

# Note

## Revelation – Part 3 of 15

### Summary

John is caught up to heaven and sees a radiant throne. There are seven flames, perhaps representing the purifying fire of God. The sea is still like glass, perhaps representing the serenity of heaven. We have moved from earthly scenes, in the first 3 chapters, to heavenly symbols. The scroll represents the soon to unfold events of the last days, perhaps the sequential collection of all the pertinent old-testament prophecies. The Lamb conquered through sacrifice and ransom. All creation and every being joins the heavenly choir in giving glory, honour and blessing to the Father and Son.

# Transcript

## Revelation – Part 3 of 15

In Chapter 4, we see the throne in Heaven. It gives one of the clearest picture of what it is like around the throne of God in Heaven. John says that he looked up, and he saw a door open in Heaven. Imagine there is a big door in Heaven and he heard a huge voice like a trumpet saying, “Come up here, I'll show you things that must certainly take place soon.” And then the Bible says he was in the Spirit.

I'm paraphrasing this whole chapter. He was in the Spirit and he's up in heaven, whether by vision or whether he's brought up, I don't know. But he's there, either by seeing it or by being there. And he's describing to us what he sees. The first thing he sees in heaven is a huge throne and someone on the throne. He cannot see that One on the throne but he says that One who is seated on the throne is like jasper and carnelian, two precious stones. The beauty of precious stones is that when the light shines through it, it disperses all the rays of the light, like a diamond, and it looks beautiful. So he couldn't see the person, but he saw these rays of light going through a huge precious stone of jasper, and a huge precious stone of carnelian. And then he says that around the throne, there was an emerald rainbow. It's like a halo of a rainbow around this throne. And then He sees flashes of lightning coming out from the throne, and the sound of thunder and rumbling. So it was not just gorgeous and beautiful, but awesome, like when God came down on Sinai, there was lightning and fire and thunder.

And then he looked around, and he saw 24 other thrones, not as gorgeous and majestic as this one central throne. On these 24 thrones were seated 24 elders. The number 12 always represents the people of God. There were 12 tribes in Israel, 12 apostles in the New Testament. So these 24 elders probably represented the people. The elders represented the people of Israel, His covenant people in the Old Testament, and another 12 represented the church, His covenant people in the New Testament. So

there were 24 elders seated on these 24 thrones. They were dressed in white with golden crowns. They had delegated authority from the One supreme authority, who is God on the throne. And then in Revelation (Chapter) 4, it goes on to say that in front of the throne were 7 torches of fire. And it is said that these 7 torches of fire are the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit symbolizes fire, reviving us, putting us on fire, bringing life to things. And, of course, fire burns through everything, refines, and all the rubbish is taken away. Fire is what you use to refine things. So the Holy Spirit searches us. There are 7 flames in front of the throne. And then in front of these thrones where the 7 flames were, there was a sea of glass, like crystal. What do you think that's a picture of? Possibly a picture of serenity. The sea is so calm. And this is stretching as far as the eye can see, a sea, not of water with ripples, but like crystal, as opposed to the scene that we're going to see shortly, when the end of the world takes place, where there is turmoil in the world. But up in Heaven, it's a sea of calm.

And then he looks around and he sees there are 4 living creatures. It is described as living creatures. On the sides, two sides of the throne, maybe two here and two there, there were these 4, one looked like a lion, one looked like an ox, one looked like a man with a face of a man, and one sort of flew like an eagle. And he said, these 4 living creatures each had 6 wings and on the wings were eyes everywhere, seeing everything as it were. The fact that it was a lion, an ox, a man, and an eagle, may signify all the living creatures that He made on earth. And what do these 4 living creatures do? He says that they never ceased to say, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, who was, who is, and is to come." Basically, all of nature was glorifying God, acknowledging God is holy. And then whenever they do this over and over, the 24 elders fall down before the throne, and they cast their golden crowns before the throne as if to say these do not belong to us. You, God deserve this. And they say, "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory, and honour and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created." (v11)

The first 3 chapters were about the circular letter to the 7 churches. Now we are being introduced to symbols like the flames of fire and the crystal sea. It helps us to slowly understand the symbols. John couldn't quite understand what he saw, but he described what he saw as best he knew. He says, "like an eagle", "like a man", "like an ox", "like flames of fire". This is a little peep, a little description by John of the throne of God.

