## THE REVELATION

## The Throne of God

Revelation 4:1-11

In today's message we want to come back to Revelation 4 and look closely at this passage. One of the questions that puzzles us is: "Is this a dream-like vision, an eyes open revelation into the unseen world, or an actual journey into the 3rd heaven (2 Cor 12:2) where God dwells in His manifest presence?"

- I. An Open Door to the Throne (4:1-2)
  - A. Two things are happening:
    - 1. John is summoned to heaven to God's throne (and is in awe-struck wonder)
    - 2. John is called up for a purpose: to see the things that must take place after this
  - B. The open door—our access to the throne
  - C. Our place in the heavenlies
- II. The Appearance of God on the Throne (4:3-8a)
  - A. The One on the throne is red, like jasper and carnelian
  - B. Around the throne
    - 1. an emerald like rainbow
    - 24 elders in white robes with golden crowns around th throne
    - 3. the power of a violent thunderstorm underneath
    - 4. 7 flaming torches representing the seven-fold Spirit of God
    - 5. the crystal-like sea of glass
- III. The Living Beings Around the Throne (4:3-8a)
  - A. The 4 living Creatures
    - 1. full of eyes—seeing all around
    - 2. each having a different face (lion, ox, human, flying eagle)
    - 3. each with six wings
    - 4. praising God continually
  - B. The 24 Elders
  - C. Tens of thousands of angels (5:11)
  - D. Redeemed of all the ages (5:13)
- IV. A Hymn of Praise (4:8b-11)
  - A. Glory, honor, thanks, B. Glory, honor, power C. The Creator God

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

- 1. What do you think? A vision? The veil is pulled back on the heavenly reality around us? John is called up into the 3rd heaven where God's dwells in His manifest presence.
- 2. What do the colors symbolize?
- 3. What does the thunderstorm beneath the throne symbolize?
- What do the four living creatures represent?
- 5. What about the twenty-four elders? Who are they?
- 6. Why do you suppose John was called into the revelation of God's manifest presence to receive the revelation of the things to come?

	NOTES
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