

# Revelation – 101

8/24/25 – PM (week 4)

**Chapters 4-5      The Vision of God's Throne Room / The Four & Twenty Elders  
/ The Seven-Sealed Book**

Review – Chapter 3:1- Chapter 4:1

1. Churches of Sardis (dead), Philadelphia (revival / evangelistic / faithful), and Laodicea (lukewarm / materialistic / proud)
2. These three are the primary churches in existence today, although there are some Smyrna churches (suffering great persecution – Christian martyrdom taking place in Africa, Middle East, and other places).
3. Laodicea represents the final church age of the seven “eras” of church history. WHEN does the church age end? We don't know. HOW does the church age end? With the Rapture of the church (Rev. 4:1).
4. The rapture is the “calling up” (come up hither), or the church being “caught up” to meet the Lord in the air (I Thessalonians 4:13-18). It is for the “dead in Christ” (those believers who have passed away), and for “we which are alive and remain” (those believers who are living on the earth when Jesus calls us home).
  - a. It is NOT the second coming of Christ (Armageddon)
  - b. At the rapture, Jesus comes in the air and we go out to meet him.
  - c. At the Second Coming of Christ, Jesus returns to the earth and takes his seat on the throne of David (Israel) in Jerusalem.
5. The pre-tribulation rapture is the most Biblically literal and consistent interpretation of this event, as opposed to the “mid-tribulation” or “post-tribulation” teaching.
6. The church (Bride of Christ) will NOT be on the earth during the tribulation period. The tribulation period (7 years) begins in chapter 6. The church is called away in chapter 4:1, and the word “church” is not mentioned again until chapter 22:16.

**I. The Vision of the throne in Heaven (Rev. 4:2-3)**

- a. The first thing John sees after being called “up hither”, is the throne room of God. Everything that is about to happen starts at the throne of God, reminding us that HE is in absolute sovereign control, ruling over the coming judgment of mankind. He is the Holy Ruler of Heaven and Earth.
- b. The throne is mentioned 17 times in chapters 4-5.
- c. The appearance of the one who sat on the throne – “like”
  - i. Jasper stone – often associated with clear, crystal-like qualities (sparkling) and vibrant colors, particularly green and red.
  - ii. Sardine stone – a deep red color (like ruby).
  - iii. These stones were the first and last stones on the Ephod that the High Priest wore representing the 12 tribes of Israel (Exodus 28:17-21). The sardius (sardine) is mentioned first (Reuben was the first son of Jacob), and jasper is mentioned last (Benjamin was the last son of Jacob). So, John describes the “first and the last” or “the beginning and the end” – sound familiar?
  - iv. A rainbow “round about” – not over like an arc, but surrounding the throne. In sight like an emerald.

**II. The Four and Twenty Elders (Rev. 4:4-5)**

- a. These are 24 literal “elders” – MEN, not angels, and they are “around” the throne. Clothed in white raiment (Rev. 3:4-5), the robes of the saints / overcomers.
- b. Who are these 24 elders? 12 of them are the Old Testament sons of Jacob (Israel), and 12 of them are the Apostles of the Church. (Rev. 21:12-14). These Old Testament elders and New Testament elders are seated as the jury while the Judge of the universe begins to hand out his sentence on this corrupted earth and its inhabitants. They wear gold crowns (victorious).

- c. From the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices and seven lamps of fire burning, which are the Seven spirits of God (third time mentioned) – This is the Holy Spirit in all his completeness and fulness (7 = complete) – John 16:8.