We move on to Revelation Chapter 5. In Chapter 4, we saw the throne of God. We saw the flames of fire, representing the Holy Spirit. We saw elders, we saw the living creature, but where was Jesus Christ? In Revelation Chapter 5, we will see Christ. ( I'm going to paraphrase chapter 5). John described that he saw in the right hand of the One seated on the throne a scroll, written on the inside and the outside, and it was sealed with 7 seals. What does this scroll represent? This scroll represents all the programs that will take place very soon, to terminate the sinful, corrupt, degraded world as we know it and begin the New Heaven and the New Earth, a new chapter. So the scroll is like the program for ending the present world and for introducing the eternal New Heaven and New Earth. What was in the scroll? There were all the prophecies of the prophets. The prophets have given a lot of prophecies, but in bits and pieces, but in this scroll, all the pieces are summarized together, especially books like Daniel, it's all in here. But it's all sealed up.

Then an angel with a huge voice, comes with a booming voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break the seals?" And John begins to weep. He knows that this scroll contains something very important. Obviously God has something very precious to show to him but it can't be opened, so he cries. And then one of the elders says to him, "John, stop weeping. The Lion of the tribe of Judah has conquered and has a right to open this scroll." So, John looked around and between the throne and the living creatures and among the elders he saw a Lamb as it had been slain. He expects to see a lion. He looks around for the lion, but where is the lion? But he sees a Lamb as it had been slain, some wounds were still on the Lamb. But this Lamb has 7 horns and 7 eyes. 7 horns speak of power. Eyes speak of omniscience. 7, of course is perfect power, perfect omniscience.

John probably suddenly realized, "This is the Lamb of God who died for our sins." That's how He conquered. You see, we always thought that God would conquer the world like every other conqueror in the world, with violence and power. But God conquered the evil world we live in, not with violence, but with love, with a Lamb who died for this evil people. The Lion of the tribe of Judah conquered this world by being a Lamb, to die for this sinful selfish world that knew no other way. He showed a new way. So this Lamb took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. And the 24 elders and the 4 living creatures began to sing. The 24 elders each

had a harp, and they sang, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open the seals, for You were slain and by Your blood, You ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth (v9 & 10). You see, this conqueror had conquered by ransoming a people, by dying for a people. And this people, whom He died for, will be part of His Kingdom, will be priests in His new Kingdom and will reign in this new Kingdom with Him. So you don't destroy the old world until you've prepared a people. If you destroyed everybody who is wicked, you got no one left for the New Earth. What good is that? He not only conquered the world of evil with His life, but He has ransomed a people who is going to make a Kingdom - "Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." There's going to be a new Kingdom on Earth. And these ransomed people will be His priests, will rule with Him in this new place. So they say, "Worthy are You, You have conquered this world, You ransomed a people for your Kingdom." And then, John hears an amazing choir, the 24 elders, the 4 living creatures, and maybe a few hundred million angels sing, "Worthy is the Lamb to receive honour, glory and the blessing." When we got a 1000 persons choir, we think it is very big, but this was millions and millions of angels. Then John hears every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and in the sea, all join in and said, "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (verse 13). To the One on the throne and to the Lamb. God the Father and God the Son being honoured together. God the Holy Spirit, is never worshipped. That's very interesting. God the Father, God the Son - to Him be honour, glory and blessing forever. And then 4 living creatures say, "Amen." And all the elders fell down and worshipped the One on the throne and the Lamb by the throne. Now we see who is to be honoured forever and ever - God the Father and God the Son.

So the scroll is taken and then in subsequent chapters, once He opens the seal, then the program for the end, the closure of the world as we know it, begins; and then the opening of New Heaven and New Earth. This will be found in the next chapter.