

**“Seeing Heaven”
Revelation 4:1-11**

Intro:

- * Talk about seeing something amazing & reacting to what you see.
- * Illustration:
- * This is exactly what is happening in Revelation 4:1-11.

Reflecting on the Word: What do we see about John seeing heaven?

1. The Perception (4:1-7)---Isaiah 6:1

1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.”---**2 Corinthians 12:2-4**

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.---**Revelation 1:10; 17:3; 21:10; Daniel 7:9-10; 1 Kings 22:19**

3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.---**Ezekiel 1:26-28**

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.---**Matthew 29:28; Revelation 21:14; Revelation 11:6; 1 Corinthians 9:24-25**

5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;---**Isaiah 11:1; Revelation 1:4; Deuteronomy ; Revelation 8:5; 11:19; 16:18**

6 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.

7 The first creature was like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle.---**Ezekiel 1:4-25**

2. The Praise (4:8-11)

8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, “HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”---**Isaiah 6:2-4; Revelation 1:8**

9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 “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.”

Responding to the Word:

Revelation 4:1-11

Word Studies

After These Things:

It is used to introduce new visions in Revelation (see 7:1, 9; 15:5; 18:1; 19:1)

The phrase μετὰ ταῦτα 'after these things' is used to close one event and open another

Looked:

To perceive or understand by sight or have power to perceive by sight

It indicates that John was seeing a vision: John saw with spiritual, not physical eyes; Aorist Indicative Active

Open:

To be open, not be sealed or having been unsealed

Perfect Passive Participle: The actor is God [WBC]: having been opened by God.

Heaven:

It refers to the dwelling place of God: It refers to the third heaven. It refers to part of the physical universe that is seen only by one's spiritual eyes. The door was in the sky and it permitted John to enter heaven.

First Voice:

Trumpet like and It refers back to the voice that John heard in 1:10. The definite article with voice marks it as one he had previously heard

Show:

To present or indicate to the view of others, to point out or make known, bring to light; Future Indicative Active

Must:

To be necessary, be unavoidably determined by prior circumstances, sometimes understood with contingency
Present Indicative Active

Take Place:

To come about come to pass; Aorist Middle Infinitive

Immediately:

At once, without delay or hesitation, with no time intervening

Was:

To become (condition), enter or assume a certain state or condition, come to exist
Aorist Indicative Middle

Was Standing:

To be located or situated in a particular spot or position; Imperfect Indicative Middle/Passive

Jasper:

Probably an opaque form of quartz that is red or yellow or brown or dark green in color

Sardius:

Probably carnelian, which is a translucent red or orange variety of chalcedony

Emerald:

Relating to or composed of emerald which is green. Its brilliance, not its color that is in focus here.

These stones symbolize the glory and majesty of God.

Elders:

They are a group of high-ranking angels, the heavenly counterpart of the 24 priestly and the 24 Levitical orders (cf. 1 Chronicles 24:4 and 25:9–13)

The 24 elders symbolize the whole Church. The number 12 is taken from the 12 tribes of Israel, for each one of which there are two members, one for the Jewish side and one for the Gentiles who are joined together in the new Israel [Sw]. The number 24 is made up of the 12 Patriarchs and the 12 Apostles. This view is supported by 21:12, 14, where the 12 gates of the New Jerusalem are inscribed with the names of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 foundations stones of it are inscribed with the names of the 12 Apostles

They are heavenly counterparts of the 24 leaders of the 24 priestly orders as seen in 1 Chronicles 23:6 and 24:7–18

Crowns (Stephanos):

Wreath or diadem worn on the head to signify victory, glory or prestige (and sometimes sovereignty)

Crystal:

A rock formed by the solidification of a substance that has regularly repeating internal structure and external plane faces

Around:

Surrounding or encircling

Living Creatures:

Supernatural beings understood according to characteristics of living creatures

They may represent the totality of creation praising God or they are created spirits similar to the seraphim of Isaiah 6:1–3 and the cherubim of Ezekiel 10:14

They may symbolize four aspects of nature: wild animals (lion), domesticated animals (ox), human beings (man), and birds (eagle) [LD]. They symbolize the totality of animate creation [EC, NIC, NIGTC, NTC]. What is most noble, strong, wise, and swift in nature is represented by these beings

Full Of:

To be full of or be or become containing as much or as many as is possible or normal

It symbolizes alertness and full knowledge so that they are completely aware of what happens pertaining to their judicial responsibilities; It symbolizes that God knows everything

Lightning and Thunder:

It symbolizes God's awesome power, majesty, glory, sovereignty, displeasure, and judgment

Do Not Cease:

This is not their only activity. In 6:1, 3, 5, and 7 they summon the riders. Having no rest is qualified 'by day and by night'. This expresses the kind of time rather than the extent of time. This is their practice whenever they are not engaged in serving God in some other way

Glory: A state of high honor

Honor: Honor, value, reverence

Thanks: The act of expressing gratitude or showing appreciation to someone

Fall Down:

To lose an upright position suddenly, to prostrate oneself; Future Indicative Middle

Worship:

To worship, conceived as falling down or prostrating oneself before a deity

Future Indicative Active

Cast:

To throw, cast, propel; Future Indicative Active

Crowns:

Wreath or diadem worn on the head to signify victory, glory or prestige (and sometimes sovereignty)

Worthy:

Deserving, worthy or proper of being treated or recognized in a particular way

Glory:

A state of high honor

Honor:

The state of being highly respected or revered

Power:

Possession of controlling influence, often understood as manifesting influence over reality in a supernatural manner

Created:

To bring into existence; Aorist Indicative Active

Will:

Inclination, an attitude of mind especially one that favors one alternative over others

Existed:

To have existence; Imperfect Indicative Active