

57 THE THRONE SCENE OF REVELATION 4

1. GOD IS TRANSCENDENT OF THE CREATED ORDER—throne scene is symbolic

“One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in us all.” Eph 4:6

“For in him we live, move, and have our being.” Acts 17:28

2. GOD SEATED ON HIS THRONE—divine splendor, glory, brilliance

Verse 3: “Behold, there was a throne set in heaven, and one sitting on the throne that looked like a jasper stone and a sardius. There was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald to look at.”

Ezekiel’s vision: “And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around.” Ezk 1:26-27

Isaiah: Yahweh says: “Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool.” Is 66:1

3. TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS—the redeemed

Verse 4: “Around the throne were twenty-four thrones. On the thrones were twenty-four elders sitting, dressed in white garments, with crowns of gold on their heads.”

Robe: “He who overcomes will be arrayed in white garments.” Rev 3:5

Robe: “A long white robe was given to each of them [martyrs].” Rev 6:11

Robe: “These [dressed in white robes] are those who came out of the great suffering. They washed their robes and made them white in the Lamb’s blood.” Rev 7:13

Crown: “Be faithful to death, and I will give you the crown of life.” Rev 2:10

Crown: “I am coming quickly! Hold firmly that which you have, so that no one takes your crown.” Rev 3:11

Crown: “When the chief Shepherd is revealed, you will receive the crown of glory that doesn’t fade away.” Rev. 5:4

Bought for God: “The twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 They sang a new song, saying, “You are worthy to take the book and to open its seals, for you were killed, and bought us for God with your blood...and made us kings and priests to our God...” Rev. 5:8-10

Another appearance: “I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who overcame the beast, his image, and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God.” Rev. 15:2

Jesus said to the disciples: “I assign to you...a kingdom...that you may...sit on thrones.” Lk 22:29-30

Paul said to believers: “God...raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.” Eph 2:6

4. LIGHTNINGS, SOUNDS, THUNDERS—awesome divine might and power

Verse 5: “Out of the throne proceed lightnings, sounds, and thunders.”

Rev 11:19 “God’s temple that is in heaven was opened, and the ark of the Lord’s covenant was seen in his temple. Lightnings, sounds, thunders, an earthquake, and great hail followed.”

Rev 14:2 “I heard a sound from heaven like the sound of many waters and like the sound of a great thunder. The sound which I heard was like that of harpists playing on their harps.”

Rev 16:18 “There were lightnings, sounds, and thunders; and there was a great earthquake such as has not happened since there were men on the earth—so great an earthquake and so mighty.”

Rev 19:6 “I heard something like the voice of a great multitude, and like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of mighty thunders, saying, “Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns!”

God at Sinai: “All the people perceived the thunderings, the lightnings, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking. When the people saw it, they trembled, and stayed at a distance.” Ex 20:18

Ezekiel’s Vision: “I looked, and behold, a stormy wind came out of the north: a great cloud, with flashing lightning, and a brightness around it, and out of the middle of it as it were glowing metal, out of the middle of the fire...” Ezk 1:4, 27

5. SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD— unity, completeness, perfection

Verse 5: “There were seven lamps of fire burning before his throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.”

Rev 5:12 “Worthy is the Lamb who has been killed to receive the power, wealth, wisdom, strength, honor, glory, and blessing!”

Rev 7:12 “Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power, and might, be to our God forever and ever! Amen.”

Isaiah 11:2-3 “Yahweh’s Spirit will rest on him [Messiah]: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of Yahweh. His delight will be in the fear of Yahweh.”

6. THE FIRMAMENT STRETCHES OUT BEFORE GOD’S THRONE—God is seated above His creation

Verse 6: “Before the throne was something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal.” (See note A)

God made the firmament: “Then God said, ‘Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.’ 7 Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.” Gen 1:6-8

Sinai: “Then Moses, Aaron... and seventy of the elders of Israel went up [Mt. Sinai]. They saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was like a paved work of sapphire stone, like the skies for clearness.” Ex 24:11-10

Ezekiel’s vision: “The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads.” Ezk 1:22

Job: “He [Yahweh] walks on the vault of the sky.” Job 22:14

Job: “Can you [Job], with Him [Yahweh], spread out the sky, which is strong as a cast metal mirror?” Job 37:18

Psalms: “The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.” Ps 19:1

7. FOUR LIVING CREATURES—the far reaches of the heavens

Verses 6-7: “In the middle of the throne, and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes before and behind. The first creature was like a lion, the second creature like a young bull, the third creature had a face like a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle.”

Sun, moon, stars placed in firmament and made for signs: “Then God said, ‘Let there be lights in the firmament of the heavens to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs and seasons, and for days and years...’” Gen 1:14-15

Fixed signs of the zodiac: Bull (Taurus), Lion (Leo), Eagle (Scorpio), Man (Aquarius). Their positions are at right angles forming a cross representing the four cardinal directions. (See note B)

God created the constellations: “Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loosen the cords of Orion? Can you lead the constellations out in their season? Or can you guide the Bear [Ursa Major] with her cubs [Ursa Minor]? Do you know the laws of the heavens? Can you establish its dominion over the earth?” Job 38:31-33

8. FOUR LIVING CREATURES AND 24 ELDERS WORSHIP GOD

Verses 8-11: “The four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within. 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!’ 9 When the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to him who sits on the throne, to him who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever, and throw their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 ‘Worthy are you, our Lord and God, the Holy One, to receive the glory, the honor, and the power, for you created all things, and because of your desire they existed and were created!’”

NOTES:

A. Firmament: a dome over the circle of the earth, like crystal, is reflective, like a “cast metal mirror,” proclaims God’s great handiwork.

B. Zodiac: “The animals associated with the Christian tetramorph originate in the Babylonian symbols of the four fixed signs of the zodiac: the ox representing Taurus; the lion representing Leo; the eagle representing Scorpio; the man or angel representing Aquarius”
<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tetramorph> [We believe the signs were from Creation, not Babylon. See D. James Kennedy YouTube series.]

C. Biblical Astrology: see D. James Kennedy’s series on YouTube: “The Gospel in the Stars”.

D. Biblical Cosmology, David Curtis, YouTube 2023

E. Firmament is “Cast Metal Mirror”—We notice when the sun comes up in the east, the west facing windows are illumined with ambient light.