

## The Throne Room of God

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Leaving chapter three in the Revelation and moving to chapter four we find that there is an absence of the Church until chapter 19:7. The word church does not even appear again until chapter 22:16. From the opening of the seals until the marriage of the Bride the chapters in between focus on the nation Israel. The Great Tribulation is God's method of dealing with the nation Israel. He ends the Tribulation when they ask Him to return and save them. In fact one of the titles of the Tribulation is "The Time of Jacob's Trouble."

Jeremiah 30:7

*Alas! for that day [is] great, so that none [is] like it: it [is] even the time of Jacob's trouble; but he shall be saved out of it (KJV).*

Revelation 4:1

*After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter (KJV).*

John is immediately "caught up" to heaven to view "things which must take place after these things." We believe that in the chronology of the Bible and world history the rapture happens between chapters 3 and 4.

John will now be lifted up to the Throne Room to meet the all those presently in the Throne Room. Next week we will see the Tribulation Strategy implemented in chapter five. Psalm 11:4 says the Lord has His throne in heaven. Daniel 4:17 &25 says He rules over all the kingdoms of men from His throne.

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John is lifted up to God's Throne Room in much the same manner that we have seen in the Program for the Rapture given to us in 1Thes 14:16-18. We can take much comfort in this as God tells us to "Comfort one another with these words." (1 Thessalonians 14:18) Are we doing this for each other? Follow the Bible as it commands us and we will be blessed! The same voice which we will hear someday is the voice that John heard telling him to "Come up hither!" John receives the invitation to enter the presence of The Lord in His Throne Room. The next time we see the door open in heaven in the book of Revelation is chapter 19 when Jesus comes back with us (saints) to win the battle of Armageddon. God frequently intervenes into time and space with the sound of a trumpet. In Exodus 19:13 we read that God warned the Israelites that at the proper

time the trumpet blast would sound for a long time to signify that they should now approach the mountain. To make Himself again known God does what no human can do. He blows long and increases in volume after a long period of time. He wants His people to realize that it is Him and none other.

*Revelation 4:2*

*And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and [one] sat on the throne (KJV)*

This passage is directly parallel to Daniel 7:9 which states:

*Daniel 7:9*

*I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment [was] white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne [was like] the fiery flame, [and] his wheels [as] burning fire (KJV).*

Isaiah and Ezekiel both saw the Throne Room of God. Psalm 103:19 says; that “*the Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom ruleth over all.*”

*Revelation 4:3*

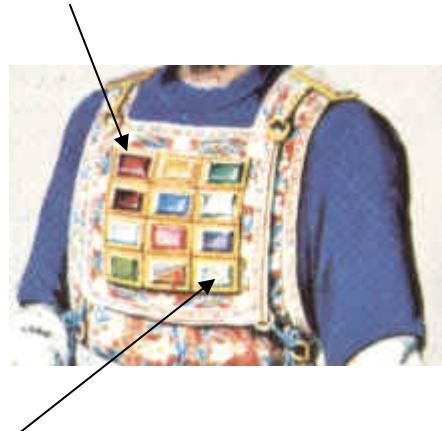
*And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and [there was] a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald (KJV).*

John describes the One who sat on the throne in terms of precious stones. This description is of color not shape in that we know that spirits have no shape. Jasper is “most precious,” crystalline and purple in hue. The sardine or sardius is also described as exceedingly precious, and of a beautiful bright, red, carnation color. It is capable of a high and particularly high and lasting polish. Uniting the qualities of tint and brilliancy belonging to the purer specimens of these precious gems, they have the appearance of flames, without their smokiness-pure, purple, fiery, red, crystalline, flashing light. These gems were on the high priests breastplate as the first and the last of the twelve jewels on the breastplate. John is trying to use the only words he can use to describe an indescribable place. “He that sat” is the Lord, God the Father who is described as being *like* the named jewels not a gem or jewel. The text shifts from a simile to gems to an actual rainbow encircling the Throne of God. The rainbow is beautiful and colorful and represents God’s covenant with all flesh never again to destroy the earth or its inhabitants as in the flood (Gen 9:11, 17). We are given the impression that although this is a throne of judgment for all the earth as the planning of the greatest war to ever come on the planet is occurring the war will conserve the earth and many of its inhabitants. Those who stay on the earth through the war will enter the kingdom age as true believers. This rainbow is emerald green drawing us to the general color of nature which is green.

