

In Revelation 4 we begin our tour of the throne room of God.

Our "visitor's pass" --

Our guide --

Our Program --

HEAVEN'S THRONE ROOM IS FILLED WITH WORSHIP, 4:1-11

1 A door was opened to the throne room of the universe, 4:1-8

Door - where? Walls? "suspended" portal into the presence of the Lord's throne room.
The point is that John was given special access into the throne room of heaven.

A. One sitting on the throne of the universe appeared in a display of light and color, 4:1-3.

1. Spiritual invitation, 4:1. "Come up here"

Voice of Lord Jesus Christ described also in 1:10, 12.

2. Spiritual transportation, 4:2a. In the body or out of the body? (cf. 2 Cor. 12:1-4)

3. Spectacular revelation, 4:2b-3 .

a. John saw throne of the universe.

How is this possible when God is omnipresent (present everywhere)?

What are some of the different thrones where God manifests His presence in the Bible?

b. John saw One sitting on the throne of the universe.

Sight → display of light & color.

He looked like jasper – like a clear diamond; sardius – like red ruby.

There was a light green rainbow around the throne.

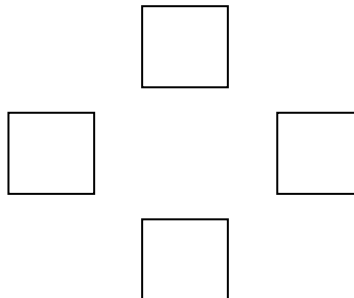
B. The heavenly scene is described in relation to the throne, 4:4-8 (note the prepositions-- on, around, from, before the throne).

1. 24 elders are seated around the throne, 4:4.

a. Not: angels or special created beings; nor representatives of Israel => 12 tribes + 12 apostles. I believe Israel is saved and OT saints are raised at the end of the Tribulation. Cf. Dan.12:1-2; Isa 26:19-21.

- b. Best: Representatives of the Church - we are represented!
 - The number 24 sometimes refers to the priesthood in the Bible – David divided Aaronic priests into 24 courses to serve (1 Chron. 24:1-4) so this could represent a new priesthood of believers in Christ = the Church (1 Peter 2:5,9; Rev. 1:6)
 - They are seated on thrones, and the idea of thrones for glorified saints is common in Revelation (cf. 2:26-28; 20:4,6).
 - They are robed in white (cf. 3:5 -- Such garments are promised to overcomers, who are the saints in the Church (19:8,14).
 - They are crowned as victors (crowns of NT relation to people, the church).
2. Objects are described in relation to the throne, 4:5-6a.
- a. From the throne - lightning, sounds, thunder (5a).
 - b. Before the throne - 7 lamps of fire (5b); sea of glass like crystal (6a)
3. God created 4 "living creatures." (4:6b-8)
- a. Descriptions common to all 4 (6b & 8)– “full of eyes”; “6 wings” (full of eyes) "in the center and around the throne"
 - b. Descriptions distinct to each (7) – “face like” a lion; calf; man; eagle
 - c. Clues from Ezekiel 1 & 10. God's mobile throne.
Chapter 1 is by the river Chebar. 1:5b-10, 15, 16, 18
10:12, 20-22

A possible diagram:



POINT: God created special beings to worship HIM!
Day and night they do not cease to say (v.8b) - "Holy, Holy, Holy..."

What is the main theme of heaven??

2 The main theme in heaven's throne room is worship, 4:9-11

A. The living creatures repeatedly prompt worship, 4:9.

Word: “when” – hotan → “as often as” (Thayer, 458).

Action was periodic and repeated; living creatures prompt worship.

B. The elders also respond with worship, 4:10-11.

1. Actions (v.10) -- These actions should be done by us regularly also!

- “will fall down” -- compare John, chap 1:17 (who else did this in the Bible?)
- “will worship” -- Is this a separate action?
- “will cast their crowns” -- why do they have crowns? what is the meaning/significance of this action?

2. Words (v.11) → “Worthy are You” → worthship -- declare His worth.

- a. Worthy to receive glory.
- b. Worthy to receive honor.
- c. Worthy to receive power.
- d. Why? He’s the Creator! Creator has the right to judge His creation.

WE WORSHIP THE ONE WHO SITS ON THE THRONE OF THE UNIVERSE.