

# THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

## chapter 4

### Lesson 9

Revelation 4 begins the revelation of the heavenly perspective. Revelation chapters 4-19 are mainly concerned with God's judgment upon the world which precedes Jesus' earthly reign. John *looked* and saw *a door standing open in heaven*. As you study, may you have the sense of joining John as he basks in the worship of the *One who sits on the throne*.

#### **OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 4**

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. You may find it difficult to identify whether a word is speaking of the *Father* or *Jesus*. For the purposes of this study, mark the words both ways. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father* or *Jesus*.

Key Words: *God/Father (the One on the throne), Jesus, (Holy) Spirit, throne(s), trumpet, living creature(s), twenty-four elders, like, and looked/saw*

3. The book of Revelation can be overwhelming. Often that is because we do not take time to slow down to inductively observe the text. Before we try to understand what is not clear, it is important to pay attention to the obvious – to observe it; make note of it first. Part of our homework, as we study the remaining chapters of Revelation, will be to draw what we observe in each chapter. Before you get out your "drawing tools", make a list of what the text reveals about the following: (be sure to record the verse reference next to each observation on your list.)

**The *throne(s)*:**

*He who sat on the throne:*

*Twenty-four elders:*

*Four living creatures:*

- a. Share one thing you observed from your lists that you did not see when you simply read the chapter.
  
- b. John wrote that he *looked* and he *saw*. Using your lists and the text of Revelation 4, draw (on a separate sheet of paper) what you think John *saw*.
  - 1.) What did you observe by drawing the descriptions in chapter 4, that you did not notice when you made your lists?

## Read Revelation 4:1

1. Record the first three words of Revelation 4.
  - a. According to Revelation 1:19, what did Jesus instruct John to do?
  - b. John had been recording *what he had seen* which is recorded in Revelation 1. Revelation 2 and 3 are John's recording of the *things that are* which dealt with the condition of the churches at the time of John's writing. Now, chapter 4 begins the revelation of *things which will take place after this* – future events. Fast forward to Revelation 21:5. How reliable are the *words* John has written?
    - 1.) Why is it important to approach the study of Revelation as prophecy that is *faithful* and *true*?
2. John *heard a voice*. What did it sound like?
  - a. What did the *voice* say?
  - b. John had heard the *voice, as of a trumpet* before. Who was speaking? See Revelation 1:10-13.
  - c. For your consideration: Paul wrote of a similar sound of a trumpet in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17. What event followed that *sound*?
    - 1.) Consider the words *after these things*. Whom had Jesus been dealing with in Revelation chapters 2 and 3?

## Read Revelation 4:2-5

1. What is the first thing that John saw?
  - a. The *throne* is the centerpiece of chapter 4. What does a *throne* imply to you?

b. Use the following verses from Psalms to denote the significance of what John saw:

Psalm 45:6

Psalm 47:8

Psalm 89:14

Psalm 103:19

2. Earthly words are deficient when it comes to describing the heavenly things. John resorts to using the word *like* seven times in Revelation 4. What three precious stones did John use to describe the *One who sat on the throne* and the *rainbow around the throne*?

Challenge: Research the Biblical references to these three stones and share what you discover.

a. Thoughtfully write the words of Ezekiel 1:28.

1.) What are your thoughts?

3. In what ways is your life impacted because God *sits on the throne* in heaven?

4. *Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders* (Revelation 4:4). What were they wearing?

a. Look up Revelation 2:10 and 3:5. What do you see?

5. What *proceeded* from the throne?

a. Using Daniel 7:9-10:

What are some similarities?

What additional information is revealed?

6. We sometimes fail to think of the Holy Spirit as someone who is visible. How does He reveal Himself in Revelation 4:5?
  - a. What do you see in Acts 2:3?

**Read Revelation 4:6-8:**

1. What was found *in the midst of the throne and around the throne*?
  - a. Ezekiel saw something similar to this in his vision of heaven in Ezekiel 1:5-11. Match this passage with Revelation 4:6 and comment on what you discover.
  
2. These *four living creatures* differed in appearance. What were their similarities?
  - a. What did they not cease to *say*?
    - 1.) In Revelation 11:17, we see the *twenty-four elders saying* similar words. What did they add?
  
3. Many people think they know what they will say to God when they see Him. Their imagined words are, sadly, often words of challenge or question. What do you think you might say to the *Lord God Almighty* when you see Him?

**Revelation 4:9-11:**

1. Continuing with the scene of the *four living creatures*, we find them *giving*. What three things did they give?
  
2. What attribute is mentioned two times about *He who sits on the throne*?

3. The *twenty four elders* will cast *their crowns before the throne*. What will they say?
  - a. For what two reasons did they *say* He was *worthy of glory and honor and power*?
    - 1.) Add to their list by writing some reasons of your own.

**REVIEW: Read Revelation 4**

1. Consider the grandeur of the scene in Revelation 4. What are your thoughts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. All believers will personally witness heaven as John tried to describe it. However, we will experience it not as bystanders, but as participators. Again, what are your thoughts?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. Although our praise is certainly limited, the Psalmist did not let that hinder him. Why do you think God loves the praise of His people?

*Give to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering,  
and come before Him. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness!*  
- 1 Chronicles 16:29

## Observation Worksheet

### Revelation 4:1-11

<sup>1</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. <sup>3</sup> And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. <sup>4</sup> Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. <sup>5</sup> And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. <sup>6</sup> Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. <sup>7</sup> The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup> *The* four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" <sup>9</sup> Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: <sup>11</sup> "You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created."