

## **I'm in Heaven, Now What?**

### **Revelation 4:1-11**

**Rev 4:1** After this I looked, and, behold, a door *was* opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard *was* as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

**Rev 4:2** And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

**Rev 4:3** And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was* a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

**Rev 4:4** And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

**Rev 4:5** And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

**Rev 4:6** And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

**Rev 4:7** And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle.

**Rev 4:8** And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

**Rev 4:9** And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

**Rev 4:10** The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

**Rev 4:11** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

[Verse 1](#) of this passage shows John hearing the sound of a trumpet and of a great voice calling him up to Heaven. Immediately, the transition is made from the earth to the heavens. John is then given a view of what Heaven will be like. This verse is a clear picture of the rapture.

Now let me stop here for just a second and clarify a few things. The second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ is in view here. The second coming is a two-phase event. The first phase is pictured here and it relates to the rapture. Although the word rapture is not specifically used in the Bible, it is certainly described. In fact it is the next great event on the calendar. It could happen at any

moment, and it will happen suddenly, within the twinkling of an eye. When it happens, all believers will suddenly be changed; we will meet the Lord in the air; be united with those that have gone before us; and be taken to heaven where we will be rewarded and attend the marriage supper of the Lamb. The second coming, or return of Jesus to earth happens later, toward the end of the tribulation. We will return with Him. His foot will touch down on the Mount of Olives, and it will split in two. We will see all of the armies gathered in the Jezreel valley at Armageddon. We will then witness the antichrist and the false prophet snatched up and tossed at great speed into the pit. Finally, we will witness the Lord destroy all the armies gathered there and the valley fill with blood to a horse's bridal. One event, with two separate phases.

But here in verse 1, John pictures for us what it will be like to be snatched out of this world and taken directly to Heaven. That will be an amazing experience! However, the question that is often asked by people regarding Heaven is this: "*What will we do when we get there?*" That is a good question! It is a question people have asked for centuries and it is a question that this passage answers for us. For, in the 11 verses that make up this chapter, we are given an opportunity to look into Heaven so that we can see some of the things that are going on there. The things going on there are thrilling, but what makes them so special is the fact that they involve us!

So, this morning, let's take a few minutes to join John in the very throne room of God. Let's take this time to peek behind the curtain to what will be going on in that place called Heaven.

I believe this text gives us some of the answers to that question. Just remember, if you are saved today, we are looking into your future! If you are not, then you need to let us help you with that so you too can do what we are going to do! *I'm In Heaven, Now What?* Good question! Let's see if we can answer it right now.

## **I. You Can Examine the Scenery of Heaven**

### **A. You Can See the Sovereign**

**Rev 4:2** And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

**Rev 4:3** And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and *there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*

Of course, the most magnificent feature of Heaven, the centerpiece of that city, will be God Himself. The One no man can see and live, will be visible for all the citizens of that place to see! [Rev. 22:4](#) says it as clearly as it can be said:

**Rev 22:4** And they shall see his face; and his name *shall be* in their foreheads.

We will see God some day! Look back at verse 2 and I want you to see:

#### **1. His Stability –**

**Rev 4:2** ...and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and *one* sat on the throne.

A “*throne set*” this speaks of His Government! Our God rules an everlasting kingdom! His kingdom is established and stable! No one can overthrow God.

**Psa 47:8 God reigneth over the heathen: God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness.**

**Psa 45:6 Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.**

## **2. His Symbolism –**

**Rev 4:3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone...**

John tries to do the impossible: He tries to describe God!

**a. The Jasper Stone** - Like a diamond! Brilliant and clear, yet hard, inflexible and firm! This speaks of the moral law of God! There are certain fixed laws in the universe, i.e. The Law of Gravity, The Law Of Thermodynamics. These laws are fixed and unbreakable, except by God Himself! God's moral Law is just a fixed and stable.

