

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 4

Rev. 4:1 ¶ *After these things I saw, and behold, a door opened in heaven, and the first voice that I heard, a voice as of a trumpet speaking with me, one saying, Come up hither, and I will show thee the things which must come to pass hereafter.*

Rev. 4:2 *Straightway I was in the Spirit: and behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting upon the throne;*

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

Rev. 4:4 *And round about the throne were four and twenty thrones: and upon the thrones I saw four and twenty elders sitting, arrayed in white garments; and on their heads crowns of gold.*

Rev. 4:5 *And out of the throne proceed lightnings and voices and thunders. 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, as it were a sea of glass like unto crystal; and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, four living creatures full of eyes before and behind.*

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

Rev. 4:8 *And the four living creatures, having each one of them six wings, are full of eyes round about and within: and they have no rest day and night, saying,*

*Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty,
who was and who is and who is to come.*

Rev. 4:9 ¶ *And when the living creatures shall give glory and honor and thanks to him that sitteth on the throne, to him that liveth for ever and ever,*

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

Rev. 4:11 *Worthy art thou, our Lord and our God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power: for thou didst create all things, and because of thy will they were, and were created.*

We come now to what the key verse (1:19) calls “the things which shall come to pass hereafter.” The future.

Scene change: Heaven. The Throne Room
An open door.

John hears the same Voice he heard before (1:10) calling him up, “Come up hither!...

The first thing the Body of Christ hears at the catching away, or rapture, is the shout of the Lord (1 Thess 4:16). It may be the glorious call, “Come up hither.....”

From this point the Church is in Heaven.

Even during her earth walk, the church age, she was seated at the Right Hand of the Father in union with Her Savior and Lord (Eph 2:4-6).

Now she has been caught away and is in Heaven.

(See Appendix: The Rapture)

The Throne of God

The Throne of God is the center of power of all creation.

The One upon it, the Sovereign God, now to officiate in The Day of the LORD.

The rainbow, which surrounds His throne, is a token of His covenant with earth.

Tokens as signs of covenant were displayed throughout the Bible.

Gen. 9:13 I do set My bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a **token** of a covenant between Me and the earth.

Ex. 12:13 And the blood shall be to you for a **token** upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you,

Josh. 2:12 Now therefore, I (Rahab) pray you, swear unto me by Jehovah, since I have dealt kindly with you, that ye also will deal kindly with my father’s house, and give me a true token;

Josh. 2:13 and that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and will deliver our lives from death...

Josh. 2:21 And she said, According unto your words, so be it...

And she [Rahab] sent them away, and they departed: and she bound the scarlet line in the window.

The Father displays before Him always the token of His covenant with earth.

Events now, directed from the Throne, move forward toward His glorious plans and purposes for earth. The future is “as bright as God can make it:”

The Numerical Bible (p. 289)

The future before the world is largely, alas, made up of judgment, although it is true that the judgment is for a blessing which lies beyond it, and which is as bright as God can make it.

The Twenty-Four Elders

Elders in Scripture are people. Not angels. These are saints from earth who are recognized elders, already risen, glorified, enthroned, and crowned. White garments in Scripture are worn by priests, and the righteous saints. Most see their number as 2 times 12. Twelve is a governmental number. And most see them as elders of the Old Testament and the New Testament. Governmentally there were 12 tribes and 12 Apostles.

The Holy Spirit

Again we see the Holy Spirit in the Seven Lamps of the Lampstand.

The Holy Spirit is Omnipresent. Just because we see Him in Heaven does not mean that He is nowhere present on the earth.

Dr. Hilton Sutton, *Revelation Revealed*, pages 78, 79

“There is only one Spirit of God, but He has many manifestations, diversities and operations. The number seven refers to God’s completion, the perfect operation of the Holy Spirit. (Isaiah 1:2.)

“...The Holy Spirit is not removed from the earth. As God the Holy Ghost, He is always present in heaven and on the earth. His earthly assignment will continue throughout the seven years of Tribulation.”

H. A. Baker and his wife were missionaries in China before the Communist takeover in 1949. His book, *Visions Beyond the Veil*, records an amazing visitation of the Holy Spirit upon the children and young people of the Adullam Rescue Mission. (I have thought that perhaps these boys looked into Heaven for days and saw things that prepared them for when the missionaries had to leave.) Here are some excerpts...

