

## Revelation Chapter 4      The Throne Scene

Basic and general knowledge of the book of Revelation compiled by Gaetan.



**REV.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 show thee **things which must be hereafter.**

In chapter 1 we found out that Jesus had a voice *"as a trumpet"* (1:10), so this is Jesus talking to John. Some scholars have actually interpreted this verse as the resurrection and rapture of the church but it isn't. It is simply Jesus telling John, not the whole church, to come up so that He can show him the things which must be *"hereafter."* So far the Revelation has dealt only with *"the things which are,"* or were in John's day; but now Jesus tells John He is going to show him the future.

John was *"in the Spirit"* or tuned-in to God's Spirit, but here the Lord tells John to *"come up"* into the realm of the Spirit World to literally take a spirit trip into that mysterious dimension of eternal realities, so that John could get the whole view of that little island called time and see its future!

**REV.4:2** And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

**REV.4:3** and he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: (like diamonds, etc. In other words, the Lord glows like a diamond!) and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

A green emerald rainbow--think of that! Beautiful! The rainbow is a reminder of the promise of mercy given to Noah (*Genesis 10:13*).







**REV.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.**

**These are elders, a term that speaks of comparative age. It seems inescapable that they must be human. Could that be so? Would God Almighty share his throne with humans? Well, yes, of course he would. (Dan.7:27; Mt.19:28; Luk.22:30)**



**These two chapters, the fourth and fifth chapters, are what we call the Throne Scene. You never saw the like before! And He caught John up into that place to see some of God's scenery and He showed him into the Throne Room! These two whole chapters are about what happened in that Throne Room, and will give us a pretty good little introduction to what is about to occur, the time of His final judgements and rewards.**

**This description not only tells us how majestic it is, but it also tells us the nature of the government that stems from this throne, and that will bring us to appreciate the very character of the divine King who sits there enthroned.**





**REV.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**.



If you notice in that fifth verse, it even capitalised the word "**Spirits.**" The strict theologians say, "*Now wait a minute, there's only one Spirit of God; the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost.*" Well, right here it says there are seven Spirits of God! (*He. 12:9*)

But what is the point of these symbols? You have a torch, blazing with fire, to dispel the gloom and the darkness that are all around. The Holy Spirit is a spirit of light: the very opposite of darkness. (See *Eph.5:8*). Satan uses darkness, lies and deceptions. Not God; he rules by enlightening. He has brought us '*out of darkness into his most marvellous light*' (see *1 Pet 2:9*).



**REV.4:6** and before the throne there was a **sea of glass like unto crystal**: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were **four beasts full of eyes** before and behind.



A **"sea of glass"** symbolising peacefulness lies before it. Have you ever been on the ocean when it is like glass, utterly still, with the light reflecting from its surface? That is maybe what we are **"seeing"** at this moment. All is at peace.

Some theologians have suggested that the sea of glass could be representing of the laver, a bronze basin in Old Testament worship, (**Ex.30:18-21; 38:8**). The washing symbolically represented cleansing of the sins. Before entering God's presence, the Levitical priests had to continually wash to ready themselves for the presence of God.

But Jesus Christ fulfilled all the Law when He died, and His people were cleansed once for all time by His blood shed on the cross.

**(Mat.5:17)** We no longer need a ritualistic washing with water to come before God **(He.1:3)**. Now we can **"approach the throne of grace with confidence"** being sure that we are acceptable to Him because we are spiritually clean. **(He.4:16)** Thank God for Salvation in Jesus.





**REV.4:7** and the first beast was like a **lion**, and the second beast like a **calf**, and the third beast had a face as a **man**, and the fourth beast was like a **flying eagle**.

**REV.4:8** and the **four beasts** had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

And ***“in the midst of the throne...four beasts”***, a lion, calf, flying eagle, and some strange beast with a man's head, ***“full of eyes before and behind.”*** We've never heard any of this explained to our satisfaction yet. Most of these things are just beyond our understanding. It was beyond John's for sure. He just described what it looked like and that was all he could do.

Therefore, we are not going to try to interpret this more than to say it is the throne of God. We'll probably just have to wait till we get there ourselves to find out who the twenty-four elders and the four beasts are.



It is interesting to note that the prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel also saw similar visions of God's throne and of beasts in heavenly places! There were even the four creatures, the four beasts of God around His throne! Now they were heavenly, they were God's beasts, but they were some kind of animals according to the prophets. They looked like animals to them! Maybe they are some kind of powerful creatures that God owns!