**Psa 119:89 ... For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven.**

**b. The Sardine Stone** - Blood red, flashing and fiery. This stone speaks of the holiness of God and of His anger against sin! This serves to remind us that God is holy and that He hates sin! Just as the fires on the sacrificial altars of Israel we never to be extinguished, as long as sin inhabits the universe, the fire of God's hatred will burn against it!

**Heb 12:29 For our God is a consuming fire.**

Just as a side note: These stones can also speak of the *holiness of God* (Pure white) as well as *His redemption* (Red). For while God is a holy God Who hates sin, He is also the same One Who loved us so much that He sent His Son to die for us on the cross! The Sardine and the Jasper stones were also the first and last stones in the breastplate of the Old Testament High Priest, ([Ex. 28:15-30](#)).

- The Sardine stone represented the tribe of Reuben. His name means “Behold a son”.
- The Jasper stone represents the tribe of Benjamin who's name means, “Son of the right hand”.

In these two names we see a portrait of our Savior, the Lord Jesus in His humanity. He is the divine son, ([Isa. 9:6](#)) and He is seated at the Father's right hand, ([Heb. 10:12](#)). These stones picture the completed work of the Lord Jesus for sinners. They remind us that even though judgment is sure for those who are in their sins, there is grace and salvation for those who will embrace the Gospel!

### **3. His Serenity –**

**Rev 4:3 ....and *there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.***

An emerald rainbow encircles the throne. The color speaks of serenity and calm. The rainbow is a symbol of mercy. In Noah's day, he could only see half the rainbow. He did not understand all that had happened and why God did all that He did in the flood. Such is life for you and me. We go through the trials and struggles of life with only half the story. We see God's grace and experience His mercy in this life, but we don't have the complete picture. One day, we will be in His presence and it will all make sense then.

**1Co 13:12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.**

**Eph 2:7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**

When the storm has passed, the rainbow appears! One day, in Heaven the storms will have passed forever and we will be at peace in the city, where all the mysteries of life will be made clear! In heaven, not only will you see the Sovereign...

#### **B. You Can See the Saints**

**Rev 4:4 And round about the throne *were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting...***

Heaven isn't just a place for the Redeemer, it is also a place for the redeemed. These 24 elders are a picture of the redeemed of the ages. 12 representing the O.T. saints and 12 representing the church age saints of God. Note:

- 1. Their Position** - They are seated! They too occupy thrones which indicates that they are rulers too.

**Rev 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

The fact that they are seated lets us know that they are rest. The battles are over and they find themselves seated before the throne of God at perfect rest and peace! Thank God a day of rest awaits the heaven bound saint today! One day we will actually be where we are positionally now.

**Eph 2:6 And hath raised *us* up together, and made *us* sit together in heavenly *places* in Christ Jesus:**

Look now at:

## **2. Their Purity –**

**Rev 4:4 And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment;**

These elders are robed in “*white raiment*”. This is always a symbol of holiness and purity.

**Rev 19:7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.**

**Rev 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.**

Thank God, the day is coming when the saints of the Lord will be in His presence free from the stain and blight of sin! Look back at verse 4, and see...

## **3. Their Prize –**

**Rev 4:4 And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.**

Each of these elders wears a “*crown of gold*”. This crown is not like the crown that Jesus wears. His crown is a “*diadem*” which refers to a king's crown. The elders wear the “*stephanos*” which is the “*victor's crown*”. It was given out to those who had earned it on the field of battle or in the athletic games. It was presented for a job well done.

**Heb 12:1** Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset *us*, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,

**Heb 12:2** Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

There are at least five crowns named in the New Testament that believers can win. The point here is that these elders have already been before the Judgment Seat of Christ and have been judged and have received their reward. There is coming a day when your service for Jesus will be recognized and rewarded. You may not receive the accolades down here, but you can rest assured the He will sees all will give you a crown over there! Galation 6:9 tells us:

**Gal 6:9** And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, carry on, for the glory of God knowing that one day He will say, '*Well done!*'. Looking back to or text this morning, in heaven:

### **C. You Can See the Sights**

**Rev 4:5** And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices...

John speaks of “*lightnings and thunderings*”. These point to the judgment which is about to be poured out upon the world. Heaven is not just a place of glory, but it is also a place where the power of God and His judgment on sin will be displayed as well!

