**Chapter four – The scene changes from Patmos to Heaven.**

[**Revelation 1:19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/1/19/s_1168019)(NKJV)John is told to Write the things which *you have seen*, and the *things which are*, and the *things which will take place* ***after this***.

Chapter four begins the third section: *the things which shall take place* ***after this***.

1. **Revelation 4:1a** (NKJV) ***After these things* I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place *after this.”***
2. The phrase ***after this*** in [**Revelation 1:19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/1/19/s_1168019) (is *meta tauta* in ancient Greek) and is repeated in [**Revelation 4:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/1/s_1171001).
   1. I believe that this is the beginning of the third division of [**Revelation 1:19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/1/19/s_1168019), *things which will take place after this*.
3. Now that we are seeing Heaven and no longer Earth, there are important references to heaven.
   1. [**Isaiah 6:1-3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isa/6/1-8/s_685001)(NKJV) **In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And *one cried to another* and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!**
   2. (Spurgeon) “It is very little that we can know of the future state, but we may be quite sure that we know as much as is good for us. We ought to be as content with that which is not revealed as with that which is. If God wills us not to know, we ought to be satisfied not to know. Depend on it, he has told us all about heaven that is necessary to bring us there; and if he had revealed more, it would have served rather for the gratification of our curiosity than for the increase of our grace.”
4. From [**Revelation 4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/1-11/s_1171001)**-**[**19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/19/1-21/s_1186001)we have a section mainly concerned with God’s judgment upon the world known as the “**Great Tribulation**.”
   1. God’s judgments are announced by a seven-sealed scroll, seven trumpets, seven signs, and seven bowls that pour out God’s wrath. (7 is the # of Perfection)
   2. **Revelation 4** introduces us to the place judgment comes from: God’s throne in heaven.

**Revelation 4:1** (NKJV) ***After these things* I looked, and behold, *a door standing open* in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place *after this.”***

1. **After these things**: **Revelation**[**2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/2/1-29/s_1169001)**-** [**3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/3/1-22/s_1170001) spoke to the churches. After Jesus was finished speaking to the churches, **after these things**, John experienced the vision of [**Revelation 4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/1-11/s_1171001).
2. **And the first voice which I heard**: The **first voice** that spoke to John in [**Revelation 1:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/1/10/s_1168010) spoke to him again here — the voice of Jesus.
   1. Jesus called John up to heaven, through **a door standing open in heaven**.
   2. Some people believe that this door is spiritual and others believe that this door is real.
3. **Like a trumpet**: The voice spoke loud and clear to John.
   1. It was like the trumpet that gathered the congregation of Israel together, or gathered an army for battle or *gathered his Bride home*!
4. **Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this**: John will be shown things that concern the future (**which must take place after this**), not in John’s present day.
   1. Some people like to interpret what John saw from **Revelation 4 -**[**19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/19/1-21/s_1186001) was fulfilled ***before*** John’s Day — such as the Roman invasion and destruction of Jerusalem.
   2. Jesus clearly told John that He would **show** him **things which must take place *after this***.
   3. Some like to interpret what John saw up through **Revelation 4 -**[**Revelation 19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/19/1-21/s_1186001) as fulfilled ***after*** John’s Day ***but before*** our present day.
   4. Therefore, we regard what Jesus **will show** John in the following chapters of Revelation as belonging to the ***future***, and as preceding the coming reign of Jesus on earth.
5. **Like a trumpet… Come up here**: Many see John’s going up to heaven as a symbol of the rapture of the church.
   1. John was called up to heaven by a voice that sounds like a trumpet, just as the church will be according to [**1 Thessalonians 4:16-17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1th/4/16-17/s_1115016) (NKJV) **For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.**
6. Jesus finished speaking to and dealing with the churches in **Revelation**[**2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/2/1-29/s_1169001)**-**[**3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/3/1-22/s_1170001), Now, Jesus called John up to heaven, “**catching him away**” with a voice that sounded **like a trumpet**.
   1. All this happened *before* the great wrath that will be described beginning at [**Revelation 6**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/1-17/s_1173001).
   2. As that great judgment on the earth unfolded, John — a representative of the church — was in heaven, looking down on earth.
   3. The word ***church*** never occurs in **Revelation**[**chapters 4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/1-11/s_1171001)**-**[**19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/19/1-21/s_1186001) describing this period of judgment on earth.