**\*\* ISA.6:1-3** *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the LORD sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*





**\*\* EZE.1:1, 5, 10, 26, 28** Now it came to pass... that the **heavens were opened**, and I saw **visions of**

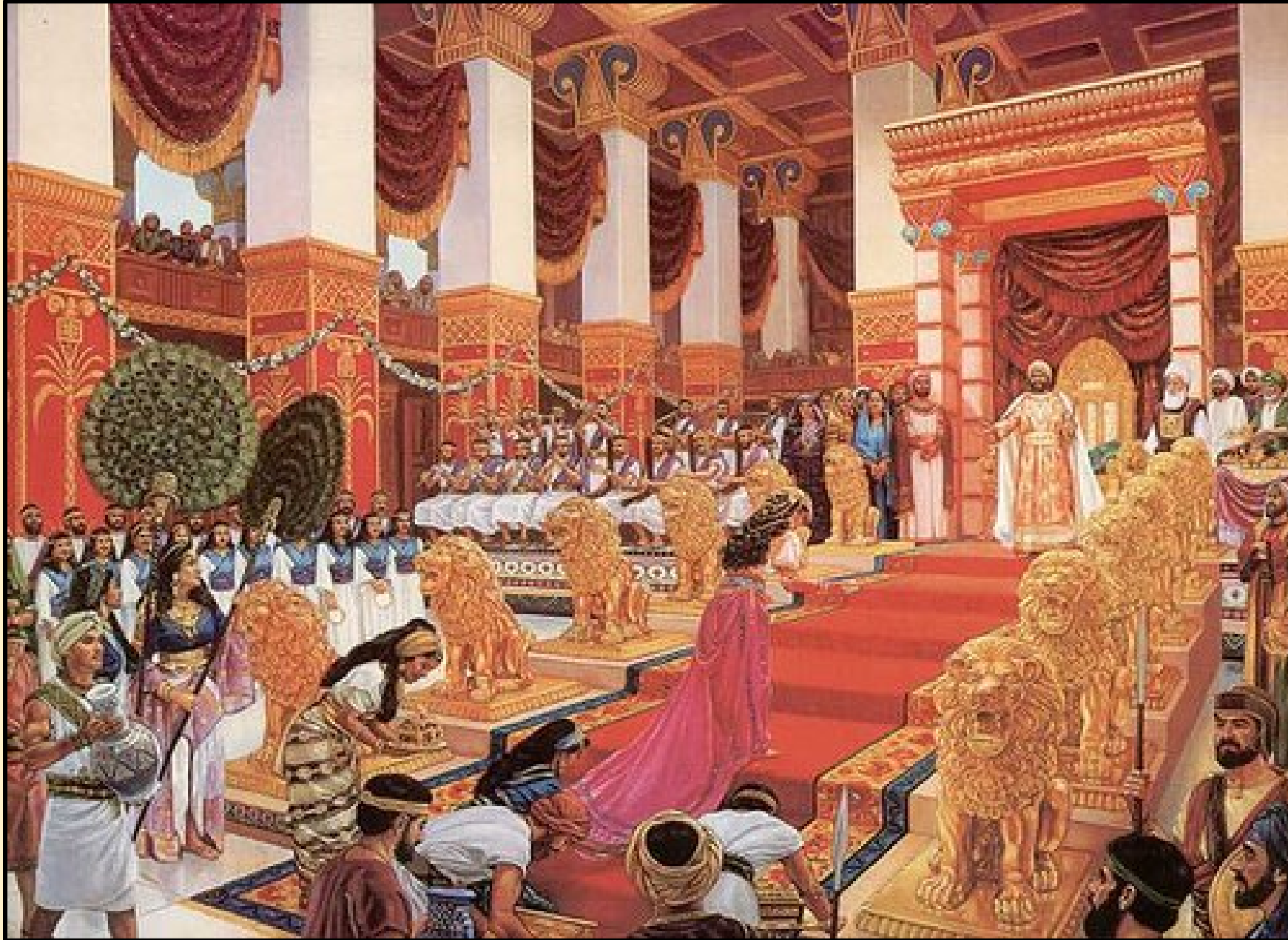


**God.** Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of **four living creatures...** As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of **a man**, and the face of a **lion**, on the right side: and they four had the face of **an ox** on the left side; they four also had the face of an **eagle...** And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a **throne**, as the appearance of a sapphire stone...As the appearance of the

**(rain)bow** that is in the cloud in the day of rain, so was the appearance of the brightness round about. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.



It was a mark of distinction and power in the ancient courts of the ancient kings and queens to have huge chained lions or tigers around the throne, sort of symbolic that they had conquered creation, you know, and had conquered these huge beasts. When Solomon began to reign, he built himself a throne eventually. *(1 Kings 10:18–20)*



This was no ordinary throne: it was made of ivory, covered with gold etc. It was meant to impress anybody that came up to that throne, not merely with the wealth of it or the artistry of it; the lions were there to show something of the power of that king, so that people might come worthily to him, and in the right frame of mind.



**REV.4:9** and when **those beasts give glory and honour and thanks** to him that sat on the throne, who **liveth for ever and ever**,

**REV.4:10** The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and **cast their crowns before the throne**, saying,

**REV.4:11** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive **glory and honour and power**: for thou **hast created all things**, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

In that tremendous heavenly throne scene, it appears like the main yearning of the 24 elders and the four living creatures or beasts is to be continually praising God, giving Him glory, honor and thanks! Of course, we're going to fall down before the Lord and cast our crowns before Him like the 24 elders! Every time we start praising the Lord, we're going to forget all about that crown and it's going to tumble off right at His feet. --When we bow down and give Him the glory, casting our crowns at His feet!





