

A Door Standing Open in Heaven

~ Revelation 4: 1-6a ~

Introduction:

Have you ever wanted to see into Heaven? To see a loved one who has gone there!

Few people have ever had the opportunity to see into Heaven:

Daniel - Sealed what he saw; Paul - 3rd Heaven - Unspeakable; John on the Isle of Patmos - He gets to write about it!

“Behold, a door standing open in heaven”

“The first voice which I heard, like the sound of trumpets speaking with me” → Come up here.

“I will show you what must take place after these things!” ←

Return to the outline in 1:19.

Everything is prophetic from here to the end.

The Thrones of Heaven - (4-5)

The Events of the Great Tribulation (6-18)

Second Coming of Jesus (19)

The Millennial Reign - Victory - Judgment (20)

The New Heaven and Earth - Jerusalem (21-22:9)

Final Words (22:10-21)

Before God pours out His wrath, He gives a glimpse into His glory and permits us to see and hear the worship of Him!

“I was in the Spirit” - (Body on earth - “Spirit joined with the Spirit of God”)

I. One sitting on the throne - God, the Father

Like jasper - Like a diamond - Sardius - Ruby red in color - Rainbow around the throne - Not a semi-circle but a circle

→ The mercy of God but also a covenant-keeping God!

Emerald - green in appearance!

*A sea of glass like crystal - Reflective Glory!

II. The 24 Thrones - Elders

Lesser thrones - sitting around the Father

Who are these?

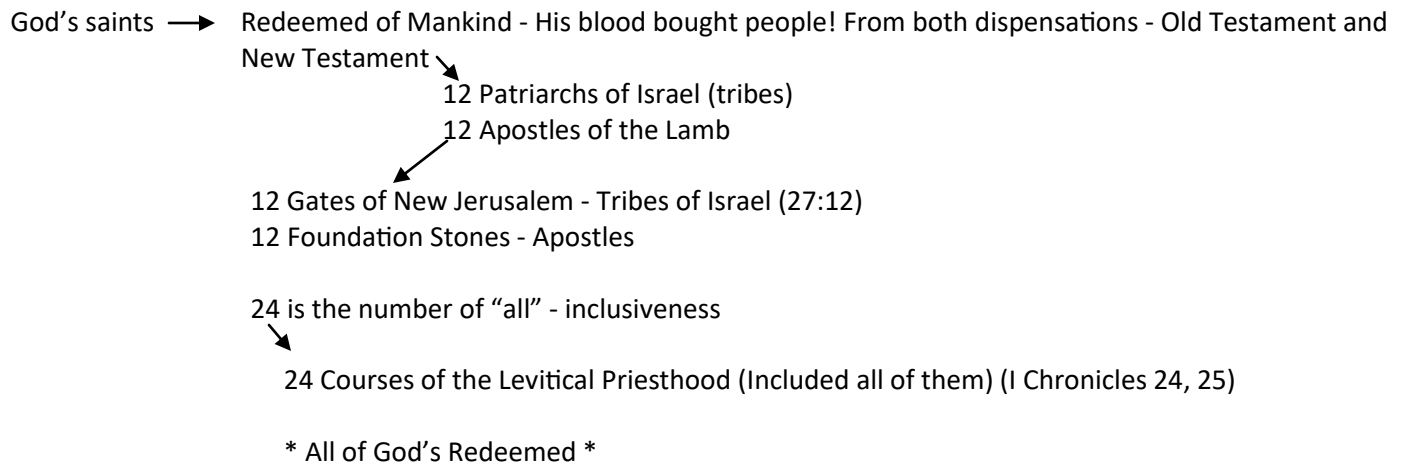
Not spirits - (1) Clothed; (2) Crowned; (3) Seated

Not angels - (1) Never numbered; (2) Never crowned; (3) Not redeemed

(5:9 - These elders are sinful people who were redeemed.)

The Year of the Revelation

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How are they described:

- (1) Sitting - (not standing or waiting) - They have completed their journey! They have been judged and rewarded!
- (2) Clothed in White - The raiment of the redeemed!
- (3) Golden Crowns - "Stephanos" -vs- "Diadem"
Crown of the victor -vs- crown of the sovereign ruler

III. The Activity Around the Throne

- (1) Flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder
↓
Announcing the Judgment of God
- (2) 7 Lamps of Fire Burning before them - The testing - Purifying work of God!

IV. Where are the redeemed at the beginning of chapter 4?

In Heaven Before the Throne

Previous Chapters:

The Lamb is seen walking among
the lampstands (His Church)

Now:

Jesus, the Lamb is seen on the throne with
His Father in Heaven

(The church is in Heaven - watching the Lamb
break the seals)

The church never appears on earth again until
Chapter 19 when they come with Jesus.)