**John goes up, in the Spirit.**

[**Revelation 4:2a**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/2/s_1171002) **Immediately I was in the Spirit;**

1. **Immediately I was in the Spirit**: In [**Revelation 1:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/1/10/s_1168010). John said he was *in the Spirit*, yet this was a different experience.
   1. **In the Spirit**: Where was his body? Was John’s body in heaven also, or was it just his spirit? This is impossible to know.
   2. [**2 Corinthians 12:1-4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2co/12/1-4/s_1090001)When ***Paul*** had his heavenly experience, he didn’t know if he was *in the body* or not. **I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.**
   3. **1 Corinthians 15:50-53 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be *changed--in a moment*, in the *twinkling of an eye*, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this *corruptible* must put on *incorruption*, and *this mortal must put on immortality*.**

**John’s description of heaven. The point of focus: a throne set in heaven.**

[**Revelation 4:2b**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/2/s_1171002) **And behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One sat* on the throne.**

1. **And behold, a throne**: This **throne** was what first thing that caught John’s eye, and it is the ***centerpiece*** of this vision.
   1. John was captivated by the ***occupied*** **throne**, and everything else is described in relation to this **throne**.
   2. The bottom line of atheism or materialism is that there *is* ***no throne***, there is no seat of authority or power that the entire universe must answer to.
   3. The bottom line of humanism is that there is a throne, but ***man*** sits upon it.
   4. Basically, man cannot live without the concept of *a throne*, a supreme ruler. So, if man de-thrones God, he will place himself or some other man upon the throne, perhaps a political leader, such as Caesar, Lenin or Stalin.
2. **And One sat on the throne**: The throne **isn’t empty**.
   1. There is **One** who sits on this heavenly throne. The throne is a powerful declaration of not merely God’s *presence*, but of His *sovereign*, *rightful reign*, and His right to judge.
   2. We can’t think about anything else until we settle in our mind that the throne in heaven **is occupied**, and that it’s occupied by the *God of the Bible*.
   3. (Morgan) “While there may be many differing interpretations, the fundamental truths are self-evident. At the center of everything is an **occupied throne**.”

**What John saw at the heavenly throne.**

[**Revelation 4:3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/3/s_1171003) **(NKJV) And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.**

1. **And He who sat there was like**: As John described the occupant of the throne, he did not describe a **distinct** figure.
   1. If a police officer asks us to describe someone, we usually try to tell them as much as we can, height, weight, color of hair and any distinguishing marks.
   2. (Clarke) “There is here no description of the Divine Being, so as to point out any *similitude, shape,* or *dimensions*. The description rather aims to point out the surrounding *glory* and *radiance* of the *person* of the almighty King.”
2. **Like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance**: Instead of describing a specific form or figure, John described shining light in **two** colors: white (**jasper** may mean “diamonds” and diamonds act as a complex prism by dispersing the reflected white light into to colors of the rainbow.) and red (**sardius** – Red).
   1. Perhaps these two colors are meant to communicate the glory of the empty tomb (white, [**Matthew 28:1-3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/28/1-3/s_957001)) and the sacrificial love of Calvary (red, indicating **blood**).
3. **And there was a rainbow around the throne**: The throne was surrounded by a green-hued ***rainbow*** (**in appearance like an emerald**).
   1. The rainbow is a reminder of God’s commitment to His covenant with man [**Genesis 9:11-17**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/gen/9/11-17/s_9011) **Thus I establish My covenant with you: Never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood; never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” And God said: “This is the sign of the covenant which I make between Me and you, and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations: I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. Around this setting of all power, authority and glory — this setting of the throne of God — God has a *reminder* of His promise to never destroy the earth again with water.**
   2. A throne says, “I can do whatever I want, because I rule.” But a promise says, “I will fulfill this word to you, and I cannot do otherwise.”
   3. **A rainbow around the throne** is a remarkable thing, showing that God will always limit Himself by His own promises.
   4. (Spurgeon) “Oh! Child of God! Thy heavenly Father in his sovereignty, *has a right to do with you, his child, as he pleases, but he will never let that sovereignty get out of the limit of the covenant*. As a sovereign, he might cast you away, but he has promised that he never will, and never will he. As a sovereign, he might leave you to perish, but he has said, ‘I will not leave thee nor forsake thee.’ As a sovereign, he might suffer you to be tempted beyond your strength, but he has promised that no temptation shall happen to you, but such as is common to man, and he will with the temptation make a way of escape.”

