

decoding

# Revelation

**The Throne**

**Jesus said, “Behold I stand at the door and knock and if anyone hears and opens the door I will come in.” – Revelation 3:20**

**“After this I, John, looked and there before me was a door standing open in heaven.” – Revelation 4:1**

# Three Vital Perspectives for Understand Revelation

1. The Old Testament

2. The 1<sup>st</sup> Century

3. Time

**Sometimes when you want to learn about the future, one of the attitudes that we can have is an attitude of worry.**

***But if you really want to understand this book, you have to begin with an attitude of worship.***

# One Vital Attitude for Understanding Revelation

**Not**

**worry**

---

**but**

**worship**

---

**The focus of  
worship in the  
book of Revelation  
is the throne.**

In the rest of the New Testament  
the word throne is used 11 times.

*In Revelation it is used 42 times.  
It is used 11 times in Chapter 4.*

There are only five chapters in  
Revelation where the word  
throne is unmentioned.

**The throne for us is...**

**A place of security.**

**A place of worship.**

**A place of –  
recognizing who God is.**

# Revelation 4:1-2

**<sup>1</sup> 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.”**

**<sup>2</sup> At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.**

# Revelation 4:3-6

- 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 seven spirits of God.**
- 6 Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.**

# 1. On The Throne

John saw two jewels. Jasper and Carnelian

Jasper and carnelian were two of the stones that the high priests would wear on his garment.

- <sup>17</sup> Then mount four rows of precious stones on it. The first row shall be carnelian, chrysolite and beryl;
- <sup>18</sup> the second row shall be turquoise, lapis lazuli and emerald;
- <sup>19</sup> the third row shall be jacinth, agate and amethyst;
- <sup>20</sup> the fourth row shall be topaz, onyx and jasper. Mount them in gold filigree settings.

– Exodus 28:17-20

# JASPER...

- Looked like a diamond
- Was a pure stone

Jasper-clear like diamond...

Represents the purity of God.

# Carnelian...

Carnelian –  
red like ruby...

Represents wrath and  
forgiveness.

# 1. On the Throne

First of all the  
throne is a place of  
Awe.

## 2. Around the Throne

God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. – 1 John 1:5

Around the throne –  
he sees a rainbow.

The throne is a place of promise,  
the awesome incredible  
promise of God.

## 3. From the Throne

From the throne also comes flashes of lightning, rumblings and peels of thunder.

*On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled.*

*– Exodus 19:16*

# 3. From the Throne

The throne is the place from which judgment begins.

Without Jesus Christ, that's all the throne is – a place of judgment.

# 3. From the Throne

**Jesus said, “*Those who have come to know Me, you’ve already passed out of judgment.*”**

## **4. Circling the Throne**

- 6** 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.”

**- Revelation 4:6-8**

# **Circling the Throne - Seraphim**

***Seraphim [angels] stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.***

***-Isaiah 6:2***

***And in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was that of a man.***

***– Ezekiel 1:5***

***Their faces looked like this: each of the four had the face of a man and on the right side each had the face of a lion and on the left the face of an ox, and also the face of an eagle.***

***– Ezekiel 1:10***

# The lion, the ox, the man, and the eagle:

Some people think these mean character qualities and some people think they mean areas of government.

## Character Qualities

- Lion – strength
  - Ox – patient
- Man – intelligent
  - Eagle – swift

# **The lion, the ox, the man, and the eagle:**

**Some people think they mean areas of government. That these four creatures somehow serve God in all of creation.**

## **Areas of Government**

- Lion – wild animals**
- Ox – tame animals**
  - Man – man**
- Eagle – flying animals**

The number “4” is a number, in those days of apocalyptic literature, that usually signified government of some kind.

They all had – **Wings:**

The wings they had showed **quickness and availability** in God’s service.

They had – **Eyes:**

A beautiful picture of **intelligence and insight.**

# What Did the Seraphim Do?

They never stopped saying  
“Holy, Holy, Holy.”

The Throne is a Place of:  
Holiness.

**These four living  
creatures work at leading  
creation to worship the  
Creator.**

**The Throne is a Place of  
Worship.**

## **5. Before the Throne - there are 24 elders.**

**Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads.**

**– Revelation 4:4**

**Revelation 4:10-11 ~**

**<sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever).**

**And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,**

**<sup>11</sup> “You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased.”**

# Who are these 24 elders?

Two main views as to who the 24 elders are:

1. They are Angels – 24 representative angels of how God works in His creation.
2. They are Believers – 24 representative believers of what God does in His people.

# The Number 24

**Two possible meanings:**

- 1. There were 12 tribes in Israel and also 12 apostles.**
- 2. In the religious system of Israel, there was one high priest and then 24 representatives under the Jewish council, priest who represented each of these 24 divisions of the priesthood.**

# Revelation 5:1-4

- 1 And then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals.**
- 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, “Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?”**
- 3 But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it.**
- 4 I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.**

# Sealed with Seven Seals

In the hand of the one who sat on this throne was this incredible scroll, sealed with seven seals.

In both Roman and Jewish customs of that day were scrolls sealed with seven seals.

The **Romans** when they made a will would have a ceremony.

The person making the will would have 7 witnesses and for each witness a seal was placed on the scroll.

# The Seven Seals

The seven seals in both Roman and Jewish law represented not friendship, but a document of inheritance.

**In Jewish law, a kinsman redeemer would redeem the property (inheritance).**

**John knew a worthy person – a great friend, a kinsman redeemer – had to be found to open the scroll so that the inheritance could be given.**

The book of Revelation is  
about the unrolling  
of this scroll.

When you focus on the  
throne, you begin to see this  
scroll that's unrolling.

# Who is Worthy?

- <sup>5</sup> Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, He has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and the seven seals.”**
- <sup>6</sup> Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne and circled by the four living creatures and elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**
- <sup>7</sup> And He came and He took the scroll from the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.**
- <sup>8</sup> And when He had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb.**

# Who is Worthy?

He is Worthy.

He is the Lion of the tribe of Judah.

He is the root of the tribe of Jesse.

He is one who looks like a slain lamb,  
but He's standing in the  
center of the throne.

The Lamb has 7 horns  
and 7 eyes  
representing seven  
spirits.

The seven spirits we learn earlier  
in the book of Revelation  
represent the Holy Spirit.

The number 7 is the  
number of perfection.

So the seven spirits represent  
God's perfect Spirit.

**These four living creatures and  
twenty-four elders fell down  
before the Lamb.**

- **Each one had a harp.**
- **Each one also had a golden bowl full of incense which are the prayers of the saints.**

## **Revelation 5:9-10**

**<sup>9</sup> And they sang a new song, saying: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for men for God.**

**And every tribe and language and people and nation,**

**<sup>10</sup> you have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”**

**You come to this throne of God  
at the end of chapter 5 and it  
builds and builds.**

**First, You have the elders and  
creatures and they're singing  
before God "You are Worthy."**

# Revelation 5:11-12

**<sup>11</sup> Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels, numbering thousands upon thousands, and ten thousand times ten thousand. They encircled the throne and the living creatures and the elders.**

**<sup>12</sup> In a loud voice they were saying:  
“Worthy is the Lamb.**

# Revelation 5:13

*Then... “I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea and all that is in them singing, ‘To Him that sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power forever and ever.’”*

*All of creation – everyone in all of creation sings “You are worthy!”*

# Philippians 2:9-11

**9** Therefore, God elevated him to the place of highest honor and gave him the name above all other names,

**10** that **at the name of Jesus every knee will bow**

**11** and every tongue confess that **Jesus Christ is Lord**, to the glory of God the Father.