

# Revelation Study ~ Chapter 4 Part 1

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## Revelation 4:1-6a ~ Before the Throne of Heaven

In chapter four the vision of John transitions from one on earth to one in heaven. There is a significant statement made in the first two words of verse one: "After this." And, again, later in verse one the voice John hears says it is, "what must take place after this."

- 1. What is the "after this" statement referring to? After what?**
- 2. Why is it significant that John sees a "door standing open in heaven?"**
- 3. Where does John go when called to "come up here?"**

In response to the call to "come up here," John was in the Spirit before the throne of God. The imagery is spectacular, beyond any human comprehension. With words and phrases used such as "like" or "in appearance" helps us to know that these are metaphorically descriptive statements.

**What potential meaning can be found in the imagery of verse 3?**

- a. Appearance of Jasper -**
- b. Appearance of Carnelian -**
- c. Around the throne an emerald rainbow -**

Compare this vision with the vision of Isaiah 6:1-7.

The throne of God is surrounded by twenty four other thrones with elders seated on them. Many have debated who these 24 are. Some have suggested that it represents the 12 patriarchs of Israel and the 12 apostles of Jesus. Another idea is the 24 represent the redeemed church of earth. And a third option is a specialized class of angelic beings.

**How does the imagery of the elders help identify the 24?**

- 1. Seated on thrones -**
- 2. Robed in white garments -**
- 3. With golden crowns (see word study below) -**

**From your own study, how would you identify the 24 elders around the throne?**

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The activity of nature around the throne of God includes flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. This seems to be a common representation around the throne (see Exodus 20:18; Isaiah 6:4; Job 37:1-4)

**What does the lightning and thunder represent?**

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In verses 5 and 6, there are two descriptions of objects that were “before the throne.” The term “before” means in front of, and it denotes proximity.

1. Why is the Spirit described as “seven torches?” -
2. What is the “sea of glass?” -

One thing to note, as we have transitioned from chapters 2 and 3 (where the church on earth is the focal point of the work of Christ), going forward from chapter 4 through chapter 19 we no longer see the church on earth. We will encounter the opportunity for the salvation and redemption of men within the tribulation period. But the reality of the church is not on the earth.

**Key Words:**

Standing Open – (Greek: “eneogmene”) meaning: “having been opened”

Crowns – (Greek: “stephanous”) meaning: “wreathe, victors crown, garland”

Before – (Greek: “enopion”) meaning: “in the presence of; in the eyes of”