

REF. MATERIAL

God's Throne or Jesus' Throne?

1ST THRONE

The 1st throne mentioned in Revelation 4:1 is the throne of Jesus Christ; it is not God's throne. The reasons are:

1. The name of the book is "The Revelation of Jesus Christ," **it is not a revelation** of The Church, or of Israel; or even of the Father but is a revelation of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. In Revelation, God unveils Jesus Christ (has been hidden from Israel) in order to bring in the Kingdom where Jesus will be the king.

DEFINITION — **revelation** the Greek word apocalypse meaning "unveiling"

2. This revelation was written to the 7 churches in Asia not to Israel; and, it came from the triune God (the eternal, everlasting Father), the 7-fold eternal Spirit, and from Jesus Christ (the faithful witness).

NOTE

Revelation 1:9—Revelation 3 is the message directly to The Church, showing their condition and any judgment(s).

3. **Revelation 4:1** — "...and, behold, **a door was opened in heaven**: and the first **voice** which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter." After the Church has been judged (John saw an **open door**).

This **voice** is the same "voice" we see in Revelation 1:1; however, this time the voice says, "Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter". Hereafter what? No doubt this takes place after the Church Age [**Revelation 2-3**] has ended.

At this time John's spirit was taken to heaven where he sees a throne in heaven. Where then is **God's throne**? God's throne always has been because He has been/is/will always be in control of all things. We see this in Psalm 93:1-2 where it says, "*Thy throne is established of old: thou art from everlasting*" [also **Psalm 103:19**, **Isaiah 66:1**, and **Matthew 5:34**]. The throne of the complete Godhead has always been in the highest heaven and will not change. However, the Revelation 4 throne has just been set up (middle voice meaning to "lay itself down") and, in this sense, indicates it is a **new throne**.

4. Now comes the question: When will this new throne be set up?

We read, "...a throne **was set**...". This throne was already in place when John arrives. The **times of the Gentiles** began when the 2 tribes went into Babylonian captivity around 606 B.C. — and, Gentile Times will continue until Jesus' throne is set up (The Lord's Day¹ begins). Because of Jew and Gentile rejection, Jesus Christ will take His place in heaven almost 7 years before He takes His place on earth. Because the Gentiles have been in power over the Jews since 606 B.C., Jesus will have to take His rightful place by force (battle).

NOTE

Luke 21:24 — "*And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the **times of the Gentiles** be fulfilled.*"

Romans 11:25 — Where Jesus' return and ultimate reign is called "*this mystery...*" which ends with the phrase "*until the **fullness of the Gentiles** be come in.*"

2ND THRONE

1. **Revelation 4:4-5** —As John is beholding the beauty of this throne he sees 24 other thrones of lesser beauty and **24 elders**² sitting on them. Who are these elders? The first part of this answer is in Revelation 5:9, where we read that these elders sing of Jesus Christ's worthiness to open the seals and they refer to "**us**" (also "**we**") who (a) have been redeemed to God by Jesus' blood, (b) have been made kings and priests unto God, (c) shall reign on (over) the earth.

NOTE

The Church has been made "*kings and priests unto God*" (a better rendering is: "*a kingdom of priests*") [**Revelation 1:6**].

DEFINITION — **elder**

"presbuteros" and means to be older or a senior, spiritually mature with the ability to judge, they have judged themselves first.

These 24 elders cannot be angels because they are created beings; angels were never redeemed and know nothing of redemption [**1 Peter 1:11-12**]. In addition, the 24 elders cannot be the Jewish remnant because they will not reign until after The Tribulation is over. Therefore, the 24 elders must be glorified human beings who are part of The Church.

Furthermore, we see the 24 elders (a) sitting, (b) clothed in white raiment; and (c) having crowns of gold on their heads. Their white raiment and crown gives them the right to judge [**Revelation 4:5**].

¹ See Reference Material, **Lord's Day**.

² See Reference Material, **24 Elders, 4 Beasts, and Innumerable Company**.

Revelation 4:6 — Who are the **4 beasts** (living creatures³ or living ones) that we see next? **Remember, this is a vision.** The 24 elders and the 4 living ones are Bridal company members, and each represents different operations of the Bride:

- The **24 elders** speak of having the authority to judge [Revelation 4:4, “*upon the seats* (thrones) *I saw four and twenty elders sitting...*” and “*they had on their heads crowns of gold*”].
- The **4 beasts** (living ones) speak of carrying out the action of judgment.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the 4 living ones are able to see and discern in every direction (“*full of eyes before and behind*”). Who else could be in this throne room except those who “*with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord*” [2 Corinthians 3:18]!

The 4 beasts (living ones) that John saw corresponds with Ezekiel’s “*living creatures*”:

4 Living Creatures [Ezekiel 1]	4 Beasts (Living Ones) [Revelation 4]
⁴ And I looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and a fire infolding itself, and a brightness was about it, and out of the midst thereof as the colour of amber, out of the midst of the fire.	⁶ And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.
⁶ And every one had four faces , and every one had four wings. ¹⁰ As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man , and the face of a lion , on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle .	⁷ And the first beast was like a lion , and the second beast like a calf , and the third beast had a face as a man , and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle .
⁶ And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings . ¹² And they went every one straight forward: whither the spirit was to go, they went; and they turned not when they went.	⁸ And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within...
²⁴ And when they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of great waters, as the voice of the Almighty, the voice of speech, as the noise of an host: when they stood, they let down their wings.	⁸ ...and they rest not day and night, saying , Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come ⁹ And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever.