**What John saw around the throne: the twenty-four elders.**

[**Revelation 4:4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/4/s_1171004) **Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.**

1. **Around the throne were twenty-four thrones**: Before the elders caught John’s eye, he noticed the **twenty-four thrones** that they sat on. These twenty-four elders sat on **lesser** thrones, **around the throne**.
   1. **On the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting**:
   2. Who are these 24 elders?
   3. When people don’t know, they theorize (You have an **idea** about something, you have your own opinion about it, but you cannot prove what you think is true.) (Like the theory of evolution)
   4. Many people debate whether these 24 elders are glorified human beings or angelic beings.
   5. Some believe that the 24 could be one for each of the 12 tribes and the 12 apostles.
   6. **Elders** represent the people of God (**Elder** In both the Old and New Testaments, the term "elder" indicates one of advanced age (Heb. *zaqen* [**[eqz](https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/hebrew/nas/zaqen.html)**]; Gk. *presbyteros* [**[presbuvtero"](https://www.biblestudytools.com/lexicons/greek/nas/presbuteros.html)**]) who had an office of leadership within the people of God) especially in the Old Testament.
   7. [**Revelation 5:9-10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/5/9-10/s_1172009), **the twenty-four elders sang a song of praise to Jesus, and they cried out: *For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation*.** In that passage, the twenty-four elders clearly spoke as being redeemed by the *Blood of Jesus*.
   8. **Clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads**: The **white robes** and **crowns** of the elders ***seem*** to indicate that they are human beings, in glory.
   9. Angels are sometimes presented in white robes or garments ([**Mark 16:5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mar/16/5/s_973005)**;**[**John 20:12**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/jhn/20/12/s_1017012)**;**[**Acts 1:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/act/1/10/s_1019010))
   10. But saints also have white robes ([**Revelation 6:11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/6/11/s_1173011)**,**[**7:9**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/7/9/s_1174009)**,**[**13-14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/7/13-14/s_1174013)) ([**Revelation 3:5-18**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/3/5-18/s_1170005)). as a picture of their righteousness
   11. However, *we never see* angels *crowned* but believers will be ([**1 Corinthians 9:25**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1co/9/25/s_1071025)**;**[**2 Timothy 4:8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/2ti/4/8/s_1129008)**;**[**1 Peter 5:4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/1pe/5/4/s_1156004)).

**Impressive and fearful sights at the throne of God.**

[**Revelation 4:5**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/5/s_1171005) **(NKJV) And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**

1. **And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices**: The lightning, thunder, voices and fire are significant of God’s fearful presence at Mount Sinai
   1. [**Exodus 19:16-19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/19/16-19/s_69016) **Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled. And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Now Mount Sinai was completely in smoke, because the LORD descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. And when the blast of the trumpet sounded long and became louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by voice.**
   2. **Exodus** [**20:18-19**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/20/18-19/s_70018) **Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off. Then they said to Moses, “You speak with us, and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die.”**
2. **Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne**: The Holy Spirit (the **seven Spirits of God**, as referred to in [**Revelation 1:4**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/1/4/s_1168004) and [**Isaiah 11:2**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/isa/11/2/s_690002) is represented by seven burning **lamps**.

* **The Spirit of the Lord**
* **The Spirit of Wisdom**
* **The Spirit of Understanding**
* **The Spirit of Counsel**
* **The Spirit of Strength**
* **The Spirit of Knowledge**
* **The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord**

1. In other passages He is represented as a dove ([**Matthew 3:16**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/mat/3/16/s_932016)) or a flame of fire ([**Acts 2:3**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/act/2/3/s_1020003)).
   1. The lamps of fire are important because the Holy Spirit is not *ordinarily* visible. To become visible, He represents Himself in a physical form like a **dove** or a **tongue of fire**.

**The sea of glass before the throne.**

[**Revelation 4:6a**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/6/s_1171006) **(NKJV) Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal..**

1. **A sea of glass**: Is this sea really made of **glass**, or did it just look like it?
   1. Commentators are divided on this point. For example,
      1. Robertson says, “appearance, not material”
      2. Alford says, “material, not appearance.”
      3. Whether it *looks* like glass or is actually *made of glass*, it is the *finest* **glass, like crystal**.

