

REVELATION 4

BEFORE THE THRONE... AN OPEN DOOR

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.

And immediately I was in the Spirit; and, behold, a throne was set in Heaven, and one sat on the throne.

After having received the revelation of God regarding the seven churches, the apostle John is then given another vision. The Spirit of God commands him to look upon a door. This door is a door that has been opened in Heaven. Let's make it clear, this isn't a earthly door, but a heavenly one! He received a heavenly invitation to come into the house of God and He will show him, his servant, the things that are to come to pass hereafter.

John mentions the first voice that he heard so that we recognize the he heard more than one voice. The word states that the Lord's sheep hear his voice, so this signifies that the voices the John heard were the voices of the Spirit. He states the first voice was as it were of a trumpet to signify that he heard the sounding of an alarm of victory at Heaven's door. There's a voice that compels the prophet to come a little higher and get in the spirit. Immediately, while being in the Spirit of God, John sees the throne of God and he that sat on the throne.

It is needful to remember these things that the prophet Daniel spoke concerning the throne in Daniel chapter seven. The Lord mentioned that we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away (1 Cor 13:9-10). Therefore, Daniel prophesied a portion and also John a portion of what he saw concerning the throne of the Most High.

As the Lord is revealing these things, remember, that he had just given a word concerning the church of Laodicea and He declared to them that He is knocking at their door and if they open unto Him, He would come in and sup with them and that they who overcome will sit with him in his throne, and with his father in Heaven.

Therefore, the Lord is showing by His Spirit his desire for fellowship with his children. He desires the supplication and the unity with his chosen. Then he shows John his throne to behold with his own eyes. Jesus Christ is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. The Father has indeed given him a kingdom that is not of this world.

And He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, like unto an emerald.

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.

And out of 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.

Rev 4:3-5

The apostle John sees the splendid appearance of the throne of God, and him that did sit upon the throne. This is the origination of the power of God. From the throne originates grace, mercy, and judgment. At this throne is the mercy seat of God where Jesus Christ is standing on the right hand of God as our advocate to the Father, day and night. From this place of splendor, the Lord Jesus grants the petitions for healing, deliverance, and sets captives free. This place is a place of honor, reverence, and glorious splendor. It cannot compare to anything you've ever seen on earth with your natural eye.

Then, the Lord reveals his counselors. He shows that though he may be King of kings and the God of glory, he doesn't sit and make decisions on his own. He has advisors and friends that sit in unity and they confer with him and give counsel and minister the word. Though He is the first and the last, he still has an order and a system of accountability. He has a checks and balance. The elders were wearing white to signify they have clean hands and a pure heart. They are holy in His sight. Upon their heads were crown of gold, symbolic of the keeping of his promise to those who overcome, He will give a crown of life. They confirm the eternal and the everlasting life that Jesus Christ has promised to the believer. The crown being gold is significant that they have been tried and have been purified.

Let's highlight the previous scripture where John says, "I looked and a door was opened in Heaven." Jesus is that door that takes us from earth to glory. This is the revelation of Jesus Christ.

John 10:9

I am the door: by me if any man enter in, He shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.

Jesus is the way, the truth and the Life. There is no other Shepperd or any other way in which we can get to the throne of grace.

Out of 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.

And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

Rev 4:5-6

It is necessary to give a friendly reminder that the spirit speaks that which He sees that which he hears. John hears and sees lightening, thunder, and hears voices. I believe this is a revelation that there are multiple ways in which the Lord communicates with his creations. He also shared that he has sheep that are of other folds. Lightening, thunder, and other voices are multiple forms of communication,

II Corinthians 12:4

How that he was caught up into paradise, and he heard unspeakable words, which is not lawful for a man to utter.

Paul confirms similar communications in the book/letter written to the Corinthians. There are times when you are in the spirit and moving by the spirit that spiritual things are spoken and heard but we cannot seem to put together the natural words to describe it. I have often stated, "it defies description." The Lord confirms these things once again in Revelation 10:3-4:

And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth: and when He has cried, seven thunders uttered their voices.

And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from Heaven saying into me, seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not.

The Lord mentions that with those communications are the seven lamps which are the seven spirits of God. The Lord shares these spirits in the book of Isaiah 11:2. The Lord makes clear that these spirits will make one quick of understanding and establish the fear of the Lord. They provide for righteous judgment.

The sea of glass is to show there is an appointed times for all things. When the Lord Jesus Christ carried forth his ministry in the earth after having compelled his twelve disciples; that wasn't the time for kingly attire and glamour, but a time to establish the faith. The spiritual throne is revealed that at one point in history was a mystery.

Matthew 13:16-17

But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

For verily I say unto you, that many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear and have not heard them.

