

INTRODUCTION

1. Begin 2nd cycle - Rv 4-8:5.
2. Chpt 4-5 are joined together. Worship in heaven informs the worship of church on earth: temple [cf. Ex 25:40]. Let us not be short-sighted - Rv 4.

**1st: John's Second Vision - 4:1-2a**

1. *Hear what HS says* - now see what Jn saw. *After these thgs I looked...* used 6 more times in Rv = sequence of the visions.
  - i. A Lord's Day? [1:10] *in the Spirit & voice like sound of trumpet* [4:1]
    - a. Priestly activity
    - b. 1:10 is programmatic
  - ii. "timeless" transcendent truths relevant to redemptive history on earth
2. *what must take place after these thgs* = Dan's vocab of [1:19]. Speaks of our age tw/ 1st & 2nd comings of Jesus. Already/not yet.
3. *a door standing open in heaven* = present but transcendent realities

**2nd: John Sees the Enthroned One - 4:2b-3**

1. Parallels w/ Dan 7 & Ezek 1. Like OT prophets, Jn is given audience w/ enthroned Lord in presence of heavenly council: commissioned [Jer 17:12]
2. *throne[s]* - 18x in chpt 4-5. 1:4; 3:21. 1:6 we are royal priestly sons of God Most High & administer Jesus' redemptive kingdom as church w/ *keys of the kingdom* [Mt 16:19] in *tribulation, perseverance* [1:9].
3. Authority; sov'ty; rule: *Him who sits on the throne* [6:16]; prayers - *before the throne* [8:3] - consummated union: 22:1-4
4. Is there *One* or *Two* on *throne*? Trinity. Jn 17:5; Dan 7:13. God & *the Lamb* are *the One*.
5. v3 recalls visions given to Moses & prophets [esp'ly Ezek]. Rv 21:16-22 God's throne seen as one w/ new creation.
  - i. rainbow recalls Noahic Cov
  - ii. Jn sees Jesus' throne already: our eternal destiny is certain - Rv 3:21-22

**3rd: The Heavenly Throne Room - 4:4-6**

1. v4-6a immediate surroundings of THE throne - v6b
2. Who are the "24"? OT & NT saints? Angels? Men? Symbolize God's redeemed from all redemptive history.
3. Jn sees a present reality promised to overcomers
  - i. Rv 2:10; v26-27; 3:4-5; v11; v18; v21
  - ii. This is the intermediate state. We identify w/ these citizens of heaven: their worship [Rv 5:8ff] & witness [20:4-6]. Christ' reigns already & shares rule w/ heavenly saints. What about saints on earth?
  - iii. Rv 1:6 - Rv 5:8-10 heavenly worship: *the saints*
    - a. *incense* = prayers
    - b. We sing new song of praise to Lamb as priests. How is our *reign on earth* exercised? Worship: Jesus is Lord.
    - c. Eph 3:9-10 - extol our Creator in heavenly places = Rv 4
    - d. See the heavenly setting of our worship [2Kg 6:17] - Rv 4:5-6b!
4. v5 - *lightenings & sounds & thunders* = vocab of YHWH on Sinai.

## THE ENTHRONED LORD - Rev 4 :1-6a

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5. v5 - 7 lamps of fire before throne = 7 Spirits of God - where are we? The Holy Place of the temple! Church = lampstand by wh/ ministry of HS extends *into all the earth* - Rv 5:6 [Grt Com].
6. v6 - sea of glass/crystal - "sea" - chaos [Gn 1:2; Rv 21:1] - now calm.

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### Applic #1: We Celebrate & Experience our Salvation in Corporate Worship

1. We worship before throne!
2. Heb 12:18-21 not Sinai; v22-24 Mtn Zion

### Applic #2: We Witness to What We Experience in Corporate Worship

1. Worship transforms us - so that we can be the light of the world.
2. We experience Christ glorifying worship so that we witness to Christ's glory. We declare & demonstrate the truth of worship: Jesus is Lord.

### Applic #3: Our Worship and Our Witness Extols the Authority of King Jesus

1. *One sitting on throne* - supreme over "legal" earthly persecution
2. We are Sons of God Most High - overcome by witness: Jesus is Lord.
3. Meditate on Rv 4:1-6a. Worship will make us witnesses: Jesus is Lord.