From Exodus 28 we see the same stones set as the first and the last in the breastplate of the high priest. They represent Reuben as “see a son” and Benjamin as “son of my right hand.” Christ is

God the son and sits at the right hand of God the Father in the throne room making intercession for us. So not only do these precious gems represent the brilliance of fire before the throne but also the Lord Jesus as the first and last as well as the son who makes intercession for us. He does this for us as the high priest (Cohen Gadol) did for Israel.

The first Stone was the Jasper representing Reuben-The First



Last Stone is the Sardius representing Benjamin-The Last

Romans 8:34

*Who [is] he that condemneth? [It is] Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us (KJV).*

Revelation 4:4

*And round about the throne [were] four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold (KJV).*

While the text does not clearly state who these elders are, we are given enough information to understand their identity. They have:

1. White Garments which in this book are symbols of salvation. Only human beings need salvation. No celestial being needs this as they were not lost to begin with.
2. Wearing Crowns. This is a strong clue. The Greek word is stephanos and that is the crown given to a victor as a result of some achievement. It is not the diadem or the crown for royalty. This type of crown is given to the overcomer at the Bema Seat of Christ for the exercise of God given spiritual gifts for the body of believers.
3. Elders. This title is always used to describe humans in positions of authority either in the synagogue or the Church.
4. 24 Elders. This represents the Church and not angels or other levels of celestial beings.

The number 24 is probably taken from 1 Chron 24 & 25 where David divided the Tribe of Levi into 24 families representing 24 courses to represent the whole as to when each would serve.

Divided up into 24 courses of order so the priests know when to serve. Chapter 25 represents the 288 musicians divided up into 24 courses and heads of families to match the priests for service in the Tabernacle and Temple. The represented ALL of ISRAEL. Israel is still on the earth though at this time so it represents ALL of the Church. Since the Church is also a kingdom of priests, these 24 elders represent the Church as a whole. (1 Pet 2:9)

We therefore see from these four clues that the 24 elders represent the raptured church after the judgment seat has been completed. They are on thrones because believers get to sit on thrones.

Revelation 3:21 says to the church of Laodicea that we (believers) will be able to sit with Jesus on His Throne as He sits on God the Father's Throne. This then is clearly the raptured Church in heaven on Thrones in the Throne room of God.

#### Revelation 4:5

*And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and [there were] seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God (KJV).*

The sounds coming from the throne of God are representative of wrath and judgment that is about to occur.

1. When God was about to judge Egypt for the sins they committed he sent thunder, hail and fire which ran along the ground. (Ex 9:23,28)
2. When God wished to show Israel the terribleness of His anger over sin, "There were thunders and lightning's, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud." (Ex 19:16)
3. When He sent forth His wrath upon the Philistines "the Lord thundered with a great thunder on that day and discomfited them, and they were smitten before Israel." (1 Sam 7:10)
4. Samuel said that the Lord would send thunder and rain so that the Israelites could see that their sin was great. All the people feared. (1 Sam 12:17, 18)

These instances show us that this is not a throne of grace but of judgment. These lightning's, thunders and voices proceeding from it tell us of justice and wrath to come upon all transgressors. (Unsaved)

The seven torches that are before the throne are the seven spirits of God. These are not the Holy Spirit but the angels who will carry out the commands to bring the Tribulation to earth. These are the same ones we were introduced to in chapter one.