In Ezekiel’s vision these living creatures came forth out of the midst of a moving, whirling, turning, and stirring of spirits. At the end of the Church Age, judgment gets worse, the

³ See Reference Material, **24 Elders, 4 Beasts, and Innumerable Company**.

whirlwind gets greater, and the brightness gets brighter as judgment unfolds and a new Kingdom Age begins.

NOTE

Winds speak of spirits (good or bad), no matter where you find it.

Whirlwinds usually refer to judgment. In Jeremiah 23:19, you can see where whirlwinds are related to judgment. We are reminded of Elijah (went up in a whirlwind) who was taken “out”. If you study Elijah’s life you will see that Elijah left Elisha many things to be judged.

Fire, as well as the color amber and burning brass [Revelation 4:7], is a picture of judgment. This judgment began in 1914 when God began to unfold things for Israel. It is still in this unfolding stage today.

Wherever we see the word **cherubim** it is pertaining to great power of judgment [Genesis 3:24, Exodus 25:18, etc.].

Is there any significance in the fact that the living creatures of Ezekiel 1 have only 4 wings whereas the beasts (living ones) of Revelation 4 have 6 wings? Let’s look at Isaiah 6:1:

	Seraphim [Isaiah 6]	4 Living Creatures [Ezekiel 1]	4 Beasts (Living Ones) [Revelation 4]
Location of Throne? Temple?	A throne “ <i>high and lifted up</i> ” and a temple [Isaiah 6:1] This is not the throne of Revelation 4 because in this portion of John’s vision the temple had not yet been built.	A throne only [Ezekiel 1:26]. This throne is seen (above the firmament, after being set up on earth when The Tribulation is over.	A throne only [Revelation 4:1]. This throne that John saw is in heaven .
Beings?	Seraphim, who stood above the throne [Isaiah 6:2].	Living creatures; always moving until voice sounds, then the fold their wings and stop [Ezekiel 1:26].	The one on the throne, the 24 elders, and the 4 beasts (living ones) [Revelation 4:2,46].
No. of Wings?	6 wings. (The glorified human beings on earth during the Restoration.)	4 wings. (They are glorified human beings on earth during The Tribulation.)	6 wings. (They are glorified human beings on earth before The Tribulation begins.)
Judgment When?	Isaiah sees them in during judgment.	Ezekiel sees them after judgment is over and the Jewish remnant converts the nations.	John sees them first when judgment is beginning to be poured out.

The difference between the Seraphim (Isaiah 6), the living creatures (Ezekiel 1) and the 4 beasts (Revelation 4) is simply time. The description that John gives is the same description we see in Ezekiel of the living creatures. In Revelation, when the seals are opened and

judgment begins to be poured out upon the earth, it's these "living ones" who are going to be God's instruments used to pour out judgment during the last 3½ years of The Tribulation.

NOTE

In Revelation 19 and 22, John falls down before the angel who had been showing him around the tribulation times. The angel said not to worship him because **he is just a man like John**. Therefore, we know that these "angels" (active in pouring judgment upon the earth) were glorified human beings; earthly full over-comers. They are the same as (a) the 4 beasts of Revelation 4, (b) the ones that were with Jesus Christ when He opened the seal and (c) the living creatures of Ezekiel 1.

Revelation 4:9-11 — The 24 elders fall down before the One that sat on the throne and worship him, casting their crowns before His throne. At this time in Revelation, no other being has crowns or been given crowns.

DEFINITION —	crown	the Greek the word is "stephanos" and means a prize in the public games or a symbol of honor
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The overcoming elders of Israel will receive a crown but when the chief Shepherd appears to them [1 Peter 5:4], but they will not cast their crowns at Jesus' feet with praises like the 24 elders will do.

NOTE

The Apostle Paul is a picture of both Jew and Gentile. In 2 Tim. 4:7 he writes, "...there is laid up for me **a crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto **all them also that love his appearing.**"

In Acts 9:10, Ananias (means: The Lord, a giver of grace) received a vision concerning Saul, "*But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.*" This is what the Jewish remnant will do after The Tribulation is over, the giver of grace will come to the Jew first and then to the Gentiles who will receive Him.

Revelation 4:7 — This verse ends with "Amen" (as did Revelation 1:6) and corresponds with Revelation 22:12-13. The phrase "*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me...*" cannot be Jesus' coming to The Church because in 1 Thessalonians 5:2, we see that Jesus Christ will come as a thief in the night to get His reward not coming with His reward.

Revelation 4:10 — Now, let us look at this verse, "*I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet...*". This is not the Holy Spirit nor did The Lord's Day take place on a Sunday. However, John's spirit was transported to the day that

Jesus Christ is to reign. At the end of the Church Age, the judge (Jesus Christ) turns to look over The Church; after they are judged He then turns to look at the kingdom.

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