



THE ONE ENTHRONED

BIBLE STUDY ON REVELATION 4

1. If the troubles of the world are a stormy ocean, what “troubled seas” do you see around the world?

2. God Enthroned

Read Revelation 4:1-3. The One enthroned in heaven is pictured encircled by a rainbow. The appearance of everything is described by way of precious stones - jasper, ruby, emerald.

How do each of these passages help explain the imagery?

Ezekiel 28:13

Exodus 28:17-21

Ezekiel 1:27-28

Genesis 9:8-13

3. The People Represented

Read Revelation 4:4-5. The twenty-four elders represent all the Lord’s people throughout the ages – from Ancient Israel (12 tribes) to the Church (12 apostles). Just as we notice the elders, the appearance of the throne flashes and thunders the way it did at the time of the Exodus, as a reminder of the great redemption of the Lord’s people (Exodus 20:18). What significance do you see in:

WHERE the elders are situated

around the throne
along with the seven lamps

What they WEAR

white robes
gold crowns

What they are DOING

seated
enthroned

3. Ultimate Reality

Think it through. Going only from these first five verses, think about what Revelation 4 is asserting about the ultimate realities that lie behind the world we know. How would you summarise the message? If this is reality, why do we need a revelation in order to “see” it?

4. God and His Creation

To understand the next section of Revelation 4, first read **Daniel 7:1-7**, and recall the apocalyptic vision once given to that ancient prophet. The number four represents the creation order and its creatures. The sea represents the forces of chaos and disorder. Daniel saw the sea churned up by the four great winds, and four terrifying beasts rising up from the sea. Each beast represents a disturbing distortion and disordering of creation, and a menacing threat to humanity. It is a creation under curse. Now consider the vision of **Isaiah 6:1-4**, where this ancient prophet saw the true and eternal worship of God. It is a positive picture of how things “should be”, and really are.

Now read Revelation 4:5-11.

In what ways can you see John’s vision as a resolution to the visions in Daniel and Isaiah?

5. Look Closer

Notice the details in verses 9 to 11, especially the worship by the elders. What significance do you see in: (i) the connection between the willing worship of the living creatures and the willing worship of the elders (v9, “whenever...”); (ii) the phrase “they lay their crowns before the altar” (v10); and (iii) the words the elders choose by which to acclaim and praise God (v11).

6. We Sure Need This

In this context, what does it mean to proclaim God as “Holy, Holy, Holy”? Why is this vision of God and His Creation so important for us to see? Why is it a blessing (cf 1:3)?

7. “Holy Holy Holy” - Let the words of the great old hymn, direct your heart to worship...

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy! all the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim, falling down before Thee
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be

Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy, there is none beside Thee,
Perfect in power, in love, and purity

Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise Thy name
in earth and sky and sea
Holy, holy, holy! merciful and mighty
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity



LISTEN