

A STUDY OF REVELATION

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PART X THE HEAVENLY SCENE: GOD'S THRONE

Revelation 4:1-11

INTRODUCTION

Chapter four is a great change in the revelation of Jesus to John. The messages to the churches having been given, the scene changes to one in heaven. Still, it is important to remember that all of the revelation is to be written in a book and delivered to the churches. Churches of our Lord Jesus are born-again, baptized, obedient people who have the Pentecostal baptism of the Holy Spirit to aid them in interpreting and understanding God's Word. While churches may not agree on every detail of the revelation, its general import is understood as far removed from so many hair-brained ideas that false churches and self-styled apostles attribute to it.

There seems little, if any, justified reason to believe John's displacement into heaven is indicative of the general rapture of the saints. It more forcefully appears that John is caught up into heaven for the sole purpose of witnessing events as they lead up to the rapture and the Great Tribulation as well as events that shall transpire into the final heaven age.

I. THE DISPLACEMENT OF JOHN, 4:1-2a.

- A. A door is opened in heaven.
 - 1. This is envisioned as being up
 - 2. But physical location seems unimportant.
 - 3. Rather a door opened into a different dimension.
- B. The first voice beckoned.
 - 1. It resembled a trumpet.
 - 2. It is identified as Jesus, Rev. 1:10-11.
 - 3. It promised to show things to come hereafter.
- C. John was transported by personal transition.

II. THE HEAVENLY SCENE, Rev. 4:2b-8.

- A. One sitting upon a throne, V. 2b.
 - 1. He is like unto Jasper and Sardine stone in appearance.
 - a. this is a hue of purple and red.
 - b. It seems the best man's inadequate language can do in describing the Almighty God.
 - 2. A rainbow is round about the throne, V. 3.
 - a. The rainbow is a symbol of God's covenant with man.
 - b. It is a testimony that God is a covenant making, keeping God.
- B. There are twenty-four seats about the throne, v. 4.
 - 1. Twenty-four elders are sitting there.
 - a. They are clothed in white raiment – the righteousness of saints.
 - b. They wore crowns of gold, indicative of accomplishments, II Tim 4:8.

2. Why twenty-four?
 - a.. Twenty-four is two times twelve, the number of governmental perfection..
 - b. God has instituted two divine governments on earth – Israel & the church.
 - c. These elders are representative of these two governments.
- C. Further activity about the throne, v. 5.
 1. Lightenings, thunderings, voices.
 - a. These are often used in the Old Testament.
 - b. They indicate judgment.
 - c. These are judgments to be unleashed on earth.
 2. Seven lamps of fire.
 - a. These are before the throne.
 - b. They are identified as the seven spirits of God.
 - c. Seven is the number of complete perfection, thus they speak of the complete power and abilities of the Spirit of God.
- D. The sea of glass, v. 6.
 1. This is also before the throne.
 2. It is likened unto crystal.
 3. It is suggested that this is the earth.
- E. Four living creatures, v. 6-8.
 1. They are about and in the midst of the throne.
 2. Full of eyes before and behind suggests discernment esp. spiritual.
 3. The ensigns of the tribes of Israel & their encampment about Tabernacle.
 - a. The first is as a lion. Judah, Issachar, Zebulun (E) Side
 - b. The second is as a calf. Ephraim, Manasseh, Benjamin (W) Side
 - c. The third is as a man. Reuben, Simeon, Gad (S) Side
 - d. The fourth is as a flying eagle. Dan, Asher, Naphtali (N) Side
 3. Each had six wings.
 4. They praised God continuously.
 5. These living creatures are not easily identified.
 - a. They may have to do with Israel as they are the ensigns of their banners.
 - b. They may represent four types of flesh that dwell on the land.
 - c. They appear to be what Ezekiel called cherubim. Eze 1 & 10.

III. THE PURPOSE OF THE LIVING CREATURES AND ELDERS, v. 9-11.

- A. They glorify God at His throne, V. 9.
- B. The elders follow the actions of the creatures.
 1. They cast crowns before the throne.
 2. All their honor is due to him.
 3. They ascribe creation acts to God, V. 11.