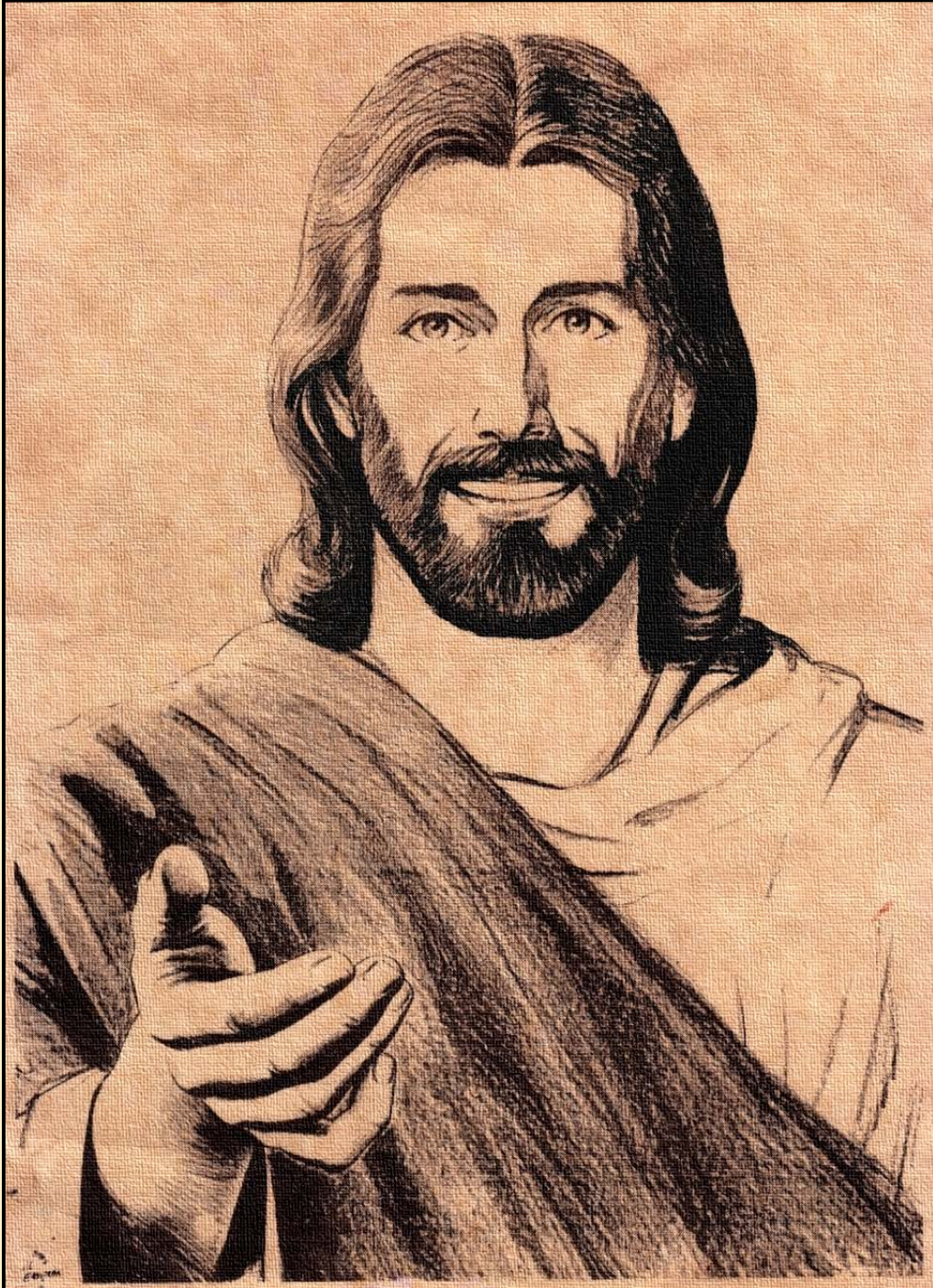
But anyhow, He gave it to us, so we'd better pick it up again and wear it, because that's the one He gave us. We wouldn't throw away a thing like that, would we? A bride doesn't throw away her ring if she still loves her husband, and that's sort of the ring He's going to give us! That's what's going to show what we have done for the Lord. Isn't that beautiful?



***“And for thy pleasure they are and were created”***. God created all things. That’s the very simple, but enormous statement in Genesis 1:1 ***“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”*** We only exist because God delights in giving us life. It is because of His ***“will”*** that we exist ***“and were created.”*** (Col.1:16) We are created for the Lord's pleasure! When you think of having pleasure, what do you think of? Yes, enjoyment, fun. And we delight in Him and enjoy Him. So that's not having a long face and being serious and sober all the time, but that's enjoying Him and His creation and the life He's given us, and that gives Him pleasure.

***\*\* JOH.1:1, 3 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made.***





**You can receive Jesus at this very moment. It is a free gift of God. If you haven't done it yet, please pray this simple prayer:**

**"Jesus, please forgive all my faults. I accept that You are the Son of God and You died for me. I invite You into my heart and life. Thank you for your gift of eternal life and please fill me with Your Holy Spirit. Help me to read and understand Your Word. Amen"**

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