### **D. You Can See the Spirit**

**Rev 4:5** ...and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

The Holy Spirit, who has indwelt us, taught us and lead us will be there in Heaven for us to see and glorify. It will be an exciting time to be in the physical presence of One Who has meant so much on this journey! Look at verse 6 and notice that:

### **E. You Can See the Sea**

**Rev 4:6 And before the throne *there was a sea of glass like unto crystal:***

John says that there is a sea of glass before throne. This sea refers to an article in the Tabernacle and the Temple known as the “*Laver*”. The laver was a bronze container that was placed outside the entrance to the Tabernacle and the Temple. Before the priests could enter, they were required to stop at the laver and wash themselves. You can read about this laver in [Ex. 30:18-21](#). The laver was a place that reminded the priest that he was a sinner and had to cleanse himself before he could come into the presence of the Lord. We have a laver too!

It is called [1 John 1:9](#)!

**1Jn 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

I wash there several times daily. In fact, we cannot enter into the presence of the Lord to worship or pray until we stop by the laver to wash up because the sin that we carry knocks us out of fellowship with the Lord.

**Psa 66:18 If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear *me*:**

But, in Heaven, notice that the sea has turned to crystal. This signifies two important truths.

1. For the sinner, the time for repentance has almost run out. Judgment is set and the time for the execution of God's sentence is at hand.
2. For the saint, the time of sinning has passed! In heaven, we will have received our glorified bodies, repented for the last time, and we will no longer be capable of sin. The time for repentance is now! The time to make things right with the Lord is now!

Not only can we examine the scenery...

## II. You Can Enjoy the Sounds of Heaven

Some people think in heaven we will go around wearing dresses, playing harps, sitting on clouds and stuff. They think it will be all quiet, proper, and boring. Kind of like going to the library...forever. They are so wrong. Heaven will be active, joyous, vibrant, and loud. Heaven will be a place of worship, and a place of unrestrained, unashamed praise. Let's look at:

### A. The Source of the Praise

**Rev 4:6** And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

**Rev 4:7** And the first beast *was* like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle.

**Rev 4:8** And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within...

John describes four beasts who are engaged in the ministry of praising the Lord. The four beasts are some type of angelic creatures. Many people have tried to figure out what they represent. Some say they represent the four Gospels. The lion represents the Gospel of Matthew, or the Gospel of the King. The calf represents the Gospel of Mark, or the Gospel of the Servant. The man represents the Gospel of Luke, or the Gospel of the Son of Man. The eagle represents the Gospel of John, or the Gospel of the Son of God. Others say the beasts represent Jesus. The Lion shows Him to be King. The Calf shows Him to be a Servant. The Man shows His Humanity. The Eagle reminds us of His Heavenly origin.

Now, I might as well tell you what I have come to believe about these beasts. I believe they represent the totality of creation. The lion represents wild life. The calf domesticated animals. The man represents intelligent life. The eagle represents bird life. This is just creation doing what it was designed to do: bring glory to the Lord. These beasts, whoever or whatever they are, are in the business of praising the Lord! Look at:

### B. The Sound of the Praise

**Rev 4:8** ...and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

They lift their voices and they praise God for His holiness and for His immutability! They declare Him to be the righteous One and the One Who is self-existent. They glorify Him as the "I AM". On that basis alone, He is worthy of all the praise of all men! Notice:

### C. The Span of the Praise

**Rev 4:8** ....and they rest not day and night,



Their anthem of praise will continue unabated throughout all eternity! Heaven will be a place filled with the praises of the angelic hosts! Imagine the praise from countless voices as these beings, who were created for the sole purpose of glorifying God, exalt Him!

