

REVELATION PART THREE - Chapters 4 and 5

Chapter 4 - Throne in Heaven

1. Revelation 4:1-3.
 - a) John saw a clear picture of the Throne in heaven when he was 'in the Spirit'. He saw the door open in heaven.
 - b) He could not see the One on the Throne but he saw that He looked like a jasper and a carnelian. These are precious stones that disperse rays of light gorgeously.
 - c) There was a rainbow around the Throne which looked like a greenish looking emerald rainbow.
 - d) John saw flashes of lighting and sounds of thunder and rumbling. It meant something awesome besides being beautiful. It is somewhat similar to God coming down at Mt Sinai with lightning, thunder and fire, causing one to be awestruck.
2. Revelation 4:4. He saw 24 thrones on which sat 24 elders. Number 12 is a number that represents God's people, such as the 12 tribes in Israel and the 12 Apostles in NT. So the number 24 represents the old covenant people in OT and the new covenant people in NT. All 24 were dressed in white with golden crowns, which meant that they were given dedicated authority from God.
3. Revelation 4:5. In front of the Throne were 7 torches of fire which depicted the Spirit of God. The Holy Spirit is usually symbolised by fire. The Holy Spirit puts Christians on fire and brings life to things just as fire burns and refines everything. The Holy Spirit searches us.
4. Revelation 4:6. In front of the 7 flames and 24 thrones there was a sea of glass which looked like crystal. Sea usually symbolises water with waves but this sea represents the serenity and calmness stretching as far out as John could see. It opposes the turmoil that was expected to happen on Earth which would be described later.
5. Revelation 4:6-11. John saw 4 living beings, probably two on each side of the Throne.
 - a) One of the living beings looked like a lion, the second looked like an ox, the third had the face of a man, and the fourth looked like an eagle. Each being had 6 wings with full of eyes on it, seeing everything.
 - b) The fact that they were a lion, an ox, a man and an eagle, might signify all the living creatures that God had created on Earth.
 - c) The 4 creatures never ceased to praise the Lord "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come!" It was as if all nature is praising the Lord, glorifying God and acknowledging that He is holy, apart from everything else.
 - d) They repeatedly praised God and each time they did it, the 24 elders would fall down and worship the Throne and throw their crowns to God. It was as if they were saying, "God, You gave it to us but actually it is from You and we give it back to You." The 24 elders would say, "Worthy are You, Lord

God Almighty, to receive honour and glory and power, for You have created all things and You are the One who has preserved all things.”

6. John had a peep at the glorious heavenly Throne of God. Before that, John had only seen Jesus whom he loved and regarded as a simple Man. That scene blew John’s mind away.
7. We had just moved from the circular letter to the 7 real churches on Earth, to scenes with symbols such as flames of fire, sea like crystal, etc. We now begin to slowly understand the symbols which John could not comprehend what he saw them then, and he had to describe it as best as he could e.g. “like an eagle, like an ox”, etc.

Chapter 5

In chapter 4, we saw many things in heaven, but where was Jesus Christ? We will see Him in this chapter.

1. Revelation 5:1.
 - a) John saw the right hand of the One on the Throne holding a scroll which was written on both the inside and outside, and it was sealed with 7 seals.
 - b) This scroll represents all the programmes that will take place very soon to terminate the sinful, corrupted and degraded world that we live in, and to begin an eternal New Heaven and New Earth.
 - c) The scroll contained all the prophecies of the prophets recorded in the Old Testament in bits and pieces, and were being summarised together. But they were all sealed up.
2. Revelation 5:2-3. An angel with a booming voice shouted, “Who is worthy to break the seal?” All the 24 elders and the living beings remained quiet. Nobody said anything.
3. Revelation 5:4-5. John began to weep because he knew that the scroll contained something important since there were 7 seals on it, which meant that it was something precious to be shown to him. But it could not be opened, so John cried like a baby. One of the elders told John to stop weeping and said, “The Lion of Judah has conquered and has the right to open this scroll.”
4. Revelation 5:6. John saw a Lamb that was slain.
 - a) He was expecting to see a lion who had conquered who had the right to end the world. Instead, he saw a Lamb with wounds still on it.
 - b) The Lamb had 7 eyes and 7 horns. Horns speak of power and eyes speak of omniscience. The number 7 speaks of “perfectness”. Thus, it speaks of perfect omniscience and perfect power. John then realised that the Lamb was Jesus, who died on the Cross for our sins and that was how He conquered.
 - c) We think that God will conquer like any earthly conqueror with much violence and power, but God conquered an evil world with love, with a Lamb who died for these evil people. The Lion of Judah conquered the

world by being a Lamb to die for this sinful and selfish world. It shows a revolutionary way of conquering.

5. Revelation 5:7-10. The Lamb took the scroll from the right hand of the One who was on the Throne. The 24 elders and 4 living beings began to sing. Each of the 24 elders had a harp and they sang, "Worthy are You to take the scroll and to open its seals for You were slain and by Your blood. You ransomed people for God, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to be a Kingdom and priests to reign with Jesus in the new world."
6. This Conqueror (Jesus) conquered by ransoming people, by dying for them and letting them reign with Him. God does not destroy an old world until He has prepared a new people; otherwise, there would be no one left after the old world has been destroyed. "Thy Kingdom come on Earth as it is in heaven" in Matthew 6:10 also shows that there is a new Kingdom on Earth where believers will reign with Christ.
7. Revelation 5:11-14. John heard the elders, living beings and perhaps millions of angels singing, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!" It seemed like a huge choir but it was not all. John then heard every creature in heaven, on Earth, under the Earth, and under the sea sang, "To Him who sits on the Throne and to the Lamb, be blessing and honour and glory and might forever and ever!" God the Father and God the Son were being honoured. Note that the Holy Spirit was never worshipped. The 4 living beings then said "Amen" and the 24 elders fell down and worshipped.

In Chapter 6, when the seal was opened, it marked the beginning of the programme to end the current world, and the creation of a New Heaven and New Earth will happen.