



“Throne of Glory Throne of Grace.”

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June 29, 2025

After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald. 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings[a] and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, 6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”

Revelation 4:1-11

Summary

Words fall short to fully capture the glory of God. However, the Apostle John’s words in Revelation 4 are the best we have to “see” God in His majestic glory. The most powerful angels and the most faithful of His saints humble themselves before Him, and by His grace, God receives the worship of His creation. Let’s enter the throne room of God in the same manner, humble with hearts full of awe and gratitude.

Book Outline from Revelation 1:19

the things that you have seen - ch 1
the things that are - chs 2-3
the things that are to take place after this - chs 4-22

Chapter(s)	Age	Years
1-3	Church Age	????
4-19	Tribulation Age	7
20	Kingdom Age	1000
21-22	The Eternal Age	Infinite

Passage Outline

The Vision of Heaven - Rev 4:1-7

The Worship in Heaven - Rev 4:8-11

1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

Revelation 4:1-3 ESV

“Heaven is not a shadowy world of mists and indistinct apparitions. It is a world of dazzlingly, brilliant light, refracting, and shining as through jewels and crystal in a manner beyond our ability to describe or imagine.”

John MacArthur, Revelation, p. 152.

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

Revelation 4:4 ESV

Who are the 24 Elders?

Most likely, they are redeemed saints who represent all of the redeemed.

5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, (Isaiah 11:2)

Revelation 4:5 ESV

6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

Revelation 4:6-7 ESV

Who are the Four Living Creatures?

They are four powerful angels (cherubs) who worship God and carry out His judgments.

(Ezek. 10:15)

8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say,

“Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come!”

Revelation 4:8 ESV

9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

Revelation 4:9-10 ESV

11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”

Revelation 4:11 ESV

“The elders confess that any honor they have received has been obtained through the grace of God. They must fully ascribe to grace what they dare not claim to themselves. Gratitude constrains them to lay their crowns where their crowns came from.”

Spurgeon. The Spurgeon Study Bible: Notes, p. 1698).

Passage Principle

Our Holy, Eternal Creator is Worthy of All Glory and Worship Forever.
(God made everything and lives forever, so we should always thank Him and tell Him how amazing He is.)

Worship God on earth as He is in heaven.

“What, then, is worship? Simply put, worship is ascribing “worth” to something or someone. We attribute value, honor, and devotion to our object of worship. When we truly worship God, we turn all of our attention, affection, and adoration toward Him. That’s the missing jewel—worshiping God by ascribing supreme worth to Him, for He alone is worthy.”

Charles Swindoll, p. 98

Worship God on earth as He is in heaven. We declare His holiness, glory, worth, and judgment.

“The world today does not give such honor to the Lord God. Though men benefit from His goodness and live in a universe of His creation, they tend to neglect the worship of God. One of the important aims of the book of Revelation is to trace the divine movement of history toward the goal of universal recognition of God.”

Walvoord, J. F. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, pp. 111–112.

18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth. 19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them. 20 For his invisible attributes, namely,

his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Romans 1:18-20 ESV

21 For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. 22 Claiming to be wise, they became fools, 23 and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images resembling mortal man and birds and animals and creeping things.

Romans 1:21-23 ESV

**Worship God on earth as He is in heaven.
We declare His holiness, glory, worth, and judgment.
We worship God with our full focus and attention.**

“John says at the beginning of Revelation, “I was on the island of Patmos in the Spirit on the Lord’s day.” (1:9). It was while worshipping in the power of the Holy Spirit that John’s eyes were opened to the larger reality around him. It was while worshipping that he discovered that the miserable rock pile was a sanctuary of the Holy One. And that if he did not worship the rocks themselves would cry out “worthy.”

Darrell Johnson, Discipleship On The Edge, pp. 147-48.

Write & Reflect on Rev. 4:11 Daily this Week:

11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they existed and were created.”

Revelation 4:11 ESV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Where does this scene actually take place: In the afterlife? In some perfect order of things after this world has passed away? Or on the level of spiritual reality here and now (as in Eph 2:6), where good and evil are unmasked to be seen for what they really are?
2. Who is the figure on the throne? What is He like? What are the 24 elders like?
3. What does the scene around the throne include? (Note its many OT images (Ge 9:12-17; Ex 19:16-19; 25:31-40; 2 Chr. 4:2-6; Eze 1)
4. How does John envision the 4 living creatures, throbbing with the eternal power of God? What response does the central figure elicit? Why?

5. What does this say about who God is and how He relates to His creation?
6. Imagine yourself in this scene. What do you see? Hear? Feel? What impresses you about God?
7. What aspect of creation best demonstrates God's glory and power to you? Why?
8. How might this vision of God enhance your worship life? Your everyday life?
9. What is your take away from this week's passage?

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*Discussion Questions adapted from The Serendipity Bible.