

God's Throne: The Perfection of Beauty (Rev. 4)

I. BEAUTY REALM OF GOD (REV. 4)

- A. [Revelation 4 and 5](#) describes [what our beautiful God put around](#) His throne to [expresses His beauty](#). His royal court is a place of perfect beauty. [I refer to it as the "beauty realm of God."](#) God's beauty is seen in His royal court which is adorned with the seraphim, cherubim, elders, saints, and angels. His fire, winds, music, and fragrances flow across the crystal sea of glass.
- ⁹⁶I have seen the consummation of all perfection [beauty and majesty]... (Ps. 119:96)*
- ²Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God will shine forth. (Ps. 50:2)*
- ⁶Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (Ps. 96:6)*
- ⁴One thing I have desired...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord. (Ps. 27:4)*
- B. Revelation 4 is one of the greatest passages on God's beauty. It describes the Father's throne. I see 4 main categories with each having three themes. These 12 details have many implications.
1. The beauty of God's person: how God looks, feels, and acts (Rev. 4:3)
 2. The beauty of God's partners: the Church enthroned, robed, and crowned (Rev. 4:4)
 3. The beauty of God's power: manifestations of power in lightning, thunder, voices (Rev. 4:5a)
 4. The beauty of God's presence: His fire on lamps, seraphim, and the sea (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2)
- ²Behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³He 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. ⁴Around 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 head ⁵From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. ⁶Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...around the throne, were four living creatures... (Rev. 4:2-6)*

II. BEAUTY OF GOD: HOW GOD LOOKS, FEELS, AND ACTS (REV. 4:3)

- A. Glorious light filled with various colors radiate from God's presence including the brightness of diamonds (jasper), fiery red glory (sardius), and the various colors of the emerald rainbow. The jasper speaks of His splendor, the sardius His fiery desires, and the emerald rainbow His mercy.
- ³He 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. (Rev. 4:3)*
- B. Like a jasper stone: A "diamond like" crystal brilliance radiates from God's throne.
- ¹¹Her [New Jerusalem] light was...like a jasper stone, clear as crystal. (Rev. 21:11)*
1. God dwells in light that no one can approach, not due to His desire to distance Himself relationally. I believe that His light protects His creation from the fullness of His glory.
- ¹⁶Dwelling in unapproachable light whom no man has seen or can see... (1 Tim. 6:16)*

2. The seraphim cover their faces after being overwhelmed with His glory.
²Above it [God's throne] stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face...³One cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord..." (Isa. 6:2-3)
3. Without protection, God's creation is overwhelmed at the fullness of God's glory.
¹⁵The kings of the earth...hid themselves...¹⁶and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne..." (Rev. 6:15-16)
¹¹I saw...Him...from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. (Rev. 10:11)
- C. *Like a sardius stone*: This deep red gem speaks of God's fiery desire giving us insight into what He feels like. He created and saved His people because He burns with desire for them.
²⁴The LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous [passionate] God. (Deut. 4:24)
⁹As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you... (Jn. 15:9)
- D. *An emerald rainbow*: The rainbow speaks of how God acts in tender mercy. God's covenant mercies cover all the activity of His throne. Emerald green speaks of life (vegetation). God's beautiful personality is seen in how He relates to us with great kindness and tenderness.
¹³I set My rainbow in the cloud, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth...¹⁶I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant... (Gen. 9:13-16)
⁶The LORD...proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth, ⁷keeping mercy for thousands... (Ex. 34:6-7)
- E. Ezekiel described Jesus' throne as being like sapphire (blue).
²⁶A throne in appearance like a sapphire stone... (Ezek. 1:26)
- F. God covers Himself with a multi-colored garment of light that shines forth with the colors of jasper (crystal), sardius (red), emerald (green), sapphire (blue), and the rainbow.
²You...cover Yourself with light as with a garment... (Ps. 104:2)
- G. Jesus possesses the brightness of the Father's glory that is stronger than the sun. Jesus' glory illuminates the eternal city. He is the light of the New Jerusalem and the millennial earth.
²³The city [New Jerusalem] had no need of the sun...for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb [Jesus] is its light. ²⁴The nations...shall walk in its light... (Rev. 21:23-24)
- H. His face shines like the sun shining in its strength. As it is impossible to look directly into the brightness of the sun, so His countenance is a weapon that overwhelms His enemies.
⁸Whom [Antichrist] the Lord will...destroy with the brightness of His coming. (2 Thes. 2:8)
²³The moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts [Jesus] will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously. (Isa. 24:23)

III. BEAUTY OF GOD'S PARTNERS: ENTHRONED, ROBED, AND CROWNED (REV. 4:4)

- A. God's beauty is seen in the exaltation of the saints as they are enthroned, robed, and crowned. The presence of the elders around His throne reveals His desire for partnership with His people.

