

Lesson 10 – Revelation 4:1-11
The Church in _____

1. The Introduction (v1):

- a. Now we begin the third and final major section of the book: “the things which shall be hereafter” (1:19) or as it is stated in 4:1: “things which must be hereafter”:
 - 1) Part 1: The _____ Period – Chapters ____ - ____.
 - 2) Part 2: The _____ – Chapter ____.
 - 3) Part 3: The New _____ and the New _____ – Chapters ____ - ____.
- b. Chapters 4 and 5 serve as the _____ and _____ to the still future prophetic events predicted in the rest of the book.
- c. Since chapters 2-3 describe the types of churches that will exist throughout the church age, chapter 4 begins with those things that shall or must be hereafter – i.e., hereafter what preceded it - and what preceded chapter 4 was the typology of the church age. Therefore, the events described in chapter 4 and beyond take place after the end of the _____.

2. The Viewing of God’s Throne (v2-3):

- a. The throne in heaven represents “the sovereignty of God Here is the true picture of the universe as being subject to the dominion of an omnipotent God” (Walvoord, 104).
- b. Who was sitting upon the throne?
 - 1) “And he that sat was to look upon like ... a sardine stone”:
 - a) This bright red stone most likely refers to God’s _____ purpose.
 - b) This stone is the _____ of the twelve stones representing the twelve tribes of Israel, which were arrayed in four rows of three stones each on the breastplate of judgment (see Ex 28:17-21). As the _____ stone, it would represent the tribe of _____, which means “behold, a son.” “Like _____, Christ is the first begotten son” (Walvoord, 104).
 - 2) “And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper ... stone”:
 - a) Since this stone is described in Rev 21:11 as a precious stone that is clear as crystal, it is most likely referring to what we would call a _____ today.
 - b) The clarity of the stone is a reference to the _____ of God.

- c) This stone is also the _____ of the twelve stones on the breastplate of judgment (see Ex 28:17-21). As the _____ stone it would represent the tribe of _____, which means “son of my right hand” or “son of honor or good fortune.” “Like _____, Christ is also the son of my right hand in relation to God the Father” (Walvoord, 105).
- 3) Taken as a whole, it appears that “the two stones represented the first and the last and therefore may be regarded as including all the other stones in between, that is, the whole of the _____,” and, therefore, the person sitting on the throne in both chapters 4 and 5 is none other than “God the _____ ... in the special character of the God of _____” (Walvoord, 105), who, through His _____, will punish the _____ and deal with _____ one last time.
- c. Who is surrounding the throne?
- 1) “and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.”
- 2) Emerald is the _____ of the twelve stones on the breastplate of judgment (see Ex 28:17-21). As the _____ stone, it would represent the tribe of _____ from which the Messiah would come.
- 3) The Emerald colored rainbow surrounding the throne represents of presence of the _____ of _____ and the _____. He has made possible and will soon make quite evident as He brings to pass the fulfillment of all of God’s _____ made by Him to the nation of Israel.

3. The Twenty-Four Elders (v4):

- a. **Theory #1: They represent an order of _____.** If chapter 4 precedes the tribulation period and the final judgments that come at its conclusion, then these twenty-four elders, who have already been judged and received their victors’ crown, cannot be an order of _____. They will be judged by Christ and the Church _____ His Second Coming (see 1 Cor 6:3 and Rev 20:4).
- b. **Theory #2: They represent both _____ and _____ saints.** Twelve of the twenty-four would be representative of the twelve _____ of Israel – i.e., the _____ saints, and the other twelve would be representative of the twelve _____ – i.e., the _____ saints. The same problem described above applies here. According to Dan 12:1-2, it appears that the _____ saints will be resurrected and judged at the _____ of the tribulation period, yet all twenty-four of these elders have already been rewarded with their victors’ crown, which would seem to indicate that those represented here have already been judged (see James 1:12) and would, therefore, exclude the _____ saints.
- c. **Theory #3: They represent only the _____ – i.e., the _____ of Christ.**

- 1) Twenty-four is the biblical number for _____ – According to 1 Chron 24:1-18, David distributed the _____ among twenty-four of the descendants of Aaron. In 1 Pet 2:9, the Church is referred to as “a royal _____.”
- 2) Both “white raiment” and “a crown” are promised to the true members of the _____ – see Rev 2:10, 3:5, and 3:11.
- 3) Only the _____ is seen to be resurrected, judged and rewarded _____ to the Second Coming – see 1 Cor 15:51-54, 1 Cor 3:10-15, 2 Cor 5:10, and Rev 19:6-8. (This does not mean that the spirits and souls of the OT saints are not currently in heaven – see John 8:56 and Mark 12:26-27).
- 4) If this is not the raptured Church in heaven, then what has happened to it?
 - a) Why is the word church (Gr. ἐκκλησία - ekklesia) used 19 times in 18 verses in the first three chapters, but then it is not used again until 22:16?
 - b) The reason is found in 1 Thes 4:13-18.
 - 1] The word rapture is not found in the Bible. It comes from the Latin verb *raptio* used to translate the Greek verb ἁρπαγησόμεθα (harpagesometha - “we shall be caught up”) in 1 Thes 4:17.
 - 2] It is not the same as the _____ (i.e., 1 Thes 4:13-18 is not the same as Matt 24:29-31 and Rev 19:11-21):
 - a] The Lord comes in the _____ (i.e. His feet do not touch down on the earth) vs. coming to the _____ (i.e. to the Mount of Olives from which He left – Acts 1:11).
 - b] The heavenly elevator is going _____ vs. coming _____.
 - c] Those who witness this event _____ understand the truth of what has happened (see 2 Thes 2:10-12) vs. those who witness the Second Coming will _____ understand what is happening (see Matt 24:30 & Zech 12:10).
 - d] The signs mentioned in Matt 24:29 are _____ in 1 Thes 4:13-18.
 - e] The Jewish _____ custom which Jesus used to describe His relationship with the Church strongly supports the doctrine of the rapture of the Church – John 14:1-3.
- 5) The Tribulation is a time of the outpouring of the _____ of God (Rev 6:17) and the Church is exempt from _____:

- a) Rev 3:10 contains Christ's promise to His faithful Church that it will be kept out of the hour of trouble.
- b) 1 Thes 1:10 – “And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”
- c) 1 Thes 5:9 – “For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ”
- 6) The _____ and _____ of the Book of Revelation best supports a pre-tribulation rapture: the Church is in heaven at the beginning of chapter 4 where it remains throughout the tribulation period in fulfillment of Christ's promise to keep it protected and away from the wrath being poured out on the earth, and then it is seen in chapter 19 returning to earth with Christ at the end of the tribulation period.
- 7) With the church age complete, God can now turn His attention back to _____ and the fulfillment of His _____ to them, which is one of the two main purposes being achieved by the events recorded in this prophecy. The other being God's wrath being poured out on all aspects of this evil world.

4. The Seven Spirits of God (v5):

- a. Since the _____ is not ordinarily humanly visible unless embodied in some way, such as the _____ at Jesus' baptism and _____ on the day of Pentecost, “the seven lamps of fire therefore are the means by which John is informed of the presence of the _____” (Walvoord, 108).
- b. As stated in previous lessons, “the seven Spirits of God” is a reference to the perfection of the _____ as depicted by the seven characteristics revealed in Isa 11:2-3.
- c. Please notice that all three persons of the Godhead are present at the same time in this heavenly scene. The Father is _____ upon the throne; the Son is _____ the throne; and the Holy Spirit is _____ before the throne. What an amazing sight this must have been!
- d. As in Ex 19:16, thunderings, lightnings, and the voice as of a trumpet signify that a _____ of God is about to take place. They announce that a _____ is about to take place!

5. The Four Living Creatures (v6-8):

- a. **Theory #1: They represent the _____ or _____ of God:**

- 1) The many eyes front and back would be symbolic of God's _____ and _____ – i.e., the God who sees all and knows all.

- 2) The four living creatures would represent different aspects of His divine _____:
 - a) “The lion is the king of beasts and represents _____ and _____” (Walvoord, 109-110).
 - b) “The calf or ox, representing the most important of domestic animals, signifies _____ and continuous _____” (Walvoord, 110).
 - c) “Man is the greatest of all God’s creatures, especially in _____ and rational _____” (Walvoord, 110).
 - d) The “eagle is greatest among birds and is symbolic of _____ and _____” (Walvoord, 110).
- 3) Why would the attributes of God be portrayed as actually worshipping God as these four living creatures are in 4:8-9 and 5:8-14? The seven lamps of fire which represent the seven characteristics of the Holy Spirit as revealed in Isa 11:2-3 are not portrayed as worshipping the Father or the Holy Spirit. This theory doesn’t seem to fit the picture being portrayed.

b. Theory #2: They are four _____:

- 1) They each have six wings as do the _____ of Isa 6:2-3.
- 2) The _____ of Isa 6 were also assigned the function of ascribing holiness to God as are these four living creatures.
- 3) The fact that there are four of them (the biblical number for creation or the _____) and that they have a total of twenty-four wings (the biblical number for the _____) seems to indicate that they are _____ of the _____ and, as such, will be used by Him to _____ the _____ of evil. This conclusion is supported in chapter 6 by the fact that Jesus uses the four living creatures in sequential order to _____ the first four seal judgments.
- 4) No explanation is given in the text as to the meaning or purpose of the sea of glass. One thing is for certain; it would serve to _____ God’s glory in heaven like a giant mirror would _____ the glory of the sun.

6. The Worship He So Rightfully Deserves (v9-11):

- a. The four living creatures worship Him for _____ He is.
- b. The twenty-four elders add to the worship the recognition of _____ He has done.
 - 1) They acknowledge His unmatched power as the sovereign _____ of all things.

- 2) By falling down before Him and casting their victors' crowns before His throne, they are _____ and paying homage to the fact that their _____ over sin and death came _____ through Him. If not for His _____ and _____, they know that they would not be a part of this heavenly portrait.

7. Conclusion:

- a. This chapter is a fitting introduction to the third and final section of the book. The raptured _____ is seen in heaven _____ the One who has given them _____ over sin and death and _____ from the wrath that is about to come.
- b. It also serves as an awesome reminder of how “wise is the soul who finds in the Scriptures the revelation of such a God and who _____ now in this day of grace in faith and worship before the God whom he will serve in eternity” (Walvoord, 112).