

**INTRODUCTION – AN OPEN DOOR TO HEAVEN**

1 After these things [perhaps interval from first section] I looked, and behold, **a door standing** open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying,

"Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; [indicating something above and beyond the ordinary]

- This is a vision – this does not necessarily mean that it is what one would actually see in Heaven (Jesus like a lamb?)
- Yet, there is symbolic representation communicating Truth

**I. A DESCRIPTION OF THE THRONE ROOM – CHAPTER 4**

- Throne – a seat of authority and majesty
- In going through this description, think "in the round" – the center of the cosmos

**A. ON THE THRONE – THE MAJESTIC SPLendor OF GOD**

And behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. [not empty or vacant, someone is ruling and reigning]

3 And He **who sat** there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; [no specifics, only radiance] and *there was a rainbow* around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. [emanating from Him]

**B. AROUND THE THRONE – 24 ELDERS**

4 Around the throne *were twenty-four thrones*, [sub-rule and authority] and on the thrones I saw **twenty-four elders** sitting, [elder - seniority, age, wisdom, leadership] [12 tribes (21:12) - 12 apostles (21:14) – reps. for people of God?]

**clothed** in white robes; and they had **crowns** of gold on their heads. [pure and royal garments]

**C. FROM THE THRONE – SIGHT AND SOUND**

5 And from the throne proceeded **lightnings, thunderings, and voices**. [powerful forces of nature]

**D. BEFORE THE THRONE – SEVEN LAMPS**

**Seven lamps of fire** were burning before the throne (which are the seven **Spirits of God**). [perfect Holy Spirit giving light]

**E. BEFORE THE THRONE – SEA OF GLASS**

6 Before the throne *there was a sea of glass*, like crystal. [peace, unexpected with thunder and lighting]

**F. IN THE MIDST OF AND AROUND THE THRONE – 4 LIVING CREATURES**

And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were four living creatures* [living ones – typically non-human] full of **eyes** in front and in back. [rep. many creatures or permeating sight]

- these are NOT these creatures, but having faces LIKE them

7 The first living creature was like **a lion**, [brave/courageous, ferocity]

the second living creature like **a calf**, [young cow or bull – domesticated animal of work/farm/sacrifice]

the third living creature had a face like **a man**, [rationality]

and the fourth living creature was like **a flying eagle**. [majestic creature of the air]

8 *The four living creatures, each having six wings*, [like angels in Isaiah 6 and Ezekiel 1/10 (4 wings)] were full of **eyes** around and within.

And they **do not rest** day or night, saying: [constant, incessant speech]

*"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,  
Who was and is and is to come!"*

- Could represent **angelic beings** (thought angels referred to separately) or all **created beings** (I lean toward this)

**II. THE WORSHIP OF THE THRONE ROOM****A. THE 4 LIVING CREATURES**

9 Whenever the **living creatures** give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, [they are "leading" in the praise to God]

**B. THE 24 ELDERS**

10 the **twenty-four elders** fall down before Him who sits on the throne and **worship** Him who lives forever and ever, and **cast their crowns** before the throne, saying:

11 *"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power;*

*For You **created** all things, And by Your will they **exist** and were created."* [the same as Christ in Colossians 1]

**III. THE 7 SEALED SCROLL – REVELATION 5****A. A DESCRIPTION OF THE SCROLL**

1 And I saw in the right *hand* of Him who sat on the throne **a scroll** written inside and on the back, [full, nothing left to be written]

sealed with **seven seals**. [perfectly sealed all along the seem, each to be broken if the scroll is to be read]

**B. THE ANGEL'S QUESTION**

2 Then I saw a **strong angel** proclaiming with a loud voice, "**Who is worthy** to open the scroll and to loose its seals?"

**C. THE COSMIC SEARCH**

3 And **no one** in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to **open** the scroll, or to **look** at it. [no phil/teacher...]

**D. JOHN'S RESPONSE**

4 So I wept much, because **no one** was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it.

**E. THE ELDER'S DECLARATION**

5 But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep.

Behold, **the Lion** of the tribe of Judah, **the Root** of David,  
**has prevailed** to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

**F. BEHOLD THE LAMB!**

6 And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four **living creatures**, and in the midst of **the elders**,  
 stood **a Lamb**

as though it had been **slain**, [blood? wounds? scars?]

having seven **horns** [power and authority]

and seven **eyes** (which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth). [filled with the omnipresent HS]

7 Then He **came and took** the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. [what no one else could do]

**G. THE HEAVENLY RESPONSE**

8 Now when He had taken the scroll,

the **four living creatures** and the **twenty-four elders** fell down **before the Lamb**,

each having **a harp**, and **golden bowls** full of incense (which are the prayers of the saints). [mix of prayer/praise]

9 And they sang **a new song**, saying:

*"You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals;*

*For You were slain, [the atoning death of Christ at the Cross] And have redeemed us to God by Your blood  
 Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, [universal scope of the sacrifice of the Lamb]*

*10 And have made us kings and priests to our God; [more than forgiveness, but kingdom of priests]*

*And we shall reign on the earth."* [future glory and rule of the earth]

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many **angels** around the throne, the **living creatures**, and the **elders**;  
 and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,

12 saying with a loud voice:

*"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain [because of who He is and what He has done]*

*To receive power and riches and wisdom,*

*And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"* [7-fold praise]

**H. THE COSMIC RESPONSE**

13 And **every creature** which is in **heaven** and on the **earth** and **under the earth**

and such as are in the **sea**, and **all** that are in them, I heard saying: [foretaste of coming universal worship]

*"Blessing and honor and glory and power*

*Be to Him who sits on the throne,*

*And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"* [shared throne in 22:1]

14 Then the **four living creatures** said, "Amen!"

And the **twenty-four elders** fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

- 
- The single most important lesson – ***The Throne of Heaven Rules Over All***
  - Heaven is His throne, earth is His footstool – Isaiah 66:1 – His sovereign rule and majesty, though veiled, are just as true
  - Connected to this lesson is that the rule of the throne (expressed in the decree of the scroll) finds meaning, purpose and fulfillment in **the Lord Jesus Christ alone**
  - There is the unmingled worship and attributing to Jesus the same honors as He who sits on the throne
  - As Christians, when we worship, we are entering into the proper response
  - In our lives, there are "unlocked scrolls" which are answered by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus
  - The purpose of this book is to help, comfort, encourage, and strengthen the church on the earth in a fallen world
  - This vision frames the rest of the book, and all that happens is connected to it