

Celebrating 50 years of Proclaiming Christ
BEREAN BAPTIST CHURCH

God: Holy, Sovereign and the Creator

Revelation 4

1967 - 2017





Revelation 4:1

- After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet

Who is this
talking?



Revelation 1:10, 12-13

- I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet
- Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.



Revelation 4:1

- **“Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”**



Revelation 4:2

- **At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.**

**Behold our God
Seated on His Throne.**

Sovereign

- **The throne in heaven represents God's absolute authority and rule over everything.**
- **He sits on a throne NOT at a desk or in a chair.**





Revelation 4:3

- And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian,
- and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

Ezekiel identified these precious stones as being present in the Garden of God in Eden.

Precious stones were also part of the ephod of the High Priest in the Mosaic Tabernacle.

The rainbow reminds the reader of the promise to never destroy the earth again by flood.





Revelation 4:4

- Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

**Who are these
24 elders and
who or what
do they represent?**



I think the 24 elders are angels who represent the people of God. In the same way John has already associated an angel with each of the 7 churches in Asia-minor.

Twenty-four is a perfect number to unify the 12 tribes of Israel with the 12 Apostles of Jesus Christ.

Furthermore, in chapter 5:9-10 these elders sing a song that seems to distance the elders from those who have been redeemed.



Revelation 5:9-10

- They were singing a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because you were killed, and at the cost of your own blood you have purchased for God persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation.¹⁰ You have appointed them as a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

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The last thing I would say is that at the time of this visit in the Spirit to the throne of God all the Apostles are NOT confirmed to be dead. John is NOT dead.

And the elders who I think are angels are holding bowls of incense which are the prayers of the saints. Which is another thing that distances them from the actual saints of God.





Revelation 4:5

- **From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder,**

Lightning, rumblings, and thunder display the terrifying splendor of God's glory, as at Mount Sinai (Ex. 19:16).

The ESV Study Bible

Exodus 19:16

- On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

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Revelation 4:5

•and before the throne were
burning seven torches of fire,
which are the seven spirits of
God,

The Holy Spirit

- The 7 spirits of God have already been identified several times in chapters 1-3 and is a descriptive reference to the Holy Spirit.
- Thus in this vision of the throne of God we have God the Father on the throne, the Holy Spirit around the throne and in chapter 5 we will see the Lamb of God.





Revelation 4:6

•and before the throne
there was as it were a sea
of glass, like crystal.



Revelation 4:6

- And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:



Revelation 4:7

- the first living creature like a lion,
- the second living creature like an ox,



Revelation 4:7

- the third living creature with the face of a man, and
- the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

Lion

- **The king of the beasts**

Ox

- **Most powerful domesticated animal**

Man

- **The crown or pinnacle of God's creation**

Eagle

- **The most majestic of all birds**





Revelation 4:8

- **And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within,**

Isaiah 6:2

- Seraphs stood over him; each one had six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and they used the remaining two to fly.

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Seraphim or Cherubim

- **The four living creatures at the throne of God represent all of creation, signifying the calling of all creatures everywhere to praise God.**





Revelation 4:8b

- and day and night they never cease to say,
- “Holy, holy, holy,

This is not the first time we have heard these words

Isaiah 6:3

- And one called to another and said: **“Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts;**
- **the whole earth is full of his glory!”**

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Holy

- **Set-apart, sacred, separateness**
- **Exalted or worthy of complete devotion as one perfect in goodness and righteousness**

Merriam-Webster



Psalm 99:9

- Exalt the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain;
for the LORD our God is holy!

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The God on the throne in Revelation 4 is perfect in every way without exception.

He is righteous in every regard and there is none righteous—no not one (save His Son and the Spirit); He and He alone is righteous in every regard without exception.

There is none like him; he is sacred and separate from all other beings in heaven and on earth. There is none like him without exception (save His Son and the Spirit).



1 Samuel 2:2

- “There is none holy like the LORD: **for there is none besides you;** there is no rock like our God.

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Leviticus 11:44 (NET)

- for I am the LORD your God and **you are to sanctify yourselves and be holy because I am holy. You must not defile yourselves by any of the swarming things that creep on the ground,**

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Revelation 4:8b

- and day and night they never cease to say,
 - “Holy, holy, holy,
 - is the Lord God Almighty,

Almighty

- **having absolute power over all**
- **omnipotent**

Merriam-Webster





Revelation 4:8b

- and day and night they never cease to say,
 - “Holy, holy, holy,
 - is the Lord God Almighty,
 - who was and is and is to come!”

Eternal or eternity

- Who was (past)
- Is (present)
- Is to come (future)



Is this your God?

Is this the God you
believe in?



Is your God Holy and utterly set apart above and beyond all things?

Is your God the Lord, the master the ruler of all?

Is your God omnipotent, is He supremely all-powerful in every way?





Revelation 4:9

•And whenever the living creatures give **glory and honor and thanks** to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Glory

Praise, honor, or distinction

Honor

**Respect due a person in accordance
with their person or position**

Thanks

Appreciation of benefits received



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Turn to

Romans 1:21

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Romans 1:21

- For although they knew God, **they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him**, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

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**Do you honor God as
God?**

**Do you praise His
name?**

**Do you give Him
thanks?**





Revelation 4:10

•the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

**How could we put as
much emphasis on
worship @ Berean as
preaching?**





Revelation 4:11

- Worthy are you,
our Lord and God,
- to receive glory and
honor and power,

Glory

- Praise, honor, or distinction

Honor

- Respect due a person in accordance with their person or position

Power

- Strength and ability inherent to God as the Almighty





Revelation 4:11

- **for you created all things,**
- **and by your will they existed and were created.”**

Turn to Romans 4:17

Creator

- **God as the Creator is utterly different and completely set apart as the Creator from all other humans and animals that have or every will create anything**
- **God created all things out of nothing; the Latin phrase is “ex nihilo.”**



Romans 4:17

- as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, **who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.**

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- Notice at this point **NOTHING** has been said about redemption, salvation or the gospel.
- **God as the Creator is the first and most fundamental truth in the entire Bible.**
- **Humanity must exist, thus be created, before it can be saved.**



Psalm 139:13

King David said:

- For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb.

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Acts 17:24-25

- The God **who made the world and everything in it**, being Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in temples made by man,²⁵ nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, **since he himself gives to all mankind life and breath and everything.**

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Christ did NOT die on a
cross to purchase,
redeem or ransom the
product of a cosmic
explosion and an
evolutionary process.

