

Mount Up Wednesday
The Wednesday Night Bible Study Ministry of
East Mount Zion Baptist Church
Dr. Brian A. Cash, Lead Pastor
Kathy Booker, Exec. Pastor and Facilitator
The Study of Revelation
The Throne Room

Revelation Chapter Four

Scene in Heaven

1. ¶ After ¹these things I looked, and behold, ²a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, ³like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “⁴Come up here, and I will ⁵show you what must take place after these things.” (The Rapture or immediately afterwards)
2. Immediately I was ⁶in the Spirit; and behold, ⁷a throne was standing in heaven, and ⁸One sitting on the throne.
3. And He who was sitting *was* like a ⁹jasper stone and a ¹⁰sardius in appearance; and *there was* a ¹¹rainbow around the throne, like an ¹²emerald in appearance.
4. ¹³Around the throne *were* ¹⁴twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones *I saw* ¹⁵twenty-four elders ¹⁶sitting, clothed in ¹⁷white garments, and ¹⁸golden crowns on their heads.

The Throne and Worship of the Creator

5. ¶ Out from the throne come ¹⁹flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* ²⁰seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are ²¹the seven Spirits of God;
6. and before the throne *there was something* like a ²²sea of glass, like crystal; and in the ²³center and ²⁴around the throne, ²⁵four living creatures ²⁶full of eyes in front and behind.
7. ²⁷The first creature *was* like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle.
8. And the ²⁸four living creatures, each one of them having ²⁹six wings, are ³⁰full of eyes around and within; and ³¹day and night ³²they do not cease to say, ¶ “³³HOLY, HOLY, HOLY is THE ³⁴LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, ³⁵WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO ³⁶IS TO COME.”
9. ¶ And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who ³⁷sits on the throne, to ³⁸Him who lives forever and ever,
10. the ³⁹twenty-four elders will ⁴⁰fall down before Him who ⁴¹sits on the throne, and will worship ⁴²Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their ⁴³crowns before the throne, saying,
11. ¶ “⁴⁴Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You ⁴⁵created all things, and because of Your will they ⁴⁶existed, and were created.”

Based on the details that we have been given, it appears that in Rev. 4:1, John is in the Spirit in the Throne Room. This means that somewhere between the ending of Chapter 3 and the beginning of Chapter 4, the Rapture has occurred. *“16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.”* (I Thes. 4:16-18)

There are many references throughout this study which help us to understand what is being conveyed.

John's experience in the Throne Room	Referenced in:	Meaning:
Rev. 4:1 “After ¹ these things I looked, and behold, ² a door <i>standing</i> open in heaven	Rev. 4:1 A door Rev. 11:19 The Temple God Rev. 15:5. Temple of the Tabernacle of Testimony Rev. 19:11 Heaven	This is the first of four openings in Heaven during the book of Revelation.
Rev. 4:1 “the first voice which I had heard, ³ like <i>the sound</i> of a trumpet speaking with me,”	Rev. 1:10 “and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,”	Jesus is speaking with John, leading him into the next phase of the vision.
Rev. 4:1b “and I will ⁵ show you what must take place after these things.”	Rev. 1:19 “Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.”	The intentionality of this vision requires that it is revealed. The Greek word <i>dei</i> is here and it means “necessary.”
Rev. 4:2 “Immediately I was ⁶ in the Spirit”	Rev. 1:10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day”	Though John was physically on the earth, he was translated in the Spirit, to another location.
Rev. 4:2 “a throne was standing in heaven, and ⁸ One sitting on the throne.		Sitting on the Throne at this point in the vision could only be God the Father. Jesus is currently escorting John and Holy Spirit has not been discussed.
Rev. 4:3 “And He who was sitting <i>was</i> like a ⁹ jasper stone and a ¹⁰ sardius in appearance”	Ex. 28:15, 17, 20 “You shall make a breastpiece of judgment,... first row shall be a row of ruby, topaz and emerald,... and the fourth row a beryl and an onyx and a jasper;”	The sardis and jasper stones are the first and last stones in the breast piece of the High Priest. This breast piece was used to hear from God. (Num. 27:21)

Rev. 4:3 “and <i>there was</i> a b l u rainbow around the throne, like an e m e r a l d in appearance”	Eze. 1:28 “As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.”	Both these verses reveal the majestic nature of God and the significance of the rainbow reveals His radiance.
Rev. 4:4 “ 13 Around the throne <i>were</i> 14 twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones <i>I saw</i> 15 twenty-four elders 16 sitting, clothed in 17 white garments, and 18 golden crowns on their heads.”	Eph. 2:15b,16 “that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross,”	The 24 Elders sitting on 24 thrones represent the church. Scholars believe that these are the 12 Tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles, both covenants of God, the latter engrafted into the former, making the two become one. The number 24 also represents the divisions of the priesthood, as seen in I Chr. 24:7-18, which further gives support for these Elders representing the church.
Rev. 4:5a “Out from the throne come 19 flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder”	Dan. 7:9c “His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire.”	This provide two descriptions of the magnificence of the Throne.
Rev. 4:5b “And <i>there were</i> 20 seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are 21 the seven Spirits of God;”	Rev. 1:4 “and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, Isa. 11:2 “The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.	The Spirit of the God, Holy Spirit, is always before the Throne of God and simultaneously within us, the Church or the Lampstands. He is omnipresent. His work as restrainer (II Thes. 2:7) will cease at the point of the Rapture, but He will continue to be active empowering preachers and convicting people of sin.
Rev. 4:6a “and before the throne <i>there was something</i> like a 22 sea of glass, like crystal”	Rev. 13:1 “Then I saw a beast coming up out of the sea, having ten horns”	Two seas are mentioned in the Book; one before the Throne and one from which the beast arises. They are completely opposite one another. One represents divine order & peace and the other, evil & chaos.

