



Session 11 | Revelation 4:1-11 | The Throne Room of God

BEHOLD, A THRONE | REVELATION 4:1-3

- Verse 1 –
 - "These things" were indicated in Rev. 1:19. Since the entirety of the revelation is in "the day of the Lord," "these things" are both future and take place sometime after the seven churches are established.
 - The door was already opened when John looked.
 - If this is the voice of Rev. 1:10, then this quote should be in "red letters."
- Verse 2 –
 - "In the Spirit" - The Greek has no definite article. The capitalization of "Spirit" (NASB) is questionable.
 - "a throne was standing" - KJV is more accurate with "was set." The word is the same word used for burial (and the English word *cemetery* comes from this Greek word, *keimai*. This is a verb, indicating that something had been set for the occasion.
 - "One sitting on the throne" - The "One" should be italicized (NASB), but is almost required for English.
 - The picture is of a throne being carried in, with one sitting on the throne, and John watching the action.
 - God on His throne is a picture of judgment. Compare Psalm 11:4-7 to this chapter.
- Verse 3 –
 - Jasper – a translucent stone (such as a diamond)
 - Sardis – a red stone (such as a ruby)
 - Rainbow - The Greek word is *iris*, from which we get the name for the colored circle around the pupil of the eye, and also "iridescent" and "iridium." This rainbow is also seen in Ezek. 1:28.

PROXIMITY OF THE THRONE | REVELATION 4:4-11

- Verse 4 –
 - Twenty-four elders – Angelic or human?
 - Aspects in favor of the elders being human:
 - The twelve apostles will sit upon thrones in the earthly Kingdom (Mt. 19:28)

- There will be "saints who judge the world" who sit on thrones (Daniel 7:22, 1 Cor 6:2, Rev. 20:4)
 - Aspects in favor of the elders being angelic:
 - It appears that these 24 Elders will worship God the Father "forever and ever," making it impossible for them to leave the throne room of Heaven for the throne room of earth.
 - They present the prayers of God's people to the Father (5:8), which seems to be an angelic role in 8:3.
 - They speak to John, something only done by angelic beings in Revelation (5:5)
 - They appear to be counted with the angelic beings (5:11)
 - They distinguish themselves from the bond-servants of God (11:18)
 - 1 Chronicles 28:11-14 suggests that the 24 courses of the Priesthood was set up after this pattern.
- Verse 5 –
 - These are not "menorahs" but the lamp, which sits atop the menorah (Exodus 25:37).
 - In Zech. 4:10 and Rev. 5:6 the lamps, which are the Spirits, are also "the eyes of the Lord."
- Verse 6 –
 - Comparing with Ezekiel 1:5-14 and 10:20, these are Cherubim (also seen in Genesis 3:24. These living creatures are held distinct from angels (Rev. 5:11)
- Verse 7 –
 - KJV translates *zoan* as "beast," NASB as "creature." These are clearly indescribable.
 - Since they are *cherubim*, a word that is always untranslated, it would not be out of question to simply call these, *zoan*.
- Verse 10 –
 - The Greek *proskuneo* is literally, "toward a dog," giving reference to the manner in which a dog would, with loyalty, kiss his master's feet.
 - The throne room in heaven is one of worship, even in the face of the coming judgment.