

Weekly Study Guide | January 5, 2025

The Throne in Heaven

Text: [Revelation 4:1-11](#)

1 After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a *throne* in heaven with someone sitting on it. 3 And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the *throne*. 4 Surrounding the *throne* were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 From the *throne* came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the *throne*, seven lamps were blazing. These are the sevenfold spirit of God. 6 Also in front of the *throne* there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the *throne*, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.” 9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the *throne* and who lives for ever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the *throne* and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the *throne* and say: 11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Supporting Verses: [Isaiah 6:1-5](#); [2 Corinthians 12:1-10](#); [Ezekiel 1:10, 10:14](#); [Daniel 7:9](#); [Hebrews 8:1-6](#)

Questions:

1. What stands out to you in the verses above? What do you notice? What is being described? What seems to be the main theme of this passage? What word is repeated?
2. What do you think is the significance of the “open door in heaven”? What does it mean to be “in the spirit”? What kind of beings are there? What are they doing?
3. What can you deduce is the primary message being communicated in Revelation chapter 4? Does this impact your life? Should it? How?

4. Share a few takeaways from this lesson. What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How can it help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make to your daily walk with Christ?

For later: Please take time to prayerfully reflect on how this lesson relates to you. What did you learn? What are some personal takeaways and insights you gained? What is a practical way you can apply this to your life? How will this help strengthen your relationship with God? What difference will this make in your life? Is there anything you need to change in light of this lesson?

Summary: The main word in chapter 4 is “throne.” This word appears eleven times in the eleven verses of the chapter. Everything in this chapter happens in and around the throne. In addition to God who sits “on” the throne (Rev 4:2, 4, 6, 9, 10), we read about things:

- In the midst of the throne (Rev 4:6)
- Before the throne (Rev 4:5, 6, 10)
- All around the throne (Rev 4:3, 4, 6)
- Coming out from the throne (Rev 4:5)

The term “throne” is drawn from the governmental language of the time. The person who sits on a throne has the legal authority to rule over some territory or a nation. Revelation 4 depicts the governing center of the universe, and the throne is the symbol of God’s authority to rule the universe. That authority is grounded in creation for God is counted worthy to sit on the throne and govern the universe because He created all things (Rev 4:11).

There are four major throne scenes in the Old Testament. Revelation 4 strongly alludes to the throne scene of Ezekiel 1. But the description of the four living creatures (Rev 4:6-7) and the “holy, holy, holy” (Rev 4:8) refer to the throne vision in Isaiah 6. We find another major throne scene in Daniel 7. The throne room also appears to have some connection to the arrangement of the tribes around the tabernacle or tent of meeting in Deuteronomy 2 as well as the tabernacle itself as laid out in Exodus 25-30.

The One sitting on the throne is not named but we can deduce that this “someone” is the Lord God Almighty (Rev 4:8 and 11). The throne in heaven speaks of God’s ultimate and final authority over all things. The four living creatures worship crying “Holy, Holy, Holy” in worship alludes to the Godhead, three in One. The One who sits on the throne lives forever and is worthy to receive glory and honor and power as the creator of all things. The scene of the throne in heaven should impact how we live and worship God. Like the twenty-four elders we should fall down before him who sits on the throne and cast our crowns before Him.