

"HEAVEN"

Part Two

Revelation 4 : 4 - 11

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. Pastor Joe's personal commentary is in brackets and modify words underlined with dots. You can find this passage in your Pew Bible on page 1194.

REVIEW FROM LAST WEEK'S MESSAGE:

- When John saw the place called Heaven it was like a throne room.
- **The Placement of the Throne—front and center.**
- **The Person on the Throne—God Himself!**
- We must become participants with Holy God, in awe of Him who sits on His throne in Heaven!



Because it is the Lord who gives us the ability to witness, to love Him, to lay down our life in ministry, when we get to heaven, we'll say, "You are worthy, Lord. Anything good in my life wasn't accomplished by my own energy or power. It was all You."

- Dr. Jon Courson

Inside Heaven—The Throne Room of God

3. The _____ around the Throne.

Revelation 4:4, NIV84 - ⁴ *Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders* [Gk:

πρεσβύτερος, *presbyterous*, there are at least 13 views about who these "elders" might be (12 OT prophets/12 apostles, angels, 24 offices of the Leviticus priests rotating in their responsibility, etc.) ["24" does represent *completion* and most scholars believe they represent all the *saved believers*—they are all there later in Revelation.] *They were dressed in white* [symbolizing Christ's righteousness imputed to believers at salvation] *and had crowns* [στέφανος, *stephanos*, a victor's crown, worn by those who successfully endured a race/trial ("What you do!") v. "diadem", the crown of Christ—worn by divine right ("Who you are!")] *of gold on their heads.*

"John now sees a precursor to the firestorm of divine fury about to burst on the sinful world."

- Dr. John MacArthur

Around the Throne...

Revelation 7:13–14, NIV84 - ¹³ *Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?"* ¹⁴ *I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who...have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."*

From the Throne...

Revelation 4:5a, NIV84 - ⁵ *From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder.*

Before the Throne...

Revelation 4:5b, NIV84 - ⁵ *...Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.* [lit., "The Holy Spirit with a sevenfold purpose."]

In and around the Throne...

Revelation 4:6–8, NIV84 - ⁶ *Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal* [The throne room floor is dazzlingly brilliant light beyond our imagination]. *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures* [ζῶον, *zōō* meaning "to live"], *and they were covered with eyes* [possibly not looking at God "so they wouldn't be consumed"], *in front and in back.* ⁷ *The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle.* [According to the Talmud—Jewish historical documents—the Lion represents "strength"; the ox, "service"; the man, "reason"; and the eagle, "speed"] ⁸ *Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around* [symbolizing their awareness, alertness, and comprehensive knowledge], *even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come."*

4. The _____ toward the Throne.

Revelation 4:9–11, NIV84 - ⁹ *Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever,* ¹⁰ *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:* ¹¹ *"You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."*



WE MUST WORSHIP GOD—THE GREATEST PRIORITY IN OUR LIVES—BY ASCRIBING OUR ATTENTION, AFFECTION, ADORATION AND FULL DEVOTION TOWARD HIM ALONE!



Answers to "HEAVEN—Part Two" Sermon

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3. People

4. Praise