

The Throne Room of God (Message #13)

Revelation 4: 2-11

In our last study we found John taken up into heaven to see the things which must be hereafter. Keep in mind that John represents the church being caught up to be with the Lord at the end of the church age. John's first glimpse into our future is within the very throne room of God. He is immediately shown the glory and splendor of God's throne.

That thrills my heart. The verses we've read are very real. At this moment God the Father is seated on His throne and our blessed Savior is there making intercession for us! We have access to the throne through Christ.

If you have ever wondered what it will be like in heaven, this message is for you. Tonight we'll get a firsthand look at what we shall experience for all of eternity. Our feeble minds can't comprehend all that heaven holds, but try to imagine it from a heavenly perspective as we enter into: [The Throne Room of God](#).

I. The Sovereign on the Throne – Can you imagine the excitement John must've felt. He had encountered the Lord on Patmos, but now he is carried into the very presence of God. As he steps inside he immediately sees God on His throne, [v.2. Rev.5:6-7 - And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne](#). Listen to what John describes.

A. God's Preeminence (2) – [And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne](#). He sees God's throne set in heaven. A place of absolute authority as God occupies His throne. The word [set](#) refers to the throne's "*stability, firmness, and durability.*"

- In fact, this throne has always been and forever shall be. There has never been a time when God wasn't on His throne. He shall rule and reign for all eternity! This sinful world may not recognize Him now, but one day they will.
- Our world is filled with those who "think" they are in charge, but God rules over all. He allows kingdoms and nations to rise and fall. There isn't an enemy or force anywhere that can remove God from His throne. I'm glad I belong to Him who is in charge!

B. God's Presence (3a) – **And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone:**

Now keep in mind, John had a difficult task, trying to describe the God of heaven. No one has ever seen God and lived! As he looked, God was **like unto a jasper and a sardine stone**.

- We know that God isn't a stone; He is real, but John uses this as descriptive language. The jasper is clear, bright, beautiful, and flawless. Many believe it is the same as a diamond. They are very hard representing God's firmness and unchanging nature. **Mal.3:6 – For I am the LORD, I change not**. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. What peace that ought to bring to our hearts!
- Also John described God as a **sardine**, a **blood red stone**. Now don't miss this, God is our Sovereign. He holds complete authority; He is holy and righteous. His holy nature demands that we be righteous. We can never achieve that in ourselves; it's impossible. God knew that so He made a way for our redemption.
- John saw a **sovereign** Lord, as well as, a **saving** Lord. Thank God for His mercy and grace. The eternal God loved us enough to provide a means for our redemption. What a God we serve!

C. God's Peace (3b) – **and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald**. The throne was encompassed by an emerald rainbow. This holds great significance for the believer. Have you ever seen a complete rainbow? We only see half of it, at best. Here the rainbow is complete.

- We all know that the rainbow was given as a sign of God's covenant with Noah. We all face trials and storms in this life. You may be in the midst of one today, but in heaven all of life's cares and storms will have ended. We will enjoy perfect peace and rest. One day, sooner than we might think, we'll lay down our cares and enter the presence of our God!

D. God's Plan (5) – **And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God**. As John looked upon the throne, he saw signs of things to come. The lightnings, thunderings, and voices reveal the coming judgment.

- Heaven revealed that God's mercy won't endure forever. Very soon John will see God's judgment poured out upon this sinful world. Time is running out for the unbeliever.
- He also saw **seven lamps of fire**, the completeness of the Spirit. After Christ ascended, He sent the Spirit as the Comforter. He is no longer seen as the Comforter, but standing, waiting on God's instruction for the coming judgment. He is there to witness the righteous judgment of God on an unrighteous world. (He is just in doing so).

I. The Sovereign on the Throne

II. The Saints Around the Throne (4) – *And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.* This is an interesting group, the 24 elders. What is revealed about them?

A. Their Character – Who are these 24 elders? Some think they are angels, but the Bible never uses the word elder to refer to angels. We find they are each sitting upon seats. This is the Greek word “*thronos*” and is the same word translated *throne* in v.2. They are literally reigning with God.