H. A. Baker, *Visions, Beyond the Veil*, page 11,

“The children and young people of the Adullam Rescue Mission were, for the most part, beggars in the streets of the city...(some orphans, some prodigals)...mostly boys ranging...from 6 to 18...

“During this visitation from the Lord, all were treated impartially. The oldest and the youngest, the first arrivals and the latest comers, the best and the worst, all sitting together around their common Father’s table, were alike treated to His heavenly bounties.

“This falling of the Spirit was clearly a love gift of grace ‘apart from works’ or personal merit. It was not something that was worked up; it came down...it was a blessing of God that came from above...

“...On many different occasions, various Adullam residents perceived the Holy Spirit as a tongue of fire upon the head of each person in the room...many felt the Holy Spirit as a wind blowing upon them...

“On several occasions, older and younger children alike saw the Holy Spirit represented as seven lamps. At times of special outpourings of the Holy Spirit, these seven lamps of fire were seen being let down from heaven into the room in our very midst. At other times, in the visions of the throne of Christ in heaven, the children saw the “seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God” (Rev. 4:5). But we all recognized that the seven lamps meant that the Holy Spirit was in our midst.”

Refer again to Revelation 1 where the Holy Spirit in Heaven is a 7-branched Lampstand and the churches on earth are called Lampstands. Here with the Adullam children we see how it was demonstrated.

The Crystal Sea

The main proof Scriptures I see for the Church being in heaven have to do with what is happening on earth. It does not involve her. It involves the Jews and the Nations. I will explain this further when we look at that time on earth. But just for a quick reference, the tribulation on earth is described as the time of God's wrath (Rev 6:16, 17; 11:18; 15:1; 16:1). God makes it clear in the Letters that the church is not appointed to wrath ((Ro 5:9; 1 Thess. 5:9; 1 Thess. 1:10.)

Dr. Sutton sees the Crystal Sea as evidence of the church's presence in heaven. I'm not sure about this. But in view of his expertise, I include it for your consideration.

Dr. Hilton Sutton, Revelation Revealed, pages 79, 80

“...This is not a body of water...in Scripture a description of a mass of people accompanies the word sea whenever it is used without reference to the name or location of an existing body of water.

“The crystal sea is a great company of people standing before the throne of God. They are referred to as a sea because of their vast numbers and as crystal because of their right standing before God. Since the 24 elders are representatives, the Church whom they represent must also be in heaven. Thus the crystal sea before the throne is the symbol of the whole Church company in heaven.

“Crystal is the only earthly substance in which flaws cannot be hidden: in fact... The Lord will present to Himself **a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing, but...be holy and without blemish** (Eph. 5:27).

The Four Living Creatures

The Greek word is *zoa*.

They are guardians of the Glory, declarers of His Holiness, and of His Name יהוה.

Why their appearance is as described Dr. Sutton calls, “the first of a number of unknowns in the Book of Revelation.”

I knew Dr. Kenneth Hagin from 1967 until he departed for Heaven in 2003. For 10 years I was his editor at Kenneth Hagin Ministries in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The Lord told him to put his teachings into print. And I helped him do that. His life was blessed with open visions of the Lord Jesus. They began in 1951 when Jesus took him to Heaven. In private conversation, he would sometimes talk about that vision. He seemed particularly amazed at these living creatures. He said their eyes were about the size of quarters.

Kenneth E. Hagin, *I Believe in Visions*, page 45

“...When I reached Him [Jesus], together we continued on to Heaven. We came to the throne of God, and I beheld it in all its splendor. I was not able to look upon the face of God; I only beheld His form.

“The first thing that attracted my attention was the rainbow about the throne. It was very beautiful. The second thing I noticed was the winged creatures on either side of the throne. They were peculiar looking creatures and as I walked up with Jesus, these creatures stood with wings outstretched. They were saying something but they ceased and folded their wings. They had eyes of fire set all around their heads, and they looked in all directions at once.”

What marvelous worship the 24 Elders lead!

What a marvelous song is sung, as crowns are cast before the throne of The Creator of all things!