

Revelation Chapter 4 - The Throne of God

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Introduction

“Witness the awe-inspiring throne room of God as revealed in Revelation 4 and 5—a vision filled with glory, living beings, and eternal worship. Discover how the Lamb of God, both slain and triumphant, is found worthy to open the scroll and fulfill God’s ultimate purpose for all creation.”

From Intro to ABC Class 35: World News & Prophecy - Revelation 4-5

There are other visions of the throne of God throughout the bible.

Plus we have the admonition to Moses to build things as per the pattern he saw, both in the OT and in Hebrews:

Exodus 25:40 NKJV - "And see to it that you make [them] according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

Exodus 26:30 NKJV - "And you shall raise up the tabernacle according to its pattern which you were shown on the mountain.

Exodus 27:8 NKJV - "You shall make it hollow with boards; as it was shown you on the mountain, so shall they make [it].

Numbers 8:4 NKJV - Now this workmanship of the lampstand [was] hammered gold; from its shaft to its flowers it [was] hammered work. According to the pattern which the LORD had shown Moses, so he made the lampstand.

Acts 7:44 NKJV - "Our fathers had the tabernacle of witness in the wilderness, as He appointed, instructing Moses to make it according to the pattern that he had seen,

Hebrews 8:5 NKJV - who serve the copy and shadow of the heavenly things, as Moses was divinely instructed when he was about to make the tabernacle. For He said, "See [that] you make all things according to the pattern shown you on the mountain."

Hebrews 9:23 NKJV - Therefore [it was] necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

*Hebrews 9:24 NKJV - **For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, [which are] copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;***

Other visions:

Daniel 7:

Daniel 7:9 NKJV - "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment [was] white as snow, And the hair of His head [was] like pure wool. His throne [was] a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

Daniel 7:10 NKJV - A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The court was seated, And the books were opened.

Daniel 7:13 NKJV - "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, [One] like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

Daniel 7:14 NKJV - Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion [is] an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom [the one] Which shall not be destroyed.

Isaiah 6:1 NKJV - In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His [robe] filled the temple.

Hebrews shows the temple was patterned after heaven.
But only a shadow of what is in heaven.

Heaven is the reality.

Isaiah 6:2 NKJV - Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Seraphim = angelic realm - powerful angels.

Isaiah 6:3 NKJV - And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy [is] the LORD of hosts; The whole earth [is] full of His glory!"

Isaiah 6:4 NKJV - And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.

Why would God present this dramatic picture of the throne of God at this point..
In the book of Revelation? Why not get straight to the prophecies He was about to reveal?

My personal perspective on this is that God wanted to give us a vivid picture of His throne. He wants us to understand and comprehend how glorious His throne is. And to give us motivation and inspiration to continue to "seek His kingdom and righteousness". He wants us to visualize the family He has called us to be a part of. And it is truly an amazing and AWESOME calling!

Commentator Warren Wiersbe makes the following observation:

"Before God pours out His wrath, He gives us a glimpse into glory and permits us to hear the **worshipping** of creatures in heaven as they praise God. ... The key word in this chapter is *throne*. It is used 14 times. In fact, this is a key word in the entire book, appearing forty-six times. **No matter what may happen on earth, God is on His throne and is in complete control.**"

So Wiersbe makes the point that we need to be worshipping God as the angels in Heaven do.

<i>Revelation 4:1 NKJV - After these things I</i>	<i>Revelation 4:1 NLT - Then as I looked, I saw</i>
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<i>looked, and behold, a door [standing] open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard [was] like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."</i>	<i>a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this."</i>
<i>Revelation 4:2 NKJV - Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and [One] sat on the throne.</i>	<i>Revelation 4:2 NLT - And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it.</i>
<i>Revelation 4:3 NKJV - And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and [there was] a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.</i>	<i>Revelation 4:3 NLT - The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones--like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow.</i>
This is God the Father, as we see the Lamb approach him in chapter 5:6	
<i>Revelation 4:4 NKJV - Around the throne [were] twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.</i>	<i>Revelation 4:4 NLT - Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads.</i>
<i>Revelation 4:5 NKJV - And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire [were] burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.</i>	<i>Revelation 4:5 NLT - From the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. And in front of the throne were seven torches with burning flames. This is the sevenfold Spirit of God.</i>
<i>Revelation 4:6 NKJV - Before the throne [there was] a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, [were] four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.</i>	<i>Revelation 4:6 NLT - In front of the throne was a shiny sea of glass, sparkling like crystal. In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back.</i>
This reminds me of seeing the sun brilliantly reflecting off the Flathead Lake, reflecting the sun like crystals, or how snow shimmers in the sunlight.	
<i>Revelation 4:7 NKJV - The first living creature [was] like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature [was] like a flying eagle.</i>	<i>Revelation 4:7 NLT - The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight.</i>
<i>Revelation 4:8 NKJV - [The] four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"</i>	<i>Revelation 4:8 NLT - Each of these living beings had six wings, and their wings were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day after day and night after night they keep on saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty--the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come."</i>

