



revelation

[a•po•ca•lypse]

Revelation

The Things That Take
Place After This

“The Throne Room of God”

Revelation 4:1-11

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Intro:

In chapter 4 we go from Things that Are to Things that must take place after that, *meta tauta* (Gk).

The Church is not mentioned again until the last three chapters of Revelation.

The prophetic profile of the seven churches trace the church age from the Apostolic church to the Apostate church identified by the church at Laodicea.

If the church age represents the present time then moving to chapter 4 brings us to the future. Also, it would seem that the church is raptured (Gk *harpazo*) as John, who represents the church is called up to heaven.

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Prologue

After these things refers to the present church age. It is after that when we will be looking into the future.

John experiences three things initially:

- 1.** An open door in heaven;
- 2.** A loud voice like a trumpet;
- 3.** The command to come up here.

The throne John sees may not be a physical throne, **Rev. 7:15**, but it is occupied.

God's wrath never operates at the expense of His faithfulness.

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24 Elders

Three reasons they are not angels:

1. Angels and Elders a distinct group. **Rev.7:11;**
2. Angels don't reign or sit on thrones, but saints do, **Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4.**
3. Elders wore crowns of achievement which angels never wear nor were promised.

Several crowns in scripture:

- A. Crown of Life, **James 1:12**
- B. Crown of Righteousness, **2 Timothy 4:8**
- C. Crown of Glory, **1 Peter 5:4**
- D. Crown of Incorruptible, **1 Cor. 9:25**
- E. Crown of Rejoicing, **1 Thess. 2:19**

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The Throne Room

Similar to Ex.19:16 and Ezk. 1:19, John was describing a preview of the divine wrath that was coming on the earth. **Rev. 8:5.**

Two distinct things noticed:

- A.** 7 Lamps of fire, denoting the Holy Spirit as the “_____” of the unbelievers.
- B.** A sea of glass, in appearance only, **Rev. 21:1.**

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Four Living Creatures

The Greek word for “creature” is Zōon, meaning a living being, not Beast as in KJV.

Three distinct characteristics:

- 1.** Eyes all around; symbolize awareness, alertness and comprehensive knowledge.
- 2.** Four faces which could refer to;
 - A.** The created world, or,
 - B.** The chief captains of the twelve tribes of Israel.
- 3.** Six wings; denotes their privilege and responsibility to constantly worship God. **Isaiah 6:2.**

They are here depicted as God’s ministers of war.

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Worship

The angels and 24 Elders worship God for three specific reasons:

A. For God's holiness. **vs. 8** refers to the primary nature of God and could also refer to the Trinity

B. For God's infinite power. He is the Almighty and introduces Himself to Abraham as such.
Gen. 17:1.

C. For His eternal nature. He always was and always will be.

Ps. 90:2, 93:2, Isaiah 57:15, 1 Tim. 1:17.

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Worship

The hymns in ch. 4 are hymns of creation while the hymns in ch. 5 are hymns of redemption.

Two points to ponder:

- 1.** Knowing angels worship God incessantly should prompt our worship likewise;
- 2.** As the Elders give up their crowns of achievement, so ought we.

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