

## Things to Come #6 The Throne Room

### I. Introduction

As the vision of the judgments to come (seven scrolls, trumpets and bowls) begins, John is given a view of the royal throne room of God.

Chapters 4 and 5 are two parts of the same vision and they are the prologue to the breaking of the seven seals.

### II. "Come Up Here and I will show you what must take place after this" (vs. 1)

- A. A Special note: Paul was transported into the "third heaven" in II Corinthians 12, but he was forbidden to speak of what he saw.

1<sup>st</sup> heaven: the earth's atmosphere (Deut. 11:17, 28:12)

2<sup>nd</sup> heaven: outer space-sun, moon, stars (Ps. 19:4, 6 Jer. 8:2)

3<sup>rd</sup> heaven: where God dwells (I Kings 8:27-30, Ps. 2:4, Matt. 5:16)

- B. Ezekiel and Isaiah also wrote of the throne room scene (Eze. 1:1-28 and Isa. 6)

- C. Note that the church is not mention from chapter 4 through chapter 22. I believe this is the occasion of the rapture of the church. In my opinion, this scene in the throne room "forms the prologue to the future historical events (the tribulation, millennial kingdom and the eternal state)." (MacArthur)

Take a look at the attached chart.

### III. The throne of God (mentioned 11 times in this chapter)

- A. Who is on the throne?

John does not try to describe the transcendent almighty God who sits on the throne. (See Isa. 6:1, I Kings 22:19, Eze. 1:26-28, Dan. 7:9-10 and Psalm 47:8.)

Consider the three stones: Jasper, Ruby and Emerald-All found on the breast piece of the High Priest...suggesting His glory and majesty. (See Ex. 28:17-20)

- B. What is going on around the throne? a rainbow and 24 thrones for the 24 elders (Consider Micaiah's vision in I Kings 22:19)

The 24 elders: Some see these as angelic beings. Others suggest that they represent the OT saints. Some see a combination of OT patriarchs and NT apostles. I see them as men. (This term is always used for men.) The number 24 is used to suggest completeness and they seem to represent all of mankind. (There were 24 courses of the Levitical priests and 24 divisions of singers)

They are redeemed (white garments) and are given crowns (I Cor. 9:25, II Tim. 4:8, James 1:12 and I Peter 5:4)

They are “fully participating in the worship of God.” (Smalley)

- C. What comes from the throne? flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder (These are associated with almighty God’s presence. See Ex. 19:16)
- D. What stands before the throne?
  1. 7 lamps that are different than those in chapter 1. These are outdoor torches.
  2. 7 spirits that describe the full representation of the Holy Spirit (see Isa. 11:2 and Zech. 4:1-10)
  3. The sea of glass (See what Moses and the elders saw in Ex. 24:10).

- E. Who is in the center and around the throne?

The 4 living creatures (See Eze. 1:4-25 and Isa. 6): the lion, the calf, the one with a face like a man and the flying eagle.

They have “eyes in front and behind (very aware and alert to do God’s bidding). They have “six wings” suggesting that they are constantly in motion and able to worship God.

These cherubim (angels) are the “divine war machine” that God will use to unleash His judgment in the coming chapters.

- F. What is directed toward the throne? Worship!

There are 5 hymns in chapters 4 and 5: 4:8, 11, 5:9-10, 12, 13. The first two are addressed to God, then two to the Lamb and the last one to both of them. Note the “build up” of who is singing. By chapter 5, verse 3 where every creature praises God forever.

There are other hymns in Revelation: See 7:12, 15-17; 11:15, 17-18; 12: 10-12; 15:3-4; 16:5-7; 18:2-8; 19:2-6.

“Holy, holy, holy:” In Hebrew, a double repetition adds emphasis; a threefold expression is a superlative.

## **IV. So What?**

Let’s consider our own personal worship: Our posture, the timing of the devotion, dealing with distractions, the content (God’s word, devotionals, bible studies), the use of music and our focus of prayer.