**The living creatures all around the throne.**

[**Revelation 4:6b-8a**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/6-8/s_1171006) **(NKJV) And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* *four* *living creatures* full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature *was like* a flying eagle. *The* *four living creatures*, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.**

1. **Isaiah 6:1-3** **In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And *one cried to another* and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; The whole earth is full of His glory!”**
2. **Four living creatures full of eyes**: For comparison with
   1. [**Ezekiel 1:4-14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eze/1/4-14/s_803004)(NLT) **As I looked, I saw a great storm coming from the north, driving before it a huge cloud that flashed with lightning and shone with brilliant light. There was fire inside the cloud, and in the middle of the fire glowed something like gleaming amber. From the center of the cloud came four living beings that looked human, except that each had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight, and their feet had hooves like those of a calf and shone like burnished bronze. Under each of their four wings I could see human hands. So each of the four beings had four faces and four wings. The wings of each living being touched the wings of the beings beside it. Each one moved straight forward in any direction without turning around. Each had a human face in the front, the face of a lion on the right side, the face of an ox on the left side, and the face of an eagle at the back. Each had two pairs of outstretched wings—one pair stretched out to touch the wings of the living beings on either side of it, and the other pair covered its body. They went in whatever direction the spirit chose, and they moved straight forward in any direction without turning around. The living beings looked like bright coals of fire or brilliant torches, and lightning seemed to flash back and forth among them. And the living beings darted to and fro like flashes of lightning.**
   2. **Ezekiel** [**10:20-22**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eze/10/20-22/s_812020)(NLT) **These were the same living beings I had seen beneath the God of Israel when I was by the Kebar River. I knew they were *cherubim*, for each had four faces and four wings and what looked like human hands under their wings. And their faces were just like the faces of the beings I had seen at the Kebar, and they traveled straight ahead, just as the others had.**
   3. Satan was once one of these high angelic beings,
      1. [**Ezekiel 28:14**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/eze/28/14/s_830014)**-15**. **“You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. (Pride was his downfall)**
   4. **Cherubim** were also prominent in design of the tabernacle, particularly in the Most Holy Place
      1. [**Exodus 25:17-22**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/exo/25/17-22/s_75017) (NKJV) **“You shall make a mercy seat of pure gold; two and a half cubits shall be its length and a cubit and a half its width. And you shall make two cherubim of gold; of hammered work you shall make them at the two ends of the mercy seat. Make one cherub at one end, and the other cherub at the other end; you shall make the cherubim at the two ends of it of one piece with the mercy seat. And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel.**
   5. **Full of eyes in front and in back… full of eyes around and within**: Their multitude of eyes indicates these **living creatures** (not “beasts” as in the KJV) are not blind instruments or robots. They know and understand, and have greater insight and perception than any man.
   6. These beings of great intelligence and understanding live their existence to worship God. All failure to truly worship is rooted in a lack of *seeing* and *understanding*.
   7. Our service must not be rash but reasonable, [**Romans 12:1**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rom/12/1/s_1058001) **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.**
3. **Like a lion… like a calf… a face like a man… like a flying eagle**: John described four angels, each with a different **face**.
   1. Some commentators say these four creatures speak of the banners of the head tribes as Israel camped in four groups around the tabernacle in the wilderness.
   2. Because there is no specific connection between the four faces of the cherubim and a particular gospel, different traditions have connected these four faces of the cherubim in different ways.
      1. Some have seen Matthew as the "Lion" gospel, showing Jesus as the Lion of the Tribe of Judah.
      2. Mark is seen as the "Ox" gospel, showing Jesus as a humble servant, a worker.
      3. Luke is seen as the "Man" gospel, showing Jesus as the perfect man, the second Adam.
      4. John is seen as the "Eagle" gospel, showing Jesus as the man from heaven, the sky.
   3. Still, this approach also has other interpretations. Some believe that the four faces are important because they represent all of animate creation, in its utmost excellence.
      1. The lion is the mightiest of wild animals
      2. The ox is the strongest of domesticated animals
      3. The eagle is thought as being the king of all birds
      4. And man is highest of all creation.
      5. Rabbi Abin says: ‘There are *four* which have principality in this world: among *intellectual creatures*, **man**; among *birds*, the **eagle**; among *cattle*, the **ox**; and among *wild beasts*, the **lion**: each of these has a kingdom and a certain magnificence, and they are placed *under the throne of glory*, and that the kingdom of God is over all.
   4. (Trapp) “Qualified with all necessary endowments, for the discharge of their duties, being bold as lions, painful as oxen, prudent as men, delighted in high flying as eagles.”

**John describes what happens at the throne of God. The living creatures constantly worship God.**

[**Revelation 4:8b**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/8/s_1171008) **And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”**

1. **They do not rest day or night, saying, “Holy, holy, holy”**: They constantly repeat the phrase **holy, holy, holy**. God’s **holy** nature and character is **declared**, and **emphasized** with a **three-time repetition**.
   1. (Johnson) “In Hebrew, the double repetition of a word adds emphasis, while the rare threefold repetition designates the superlative and calls attention to the *infinite holiness* of God.”
2. **They do not rest**: (Trapp) “They have no rest, and yet they have no unrest neither, the sweet content they take in their continual employment is fitter to be believed than possible to be discoursed.”
3. **Lord God Almighty**: [**Revelation 1:8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/1/8/s_1168008) **(NLT) “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.**
   1. They declared that the **Lord God** is **Almighty**. As in, the ancient Greek word is *pantokrator*, with the idea of “the One who has His hand on everything.”
4. **Who was and is and is to come**: This repeats another idea from [**Revelation 1:8**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/1/8/s_1168008), and refers to God’s eternal Being. It translates the *thought* behind the meaning of the name “Yahweh.