⁴Around 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. (Rev. 4:4)

- B. **Enthroned**: The elders are enthroned with God's authority with their value and dignity (Rev. 2:28; 3:21). The beauty God possesses is the very beauty that He imparts to these people (Isa. 61:3). God's salvation so cleanses and exalts His former enemies that they may reign with Him as His Bride on thrones (Rev. 2:28; 3:21; Mt. 19:28; Lk. 22:30).

²¹To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne... (Rev. 3:21)

- C. **Robed**: The elders clothed in white robes speaks of their priestly ministry (Rev. 3:4-5, 18).

- D. **Crowned**: The elders wear golden crowns because God remembers and rewards their works from this life (Rev. 2:10; 3:11).

³You shall also be a crown of glory...and a royal diadem in the hand of your God... ⁴You shall be called Hephzibah...for the LORD delights in you. (Isa. 62:3-4)

IV. THE BEAUTY OF GOD'S POWER: MANIFESTATIONS OF POWER (REV. 4:5A)

- A. God's throne releases beautiful, glorious, and terrifying manifestations of His heart and mind to the saints. This revealing of Himself beautifies His court, and the very atmosphere around Him.

⁵From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. (Rev. 4:5a)

- B. **Lightning**: Flashes of lightning continually go forth to release divine energy, light, and splendor to saints and the eternal city (Rev. 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18).

- C. **Thunderings**: personal and corporate divine messages with power (Rev. 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18)

⁴When the seven thunders uttered their voices, I was about to write [message]... (Rev. 10:4)

¹One of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, "Come and see." (Rev. 6:1)

- D. **Voices**: This includes various sounds, noises, songs, and music led by harps and trumpets (Rev. 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18) and the voices of the Father, Son, Spirit, the saints, and the angelic host, etc. Throughout the eternal city, God's thunder and lightning and songs touch individuals and corporate gatherings with revelation of His heart and impartation of His power.

¹⁰A loud voice, as of a trumpet...¹⁵His voice as the sound of many waters... (Rev. 1:10, 15)

⁴ The voice of the LORD is powerful...full of majesty. (Ps. 29:4)

¹⁹The temple of God was opened...there were lightnings, noises, thunderings... (Rev. 11:19)

V. BEAUTY OF THE SPIRIT'S PRESENCE: LAMPS, SERAPHIM AND SEA (REV. 4:5-7)

- A. God's beauty is seen in how the Holy Spirit imparts His presence to His people to strengthen, renew and transform us. He makes His people strong and beautiful forever. It is manifested as divine fire on the seven lamps, the four seraphim, and the crystal sea (Rev. 4:5-7; 15:2).
- ⁵*Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. ⁶Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal...And around the throne, were four living creatures [seraphim]...⁷The first living creature was like a lion, the second...like a calf [ox], the third living...like a man...and fourth living...a flying eagle. (Rev. 4:5b-7)*
- B. Lamps of fire: The lamps speak of the Spirit's work and manifest presence (Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 5:6).
- C. Sea of glass: The saints will gather together on the sea of glass like crystal in God's fire (Rev. 15:2). Moses saw the sapphire glory of the "pavement" under His feet or throne (Ex. 24:10).
- ²*I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast [Antichrist]...standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. (Rev. 15:2)*
- ¹⁰*A river of fire was flowing and coming out from before Him... (Dan. 7:10, NAS)*
- ¹⁰*They saw the God of Israel. And there was under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in its clarity [crystal like]. (Ex. 24:10)*
- D. Living creatures: The four living creatures are seraphim which means the "burning ones." They are attendants who are nearest to God's throne. They show forth four different faces of God in redemption; as a lion (warrior with courage), calf or ox (a servant persevering in the mundane), man (dignity of relating to and ruling with God), and the eagle (soaring in the Spirit). They are a picture of those fully alive in the Spirit and the different ways we relate to God and people.

VI. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS OUR ESCORT IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOD (REV. 4:2)

- A. John needed the aid of the Spirit because there is a supernatural element in encountering God. The Spirit is our only escort into God's presence. *We must walk in the Spirit to experience more of God.* We cultivate friendship with the Spirit and are careful to not quench or resist Him (1 Thes. 5:19; Eph. 4:30). A dull spirit of compromise cannot progress in the knowledge of God.
- ²*I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. (Rev. 4:2)*
- B. Three songs in Scripture focus on God's worth (Rev. 4:11; 5:9-10, 11-14). For all eternity our worship will be fueled by the revelation of God's beauty and worth.
- ¹¹*You are worthy, O Lord [Father], to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and by Your will [for Thy pleasure, KJV] they exist and were created. (Rev. 4:11)*
- ⁹*They sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll...for You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every...nation..." (Rev. 5:9-10)*