<i>Revelation 4:9 NKJV - Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,</i>	<i>Revelation 4:9 NLT - Whenever the living beings give glory and honor and thanks to the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever),</i>
Notice how they are worshipping God - giving glory and honor and thanks. Setting an example for us. Psalm 95:1 NKJV - Oh come, let us sing to the LORD! Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation. Psalm 95:2 NKJV - Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving; Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms. Psalm 95:3 NKJV - For the LORD [is] the great God, And the great King above all gods. Psalm 95:6 NKJV - Oh come, let us worship and bow down; Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker. Psalm 95:8 NKJV - "Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, As [in] the day of trial in the wilderness, Psalm 100:1 NKJV - A Psalm of Thanksgiving. Make a joyful shout to the LORD, all you lands! Psalm 100:2 NKJV - Serve the LORD with gladness; Come before His presence with singing. Psalm 100:3 NKJV - Know that the LORD, He [is] God; [It is] He [who] has made us, and not we ourselves; [We are] His people and the sheep of His pasture. Psalm 100:4 NKJV - Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, [And] into His courts with praise. Be thankful to Him, [and] bless His name. Psalm 100:5 NKJV - For the LORD [is] good; His mercy [is] everlasting, And His truth [endures] to all generations.	
<i>Revelation 4:10 NKJV - the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:</i>	<i>Revelation 4:10 NLT - the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,</i>
<i>Revelation 4:11 NLT - "<u>You are worthy</u>, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased."</i>	<i>Revelation 4:11 NLT - "You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased."</i>

From Barclay's Daily Study Bible:

How did John himself think of the symbolism of these living creatures? We think that Swete offers the right explanation. The four living creatures stand for everything that is noblest, strongest, wisest and swiftest in nature. Each has the preeminence in his own particular sphere. The lion is supreme among beasts; the ox is supreme among cattle; the eagle is supreme among birds; and man is supreme among all creatures. **The beasts represent all the greatness and the strength and the beauty of nature; here we see nature praising God.** In the verses to follow we see the twenty-four elders praising God; and when we put the two pictures together we get the picture of both nature and man engaged in constant adoration of God. "The ceaseless activity of nature under the hand of God is a ceaseless tribute of praise."

The idea of nature praising God is one which occurs in the Old Testament more than once. "The heavens are telling the glory of God; and the firmament proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours forth speech and night to night declares knowledge" (Psa_19:1-2). "Bless the Lord all his works in all places of his dominion" (Psa_103:22). Psa_148:1-14 is a magnificent summons to the whole of nature to join in praising God.

There is a tremendous truth here. The basic idea behind this is that anything which is fulfilling the function for which it was created is praising God. One of the basic conceptions of Stoicism was that in everything there was a spark of God, scintilla. "God," said Seneca, "is near you, with you, within you; a holy spirit sits within us." As Gilbert Murray points out, the sceptics laughed at this and sought to make a fool of the whole idea. "What," said the sceptic, "God in worms? God in dung beetles?" "Why not?" demanded the Stoic.

Cannot an earthworm serve God? Do you suppose that it is only a general who is a good soldier? Cannot the lowest private fight his best? **Happy are you, if you are serving God and carrying out his purpose as faithfully as an earthworm. Whatever carries out the function for which it was created is thereby worshipping God.**

This is a thought which opens out the most magnificent vistas. The humblest and the most unseen activity in the world can be the true worship of God. Work and worship literally become one. Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy him for ever; and man carries out that function when he does what God sent him into the world to do. Work well done rises like a hymn of praise to God.

This means that the doctor on his rounds, the scientist in his laboratory, the teacher in his classroom, the musician at his music, the artist at his canvas, the shop assistant at his counter, the typist at her typewriter, the housewife in her kitchen--all who are doing the work of the world as it should be done are joining in a great act of worship.

Conclusion:

Even as we are on the cusp of so many prophetic end time events being fulfilled, which are horrific and troubling, we can be at peace, knowing God is on His throne and is in charge. And at the same time we can and should praise God for all He has done for us, and especially for giving us the knowledge of His way and the hope that comes from knowing His plan.

Additional Resources:

<https://www.ucg.org/course/ambassador-bible-college/world-news-prophecy-daniel-and-revelation/35-world-news-prophecy-revelation-4-5>