There are living creatures all around the throne ministering to the Lord, day and night, and they are full of eyes in front and back beholding the good as well as the evil. This is the confirmation that the Lord is omnipresent and omniscient. He sees all, he knows all, and he is everywhere. There is nothing that gets past the Lord God.

Remember that John has been in prison for some time and the Lord has revealed these things. Therefore, remember that no matter the circumstance or the situation the Lord is still able to glorify himself through our life.

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: they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. Rev 4:7-8

The Lord has often been mentioned in the word as the lion of Judah, which has a significance of strength, power, and might. Yet, this animal is protective of its own. The calf has a significance of one's ability to work and flourish. It is mentioned the oxen tread the corn. Therefore, you can look at it as the strength of one's economy. To have the face of a man is to be created in the likeness of God whom the Lord stated he would pour out his spirit upon all flesh. Therein rests the spirits of wisdom, counsel, knowledge, understanding, and might.

The fourth beast is like a flying eagle, which is to show a method of transportation which they are able to elevate high above all things and swoop to deep depths in order to see its prey and enemies.

I am led at this moment to mention again the first verse that stated the first voice that John heard was as if it were a trumpet. This is the voice of triumph...the voice of victory! There are many sounds, but this is the voice of the overcoming power of God that brings us to our heavenly place in Christ Jesus.

Ephesians 2:4-6

But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love where with he loved us,
Even when we were dead in our sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved,)

And hath raised us up together, and made us to sit together in Heavenly places in Christ Jesus.

The Lord is consistently showing the depths of his love and mercy towards his chosen and his spirit quickens us and brings us to a higher place in Christ where we can receive that which is given by the Spirit.

I Corinthians 2:10-15

But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: For the Spirit searcheth all things, yea the deep things of God.

For what knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? Even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world. But the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual with spiritual.

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can we know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

Therefore, the Lord carries John into the Spirit in a similar way that he did with Ezekiel and also with Paul. In the spirit is where all things are made known to our spirit man and we can compare spiritual things with spiritual things and know even there very deep things of God.

These things are not revealed just for John to "know and behold," or to establish faith. The relationship is established. The faith is there. Ther Lord commanded John to write these things to the churches.

He is appealing to the patience of the saints who are waiting on the Lord and are attempting to overcome the tests and trials that they encounter while carrying their cross and enduring hardness as good soldiers. These words are going to strengthen those believers who surrender completely. He will write to strengthen those to hold fast the faith and continue to fight to endure unto the end.

While the Lord is mentioning the saints of God that John is writing to; let's talk about the sea of glass like unto a crystal and the eyes that are everywhere.

The seas in the word of God have often been symbolic of a multitude of people. However, these seas are tranquil, transparent, and beautiful to look upon. These people of God at the Lord's throne are not troubled, but stable and have perfect peace, and they have nothing to hide.

The word is confirmed in Luke 8:16-17:

No man, when he lighted a candle, covereth it with a vessel, or putteth it under a bed; but sitteth it on a candlestick, that they which enter in may see the light.

For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither anything hid, that shall not be known and come abroad.

Therefore, we know that at the throne of God are all things made known. The Spirit knows the reigns of the heart.

Having made known to apostle John that there are other voices, The Lord also makes known that he has other sheep that are not of this fold (John 10:16). Nonetheless, there will be one fold, and one Shepherd.

Having said these things, Jesus Christ reveals the four beasts that are at his throne and they see everywhere. They see the spiritual such as who belongs to God and who belongs to the adversary. They know the tares as well as the wheat.

Ezekiel 10:14

And everyone had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creatures that I saw by the river of Chebar.

The Lord Jesus Christ we know exists as a three-in-one being. He is the Father, Son, and the Holy Spirit in unity as one. The celestial cherubim have four heads, and therefore exist as a four-in-one being. They have four facets of the operations of the spirit of God. The Lord revealed that the cherubim had the Holy Spirit upon them and that where the spirit went, they went. Where the head looked, they followed. You need the Holy Spirit to lead and guide you in the path of all truth, and it is definitely a sense of urgency in these last and evil days.

As the Lord has given these visions to the apostle John for the churches, he gave similar visions to the prophet Ezekiel. The Lord Jesus Christ wanted his people to be covered and shielded for the judgment that was to come upon the children of disobedience. He said his wrath and indignation would be poured upon these who have worked iniquity and done their abominations in the sight of God.

In the book of Ezekiel, the Lord also gives his prophet Ezekiel a vision of the cherubim. The same cherubim that John saw were instructed to fill the man's hands with coals of fire and scatter them over the city. This is to signify the judgment of the Lord and the fulfillment of prophesy.

