last of the 12 stones on the breastplate of the high priest garments representing all 12 tribes before the throne of God. God's covenant relationship with Israel will remain intact.



Jesus is represented in several forms including the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, the Lamb now standing as if slain before and having 7 eyes and 7 horns which are the 7 spirits of God (Rev 5:5-6).

The Holy Spirit is represented as the 7 lamps of fire burning before the throne which are the seven Spirits of God.

In Heaven, John witnesses God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

### Heavenly Hymns

Around the throne of God there are 24 elders seated on 24 thrones, 4 living creatures (angels serving God also seen in the books of Ezekiel and Isaiah), a number of angels to large to count and the rest of creation.

Periodically the 4 living creatures give special glory and honor and thanks to

God, the 24 elders join them in praise of recognizing God as the sovereign Creator of the universe. Casting their crowns before Him they testify had it not been for God's grace, salvation and goodness they could not have victory over sin and death; everything they had was from Him. Then for the first time since sin entered the world the angels are singing and then unable to contain their joy over their upcoming redemption all created things proclaim the blessing and praise of God and the Lamb, their honor, glory and dominion forever.





John then witnesses a scene that begins what will be a dramatic change in the course of history. God is holding in His right hand a scroll that is the title deed to the earth. The scroll has writing on both sides and is sealed up with seven seals. Unlike other deeds it does not record what Christ will inherit but how Christ will regain his rightful inheritance.

Adam and Eve turned over the dominion of the earth that God gave them to Satan (2 Pet 2:19). The only One who can successively break the 7 seals as the scroll is unrolled is the One to whom the deed rightfully belongs: Jesus Christ. The slain Lamb now standing will regain His rightful inheritance by the divine judgements about to be poured out on the earth. Although the scroll is a scroll of doom and judgement it is also a scroll of redemption. It tells how Christ will redeem the world from Satan and those with him. Ezekiel describes this same scroll in his vision of Heaven (Eze 2:9-10).

John viewed the great, culminating act of history, the act that will signal the end of man's day. The ultimate goal of redemption is about to be seen; paradise will be regained, Eden restored. Before John's wondering eyes the Lamb came and took the book right out of the hand of God who sat on the throne. Jesus, the worthy One has arrived to take back what is rightfully His.

*"....."Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come." (Revelation 4:8, NASB95)*

*"Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created." (Revelation 4:11, NASB95)*

*"And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." (Revelation 5:9-10, NASB95)*

*"And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever." (Revelation 5:13, NASB95)*