### **III. The Four Beasts and Worship before the Throne (Rev. 4:6-11)**

- a. “four beasts” – these are God’s holy, created Cherubim. There are only five mentioned in the Bible, and God’s word reveals these creatures in progressive order.
  - i. Genesis 3:23-24 (outside the Garden of Eden)
  - ii. Exodus 25:18-22 (on the mercy seat of the ark of the covenant)
  - iii. Ezekiel 1:1-28 (Ezekiel’s vision of God’s glory). They are described in great detail.
  - iv. Ezekiel 10:1-22 (Ezekiel’s vision of the wheel).
- b. They have four faces : lion, calf, man, eagle – and they appear to be the strongest / most powerful of the heavenly host. They are not angels. They are not seraphim (Isaiah 6). Their duty seems to be as sentries or guardians around the throne of God.
  - i. More discussion on cherubs in future lessons.
- c. Their worship of God (vs. 8)
  - i. “rest not day and night” – continual praise
  - ii. “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty” – the trinity, just as in Isaiah – Father, Son, Holy Spirit; “which was, and is, and is to come” – past, present, future (Eternal!)
  - iii. The response of the elders (vs. 10-11) – they “fall down before him and worship him . . . and cast their crowns before the throne . . .”

### **IV. The Seven Sealed Book (Revelation 5:1-7)**

- a. Jimmy DeYoung – “this is the seven-sealed book of judgment and the title deed to the earth. Ultimately, God will give dominion of the earth to His Son Jesus Christ (Daniel 7:13-14). Before the Lord gives Him that kingdom, the earth and its

inhabitants must be brought under submission. God will use these sealed judgments to make that happen.”

- b. This book is referenced in Daniel 12:1-4. It is a scroll, and as the scroll is unrolled, each successive seal is unloosed.
- c. John weeps because no man is found worthy to open the book (Rev. 5:3-4). \*Notice “in heaven, or in earth, neither under the earth”
- d. The only one worthy is the Lamb of God (vs. 5-7)
  - i. Lion of the Tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:9-10)
  - ii. Root of David (Isaiah 11:1)
    - 1. He hath prevailed! – SHAZAM
  - iii. Lamb as it had been slain (John 1:29)
    - 1. Slain on Mt. Calvary
    - 2. Standing in the midst of the throne room of God
    - 3. He came and took the book out of the Father’s hand. Seven horns (complete authority and power). Seven eyes (seven Spirits of God) – 4<sup>th</sup> time the Holy Spirit is mentioned this way.
    - 4. The TRINITY – God the Father (seated on the throne); God the Spirit (before the throne); and God the Son (approaching the throne).

## **V. The Worship of the Lamb (Rev. 5:8-14)**

- a. The four beasts (cherubim) and the 24 elders fall down in worship. Every one of them had a harp (instrument of divine worship – played before kings). And every one of them had golden vials full of odours (like incense or perfume – a sweet fragrance) “which are the prayers of the saints”. (Psalms 141:1-2)
- b. A new song (vs. 9-10) – and “they sung a new song” to the Lamb:

- i. “thou art worthy” – why? “for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation”
  - 1. This is the song of the REDEEMED (the saints), who have been saved by the blood of the crucified one. NOT baptism, NOT works, NOT church membership – but by “thy BLOOD”.
  - 2. Notice – “redeemed US”, “made US” and “WE shall reign”. Some versions change these words to “they” and “them” – but make no mistake – these singers are “US” and “WE” – the saints of God! The rapture of the church has taken place and we are in heaven singing praises to the Lamb.
  - 3. Holy angels join the song (vs. 11-12) – “many angels” –  $10,000 \times 10,000 = 100 \text{ million} + \text{thousands of thousands}$ . They add a second verse as it were, including – “power, riches, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing” – 7 attributes ascribed to the Lamb.
  - 4. Every creature praises – (vs. 13-14) in universal adoration of the King of all the earth. (notice locations again). – Philippians 2:9-11. “God has placed into the hands of men the decision as to whether or not they will accept Christ as Savior, but the decision as to whether or not they will acknowledge him as Lord is not theirs to decide.” (John Phillips, “Exploring Revelation”, pg. 91)
  - 5. AMEN – (vs. 14) – “Truth”, “So be it”

**Next Week – The Seals Are Opened / The Tribulation Period Begins (Ch. 6-7)**