The glory of the Lord went up from the cherubim and was placed upon the threshold of a house. The Lord gives symbolism that we are the Lord's temple built without hands. In the Old Testament scriptures when the children were in bondage, the Lord chose Moses to lead the people. First came deliverance and before the destruction of the adversary the Lord gave instruction to seal every door post with the blood of the lamb.

The Lord Jesus Christ has now poured out his spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2). Jesus Christ has come and he has become the ultimate sacrifice for our sins. He has also dispersed the Holy Spirit which also distributes gifts to all men who receives him. Therefore, the Lord is making it clear here in the book of Ezekiel that before the destruction comes the Lord's people must be sealed by His Holy Spirit.

Ezekiel 10:4

And the Lord said unto him, go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

And to the others He said in mine hearing, go ye after him through the city and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity:

Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women: but come not near any man upon whom is the mark; and begin at my sanctuary. Then they began at the ancient men which were before the house.

Therefore, you can see just as well that the Lord has given us an open door to deliverance from the wrath to come. He wants to protect his chosen from “the troubles of Jacob,” as some call the period of tribulation. He is not slack with his coming, not does he take pleasure in the destruction of the wicked. He says to seek for the meaning that he will have mercy and not sacrifice.

Ephesians 3:17-18

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,

May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height;

And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

He loved us enough to warn us, call us, qualify, and to unify us by the Holy Spirit while there is ye time. The Lord has appointed an operation of His Holy Spirit with regards to the economy and business. That operation is symbolic of the calf, as mentioned briefly earlier in the chapter. The calf is used to work and labor for food.

The operation of the Spirit was also appointed to man as a servant. The lord calls his children a peculiar people and a royal priesthood.

I Peter 2:9-10

But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.

The eagle has the symbolism of security, protection, and being able to go higher heights, and deeper depths. He sees things that others may not see. Without a vision people perish. You need vision to see where the spirit is leading you. You also need vision to avoid the traps and snares of the adversary.

The lion as we mentioned previously in the book of Daniel is representative of a supreme being (superiority), strength, power, and majesty; all the characteristics of the Most High. He is protective and possessive.

It is needful to mention again that these cherubs move with the Spirit of God. They are given charge over nations and the saints of God. The Lord pleads with his chosen to be sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise because he is going to quicken his chosen by his spirit and when his spirit is taken up, the operations of the Holy Spirit upon the economy, the saints/servants, and the ability to thrive and persevere as a nation by His Spirit will no longer be there. There will be utter destruction, devastation, chaos.

Therefore, the prophetic book of Ezekiel and this portion of revelation gives us a foreshadowing of the quickening of the church of God and the conclusion of the “time of the gentiles.”

II Corinthians 1:30

Now he which stablisheth us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God,

Who hath sealed us, and given the earnest of the spirit in our hearts.

Ephesians 1:12-13

That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.

In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise.

Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.

This is confirmation that the Lord is with us and he has stated we must trust him. The times that lead up to the end when Christ redeems his people are considered perilous times. The word of God states that the righteous will scarcely make it. Where would that leave the sinner man? We must trust the Lord and seek him with our whole heart like we never sought him before.

The accuser of the brethren will be using his tares to accuse the brethren day and night. He will be on the job working iniquity and conspiracies against the saints of the Most High. Remember, his purpose is to steal, kill, and destroy. He also doesn't sleep or slumber. The word mentioned that adversary doesn't rest until he has done mischief.

However, the Lord has given the Holy Spirit to overcome all powers of darkness. He says we can elevate above all circumstances and situations with our praise. Through praise and worship, these earthly cares become so small.

Revelation 4:8-11

And the beasts had each of them six wings about them; 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.

And when those beasts give glory and honor and thanks to him that sat on 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 honor and power: For thou has created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

The solution is always praise! In the spirit is the fear of the Lord and He is glorified. They worship and praise without ceasing day and night at his throne where there is victory and righteous judgment. He is the very reason for our praise and worship. They cast their crowns to the Lord even in Heaven as to say He is the King of kings and he is the Lord of Lords, he reigns in victory and He is worthy of our life.

Paul asked a question in I Corinthians 4:7:

For who maketh thee to differ from another? And what hast thou that thou didst not receive? Now if thou didst receive it, why dost thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?

It all goes back to God...everything! What do any of us have that wasn't given to us from God? Even the Spirit of God returns unto him, and if we receive a crown, even that is cast down before the King of glory who possess all things.

THE CROWNS

I Peter 5:4

And when the chief Shepperd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away.

I Thess 2:19

For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?

II Tim 4:8

Henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them that love his appearing.

James 1:12

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

Therein is the patience of the saints. While we wait, we shall render unto God the praises due unto his righteous name. Glory to God for he is worthy to be praised!