

2. What comes to your mind when you think about heaven? Why does John keep using the word “like” when he describes what he sees? What does that tell you about heaven compared to what we see here on earth now?
3. The future events written in the book of Revelation **MUST** take place (v. 1). What does that tell you about God’s sovereignty and His faithfulness to His promises? How does knowing this help when things on earth seem out of control? How does this help with worry, fear, and anxiety?
4. Who is sitting on the throne in Rev. 4? What does the throne symbolize? Why is this significant as the events of the Tribulation unfold?
5. What do the stones and the rainbow in verse 3 tell you about the One sitting on the throne? How would this encourage John who has been exiled to the island of Patmos because of his faith? How does this encourage you?
6. Who are the **24 elders**?
7. Have you ever been in a serious lightning and thunderstorm? Did you want to get closer to it? What does this say about approaching the throne in heaven? On what basis can we approach?
8. What is the **sea of glass**, like crystal? Does this contradict with the statement in Rev. 21:1?
9. Who are the **four living creatures**? What do they do? Why do they do it day and night?
10. How does what the four living creatures do impact the 24 elders?
11. What principles do you learn about **worship** from Revelation 4?
12. How will these principles impact the way you worship when you gather with other believers on Sundays? Does the way you worship motivate others to want to join you? Spend time daily this week worshipping our great God and Savior. Then come ready to stimulate others to join you on Sunday.

February 23, 2025

*The Bridge Bible Fellowship*

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Rev. 4:1-11

**“The Things Which Will Take Place” – Part 1**

- I. The Things Which You Have Seen – chapter 1
- II. The Things Which Are (chapters 2-3)
- III. **The Things Which Will Take Place After These Things (chapters 4-22)**
  - A. **Vision of Heaven (chapters 4-5)**
    1. **The Throne Room (4:1-11)**

<sup>1</sup> **After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven,**

      - “After these things” – cf. Rev. 7:1, 9; 15:5; 18:1; 19:1
      - 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.”**

      - LIKE – 4:1, 3, 6, 7
      - Voice... LIKE a trumpet – cf. Rev. 1:10ff
      - Come up here = the Rapture?
      - ... MUST take place after these things

<sup>2</sup> **Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne.**

      - In the Spirit – Rev. 1:10; 17:3; 21:10
      - Throne – Is. 66:1f; 1 Kings 22:19; Ps. 11:4; 47:8; Is. 6:1; Ezek. 1:26-28; Hab. 2:20; Rev. 7:15; 8:3; 11:19; 16:7
      - Significance of the throne? (Rev. 6:10, 16f; 14:7; 15:1; 16:5f, 19; 18:20; 19:2, 11, 15)
      - Who is sitting on the throne?

<sup>3</sup> **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.**

- Jasper (Rev. 21:11, 18f)
- Sardius (Carnelian or Ruby)
- Rainbow ... like an emerald (cf. Gen. 9:8-17)

<sup>4</sup> **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.**

- 24 elders: angels or men?

<sup>5</sup> **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; <sup>6</sup> and before the throne *there was something* like a sea of glass, like crystal;**

- Lightning... thunder – cf. Ex. 19:9-19; Rev. 8:5; 11:15-19; 16:17-20
- Seven lamps of fire – cf. Rev. 8:8, 10; 19:20; 21:8
- Sea of glass, like crystal – cf. Ex. 24:9f; Ps. 104:3; Amos 9:6

**and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. <sup>7</sup> 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. <sup>8</sup> And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within;**

- 4 living creatures: cherubim or seraphim or? (cf. Ezek. 1:5, 10:15, 17, 20; Is. 6)
- Lion ... calf/ox ... man ... flying eagle =

**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.”**

- Ceaseless praise? (Rev 4:6, 9; 5:6; 6:1, 6; 7:11; 14:3; 15:7; 19:4)
- Holy, holy, holy (cf. Is. 6:3)
- Almighty (Rev. 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22)
- Was...is...is to come (Rev. 1:4)

- Compare Ps. 93, 97, 99

<sup>9</sup> **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, <sup>10</sup> 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, <sup>11</sup> “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.”**

- Living creatures give glory and honor and thanks (cp. Rom. 1:18ff)
- 24 elders’ response
  - Fall down (Rev. 5:8, 14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4)
  - Worship
  - Cast their crowns
  - Worthy
  - ...our Lord and our God
  - Glory and honor and power
  - Sovereign Creator (Is. 45:9; Rom. 9:18-24; Job 38-42)

So what?

### Discussion & Application:

1. Did you give much thought to the **Rapture** this past week? If so, what impact did it have on you? What impact should it have on you? If Jesus came for His church today, would you be ready? How do you know for sure?