Rev. 4:6b “in the [c] center and 23 around the throne, 24 four living creatures 25 full of eyes in front and behind	Eze. 1:4-21 Eze. 10 Isa. 6:1-3	These creatures/cherubim are all very similar in description. They have a high ranking as angels, always in close proximity to the Throne. They are constantly in worship.
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The Believers Passage

When a believer dies, they immediately go through a process that takes them on a journey into the Throne Room. Based on scripture, the process is believed to be extremely quick (II Cor. 5:8). Once life has ended on this earth, the spirit and soul of a person goes to be with the Lord. (I Cor. 13:12; Eccl. 12:7) So at the moment of death, the body is left to return to the dust and the spirit and soul receive a glorified body (II Cor. 5:1-5).

In addition to receiving our glorified bodies, we also receive white robes (Rev. 3:5). The process is not over at this point. We still have to “*all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad* (II Cor. 5:10). “*Each man’s work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is to be revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man’s work. If any man’s work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. If any man’s work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire* (I Cor. 3:13-15).

In other words, we all have to appear before the Judgement seat and only what we have done for Christ will survive the fire. We won’t stand in condemnation, because there is no condemnation in Christ Jesus (Rom. 8:1). However, many will be disappointed, because a lifetime of work may mostly be consumed, based on what a person has accomplished. However, whatever the level of work that survives, there will be compensation for that. This *recompense* or compensation is in the form of crowns. (see below)

The Five Heavenly Crowns

There are five heavenly crowns mentioned in the New Testament that will be awarded to believers. They are the imperishable crown, the crown of rejoicing, the crown of righteousness, the crown of glory, and the crown of life. The Greek word translated “crown” is *stephanos* (the source for the name Stephen the martyr) and means “a badge of royalty, a prize in the public games or a symbol of honor generally.” Used during the ancient Greek games, it referred to a wreath or garland of leaves placed on a victor’s head as a reward for winning an athletic contest. As such, this word is used figuratively in the New Testament of the rewards of heaven God promises those who are faithful. Paul’s passage in [1 Corinthians 9:24-25](#) best defines for us how these crowns are awarded.

1) The Imperishable Crown – ([1 Corinthians 9:24-25](#)) “Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate [disciplined] in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown” (NKJV). All

things on this earth are subject to decay and will perish. Jesus urges us to not store our treasures on earth “where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal” ([Matthew 6:19](#)). This is analogous to what Paul was saying about that wreath of leaves that was soon to turn brittle and fall apart. But not so the heavenly crown; faithful endurance wins a heavenly reward which is “an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you” ([1 Peter 1:4](#)).

2) The Crown of Rejoicing – ([1 Thessalonians 2:19](#)) “For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?” The apostle Paul tells us in [Philippians 4:4](#) to “rejoice always in the Lord” for all the bountiful blessings our gracious God has showered upon us. As Christians we have more in this life to rejoice about than anyone else. Luke tells us there is rejoicing even now in heaven ([Luke 15:7](#)). The crown of rejoicing will be our reward where “God will wipe away every tear . . . there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away” ([Revelation 21:4](#)).

3) The Crown of Righteousness – ([2 Timothy 4:8](#)) “Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.” We inherit this crown through the righteousness of Christ which is what gives us a right to it, and without which it cannot be obtained. Because it is obtained and possessed in a righteous way, and not by force and deceit as earthly crowns sometimes are, it is an everlasting crown, promised to all who love the Lord and eagerly wait for His return. Through our enduring discouragements, persecutions, sufferings, or even death, we know assuredly our reward is with Christ in eternity ([Philippians 3:20](#)). This crown is not for those who depend upon their own sense of righteousness or of their own works. Such an attitude breeds only arrogance and pride, not a longing, a fervent desire to be with the Lord.

4) The Crown of Glory – ([1 Peter 5:4](#)) “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.” Though Peter is addressing the elders, we must also remember that the crown will be awarded to all those who long for or love His appearing. This word “glory” is an interesting word referring to the very nature of God and His actions. It entails His great splendor and brightness. Recall Stephen who, while being stoned to death, was able to look into the heavens and see the glory of God ([Acts 7:55-56](#)). This word also means that the praise and honor we bestow to God alone is due Him because of who He is ([Isaiah 42:8](#), [48:11](#); [Galatians 1:5](#)). It also recognizes that believers are incredibly blessed to enter into the kingdom, into the very likeness of Christ Himself. For as Paul so eloquently put it, “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” ([Romans 8:18 NKJV](#)).

5) The Crown of Life – ([Revelation 2:10](#)) “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.” This crown is for all believers, but is especially dear to those who endure sufferings, who bravely confront persecution for Jesus, even to the point of death. In Scripture the word “life” is often used to show a relationship that is right with

God. It was Jesus who said, “I have come that they may have life and that they may have it more abundantly” ([John 10:10](#)). Just as things such as air, food, and water are vital for our physical lives, Jesus provides us what is required for our spiritual lives. He is the One who provides “living water.” He is the “bread of life” ([John 4:10](#), [6:35](#)). We know that our earthly lives will end. But we have the amazing promise that comes only to those who come to God through Jesus: “And this is the promise that He has promised us—eternal life” ([1 John 2:25](#)).

James tells us that this crown of life is for all those who love God ([James 1:12](#)). The question then is how do we demonstrate our love for God? The apostle John answers this for us: “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome” ([1 John 5:3](#)). As His children we must keep His commandments, obeying Him, always remaining faithful. So, as we endure the inevitable trials, pains, heartaches, and tribulations—as long as we live—may we ever move forward, always “looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith” ([Hebrews 12:2](#)) and receive the crown of life that awaits us. (gotquestions.com)