- Clearly this is a reference to the saints. *II Tim.2:12 – If we suffer, we shall also reign with him. Rev. 1:6; 2:26-27 – And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 2:26-27 – And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.*

- Consider this thought and make your own decision. The New Jerusalem is described as having *12 gates*, named after the *12 tribes* of Israel. It has *12 foundations* which contain the names of the *12 Apostles*. I am convinced that the elders represent the saints of God, in its entirety, OT and NT. So, if you are curious about what we'll be doing, look at what the elders are doing.

B. Their Comfort – *and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting.* We are told they are *sitting* upon *seats*. They have taken their place in the presence of God, resting from their labor.

- If you are saved, you are as good as there. We are right now positioned in heaven. *Ep.2:6 – And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus.* Is it possible that John looked upon you and me as he viewed this glorious sight? I believe he did; we were there! Halleluia!

C. Their Clothing – *and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment.* They were *clothed in white raiment*. This refers to the righteousness of the saints. The saved are justified in the eyes of God right now. Our sin, past, present, and future, was cleansed by the atoning blood of Christ.

- We are now clothed in a body of flesh that wars against the spirit. One day we'll lay aside this body of flesh for a holy, white garment, changed in a moment, to be like Him!

D. Their Crowns – and they had on their heads crowns of gold. Each of the elders wore crowns of gold. These were not crowns of deity. There are 2 Greek words translated crown in the NT. One is the word “*diadem*.” This is the crown Jesus will wear, His crown of glory. This is the word “*stephanos*” and refers to a crown given to an athlete, a victor’s crown. These are crowns we earn.

- There are at least five mentioned in the Bible.
 - 1) **Crown of Life** (Jam.1:12) – for those who endured trials and temptations
 - 2) **Righteousness** (II Tim.4:8) – for those who live anticipating the Lord’s return
 - 3) **Glory** (I Pet.5:4) – for the faithful pastor
 - 4) **Rejoicing** (I Thes.2:19) – for those who share the gospel, reaching others for Christ
 - 5) **Imperishable** (I Cor.9:25) – for those who battle the flesh, seeking a holy life. Jesus keeps a record of all we do for His glory. I want to live a life, so as to have something to lay at His feet.

I. The Sovereign on the Throne

II. The Saints Around the Throne (4)

III. The Scene Before the Throne (6-11) –

A. The Crystal Sea (6a) – And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal:

The sea speaks of God’s holiness; His constant character. This sea isn’t tossed with wind and waves, but is clear and still. The seas on earth are ever moving and changing with the tide, but God is unchanging.

- It also speaks of the coming judgment. Sinful men and this wicked world have a day of destiny with the Lord. His judgment is sure and will not be altered. We will encounter this sea of glass again in Rev.15 as those who emerge victorious over the beast stand on it and sing praises.

B. The Beasts of Heaven (6b-8) – and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

- John saw 4 beasts before the throne being full of eyes before and behind, speaking of complete intelligence. They represent all of God's creation. The lion represents the wild animals; the calf, domestic animals; man, all human beings; eagle, all birds and fowl. These are all gathered before God, all of creation, lifting their voices in praise to the Creator! Once again all of creation will glorify God as He intended them to.

C. The Continual Worship (9-11) – *And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.* When the beasts begin to praise God, the elders do also. They are seen falling before the Lord, casting their crowns at His feet.

- Imagine the scene as all the redeemed begin to worship God together. That will be the focus of heaven, praising Him. We shall worship as never before. We will see our God who gave His Son. We'll see the Savior who died for our sin. We then will fully comprehend all that we have been given through Christ Jesus our Lord. I'm sure that will cause us to offer our worship unto Him. We will praise God continually for one eternal day.

Heaven will be a glorious sight. I have made preparation to be there. I trust you have as well. You know, with all the worship that will be going on over there, we might as well get in the habit down here. Let's commit to worship God for the great things He has done. He is worthy of our praise!