**The twenty-four elders worship the enthroned God.**

[**Revelation 4:9-11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/9-11/s_1171009) **Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”**

1. **Whenever the living creatures give glory… the twenty-four elders fall down before Him**: The worship of the twenty-four elders is prompted by the Living Creatures. Since the Living Creatures worship God Day and night, so do the elders.
2. Knowing that angels worship God should prompt our worship also. Do we have any less to praise Him or thank Him for?
   1. (Spurgeon, *Holy Song from Happy Saints*) “Do we sing as much as the birds do? Yet what have birds to sing about, compared with us? Do we sing as much as the angels do? Yet they were never redeemed by the blood of Christ. Birds of the air, shall you excel me? Angels, shall you exceed me? You have done so, but I intend to emulate you, and day by day, and night by night, pour forth my soul in sacred song.”
3. **The twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him**: The twenty-four elders’ **worship** (which means to credit worth or worthiness) to God. The **elders** credited God for their own work and reward, and they did this as they **cast their crowns before the throne**. They recognized that the worth, the worthiness belonged to God, not to themselves.
4. Casting the crowns simply acted out their confirmation, **You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power**. If God was worthy of the **glory and honor and power**, then *He* should get the crowns.
5. There was also a practice in the Roman Empire. The Emperor of Rome ruled over many lesser kings, and these kings were at times commanded to come before the emperor and lay their crowns down before him in respect. Then he would give them back, as a demonstration that their crowns, their right to rule, their victory, *came from him*.
   1. (Clarke) “This is an allusion to the custom of prostrations in the east, and to the homage of petty kings acknowledging the supremacy of the emperor.”
   2. The **crowns** mentioned in [**Revelation 4:10**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/10/s_1171010) are the *stephanos* **crowns**, the crowns of ***victory***, *not royalty*. These are the crowns of achievement that a winning athlete would receive at the ancient Olympian Games. The **twenty-four elders** — representing all the redeemed of God — threw every achievement reward they had back to God, because they knew and proclaimed that He was **worthy… to receive glory and honor and power**.
   3. (Spurgeon) “Our text says they *all* cast their crowns before the throne. There are no divided opinions in heaven, no sects and parties, no schisms there. They are all in perfect harmony and sweet accord. What one does, all do. They cast their crowns, without exception, before the throne. Let us begin to practice that unity here. As fellow Christians, let us get rid of everything that would divide us from each other, or separate us from our Lord. I do not read that there was a single elder who envied his brother’s crown, and said, ‘Ah, I wish I were such a one as he is, and had his crown.’ I do not read that one of them began to find fault with his brother’s crown, and said, ‘Ah, his jewels may be bright, but mine have a peculiar tint in them, and are of greater excellence.’ I do not read ought of dissension; they were all unanimous in casting their crowns at Jesus’ feet. They were all united in glorifying God.”
   4. **For You created *all* things, and by Your *will* they exist and *were created***: The twenty-four elders worshipped God because of His creative power and glory. The fact that God is Creator gives Him all right and every claim over everything — even as a potter has all rights and claims over the clay
      1. [**Romans 9:21**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rom/9/21/s_1055021) (NKJV) **Does not the potter have power over the clay, from the same lump to make one vessel for honor and another for dishonor?**
   5. God’s right over us as **Creator** is a fact that can be accepted and enjoyed, or *rejected*, *leading to frustration*.
   6. [**Revelation 4:11**](https://www.blueletterbible.org/kjv/rev/4/11/s_1171011): (NKJV) *“You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.*
      1. This reminds us that we each exist to give glory and pleasure to God. Until we do that, we don’t fulfill our created purpose.
   7. The **twenty-four elders** are believed to represent all the people of God.
      1. (Spurgeon) “There is a throne in heaven that no one can occupy but you, and there is a crown in heaven that no other head can wear but yours, and there is a part in the eternal song that no voice can ever compass but yours, and there is a glory to God that would be wanting if you did not come to render it, and there is a part of infinite majesty and glory that would never be reflected unless you should be there to reflect it!”