It has been said that this world is the quietest place in which you will ever live. If you die without the Lord and go to Hell, you will hear the screams, the curses and the cries of the damned through eternity. What an awful thought! If you are saved and go to Heaven, you will hear the sound of the angelic praise and you will hear the redeemed as they shout and sing the praises of their Redeemer! Finally on our mini tour of heaven:

### **III. You Can Exalt the Sovereign of Heaven**

Remember those 24 elders? They are a picture of us. Here is what we will be doing in Heaven! We will be worshiping and there are a few things we can learn about heavenly worship in this passage.

#### **A. Your Worship Will Be Visible**

**Rev 4:9** And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

**Rev 4:10** The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

When the beasts praise the Lord, the saints will rise from their thrones, they will bow before Him, they will cast their crowns at His feet and they will shout praises to the Lord. (By the way, every time you see these guys in Revelation, this is what they are doing, [\(4:10; 5:8; 5:14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4\)](#)). That is pretty visible praise! In fact, it seems perfectly in order too! The Lord doesn't rebuke them for their praise. By the way, this is the kind of thing we are to be involved with while we are here! Too many want to try and worship God in their hearts. How does He receive glory from that? Praise is something that glorifies God and that points out His worth to others! You see...

#### **B. Your Worship Will Be Valuable**

Notice that they take the golden crowns from their heads and they cast them down at His feet. Why? Because the only reason they have them is because He loved, He extended grace to save them, He kept them, He gifted them to serve, He equipped them for victory, He did it all and He deserves all the glory and the praise.

Down here, we try to keep some for ourselves. Over there, every selfish motive will have vanished forever and all that will matter is praising the One Who made salvation, service and Heaven possible. While we exist on this planet, there is nothing more valuable that we can give the Lord than ourselves. In fact, that is exactly what He wants.

**Rom 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service.*

**Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.**

As we yield ourselves to Him in service, He will use us for His glory and then in Heaven, He will reward us for what He equipped us to do! Then we can take the rewards He gives us and we can offer them back to Him so that He can be glorified for what He has done for us! Therefore, we should live our lives in such a fashion that we earn many crowns to cast at the Savior's feet!

### **C. Your Worship Will Be Vocal**

**Rev 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.**

In Heaven, the saints actually praise God out loud! I know that is hard to believe, but it is true. You may never shout here, but when you get there, you will shout to the top of your lungs. You will join your voice with all the redeemed and you will praise the Lord Who sought you, bought you, kept you and delivered you home to glory. Notice what they praise Him for:

- 1. His Worth** - He is worthy of our praise this morning simply for Who He is!
- 2. His Work** - He is worthy of praise for all that He has done down through the ages, from creation, to redemption, even for His judgment. He is worthy of praise for His works. Think of how the Lord has worked in your life!
- 3. His Will** - The elders recognize that which we will understand some day too; namely, that everything that has happened, is happening and will happen is part of God's perfect plan. He does it all for "*His pleasure.*" When we get there, we will see it as it should be and we will praise Him for it! Would to God we would get a grasp on that now and praise Him while we were still in these bodies.

There is nothing wrong with getting in on a little of that vocal praise every time we gather here! He is just as worthy today as He will ever be. Therefore, let the "*redeemed of the Lord say so!*" Let us render to Him the sacrifices of praise and the fruit of our lips.

**Heb 13:15 By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name.**

I've just scratched the surface this morning concerning what the Bible tells us about Heaven. Sounds to me like it is the kind of place I want to be! It sounds like it is better than the best service you have ever attended! Thank God, I know I'm headed there and I know when I get there some of the things I'll be doing. And, I like the sound of all of them. What about you? Are you going? Is it settled that you are saved and headed for glory? If so, then praise the Lord for what He has done for you. If you are lost or if you are not sure about your spiritual condition, then I invite you to come to Jesus Christ. Trust Him as your Savior and you can go to Heaven

when you leave this world! Please, let us help you with this, don't leave it to chance. It is not something that is just going to take care of itself. Ask us about those classes today!