

The Vision of God's Throne

MEMORY VERSE

“And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne” (Revelation 4:2).

TEXT: Revelation 4: 1-11

John the beloved was given the privilege to write to the churches in Asia Minor. Due to his faith in the Lord, he was banished to the Isle of Patmos. What the powers that be at that time thought would bring an end to his ministry on earth. But he was meaningfully used by the Lord to give the apostle vital revelations of the church of Christ. Apostle John had his greatest Moment of spiritual encounter with Christ at this time of his persecution.

Question 1: What are some of the revelations revealed to John before this chapter?

He had revelation about Jesus Christ in His transformed, triumphant, glorious, and majestic power (Revelation 1:11-18). He also had revelation of Christ's immutability and immortality (Revelation 1:18). In addition, he received messages of commendation, counsel, caution and courage for the seven churches in Asia Minor (Revelation 2 and 3). And his messages are still relevant to contemporary churches today. Here in Chapter 4, he had a vision concerning the throne of God.

THE PREVIEW OF GOD'S THRONE

(Revelation Isaiah 6: 1; Jeremiah 17: 12; Ezekiel 1 :26, 28; Daniel 7:9)

“After this I looked, 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” (verse 1). This was the similar voice John heard in Chapter 1:10. “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet” (Revelation 1 : 10). Though John had been invited to come up hither, it took him being in the Spirit to be able to see the vision (verse 2). For a mortal man to receive special revelation like this from God, he must be saved, sanctified and always in the spirit (without carnality) “For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace” (Romans 8:6). God afterward revealed His throne to him. The voice he heard was that of Jesus (Revelation 1:10-18). He was speaking at His fullest strength and in His eternal voice just like the Father. And the door of heaven was opened to John to behold heavenly revelations and be able to give exact account of what he saw to the churches.

Paul the apostle in his experience declared, “I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth; How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter)” (2 Corinthians 12:2,3). Such revelation is given to specific persons for specific reasons in which God wants to fulfil. To Paul, it was for his personal spiritual edification. And for John, it was for the edification of the church and to as many that read this account.

Question 2: Are there other ministers of God who saw the throne of God?

There are few men of God who had revelation about the throne of God. Prophet Isaiah had a vision of the throne of God. “In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple” (Isaiah 6: I). According to this revelation, it was a high and lifted throne such as befits the majesty of the eternal and everlasting King. Jeremiah had the revelation of God's throne, “A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary” (Jeremiah 17:12). In God's revelation to Ezekiel he saw God's throne “And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it” (Ezekiel 1: 26). Daniel also had a vision of the throne of God.

“I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery name, and his wheels as burning fire” (Daniel 7:9). John the apostle gives us the picture of God's throne beyond the prophets' revelations. “And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald” (verse 3). The throne John saw was surrounded by a rainbow which is a symbol of God's covenant and mercy. As God sees the rainbow, He remembers His promise not to destroy man and all flesh with flood (Genesis 9: 10-16). From the throne proceeded “lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God” (verse 5). The lightning and thundering and voices reflect the power and authority of God; and the seven Spirits reflect God's perfect Spirit operating in the seven churches. It also represents the graces and gifts of God.

THE PERSONALITIES AROUND GOD'S THRONE

(Revelation 4:3-5; 3: 4,5; 4:10; 7: 9,13,», 11:16; 19:14; Isaiah 6: 2)

“And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold” (verse 4). John said in the beginning of verse three “he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald” (verse 3). God sat upon the throne, and round about the throne were twenty four seats occupied by twenty four elders who represented the church of Christ. These elders were clothed in White raiment which is the righteousness of the saints (Revelation 19:8). They had on their heads crowns of gold. This reflected their honor, glory, satisfaction and rest that God has given them. Like them, we are promised similar crowns and honor at the end of our lives on earth.

Question 3: What should sinners do to be honored by God at last?

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be” (Revelation 22:12). God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek Him. He will also give a just recompense to those who forsake Him (Revelation 21:7, 8). Sinning boys and girls should urgently repent from their sins and give their lives to Christ. They should walk in newness of life and prayerfully endure to the end.

Also “round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 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. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within” (verses 6-8). These are heavenly creatures assigned by God to praise Him both night and day. “And the four beasts had

each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come” (verse 8). Christian should understand that God created all things for His own pleasure just as the elders and the creatures were present around the throne to do God's pleasure. In like manner, we are to do the will of God on earth so that our lives will give God pleasure.

THE PURPOSE OF GOD'S THRONE

(Revelation 4:9-11; 5:8, 12, 14; 15:18; Acts 17:24; Ephesians 3: 9; Colossians 1:15; Revelation 10:6)

We see three different personalities in the throne above God is the focus of the throne and He is the subject of worship. When God is removed from the throne, it becomes insignificant. And the other two personalities: the elders (representatives of the saints) and the beasts (living creatures) were made to worship God who seats upon the throne forever.

Question 4: To what purpose is the throne of God?

“And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (verses 9-11).

The essence of God's throne is: one, a place where God is worshipped. Two, a place where God reigns as the eternal King “The LORD shall reign for ever, even thy God, O Zion, unto all generations. Praise ye the LORD” (Psalm 146:10). Three, God views the acts of the children of men from His

throne. “The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men” (Psalm 11:4). Four, it is a place where God is being served. “Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them” (Revelation 7: 15). Five, God's throne is a place where He executes divine and equitable judgment (2 Chronicles 18: 18, 19).