

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

I. BEHOLDING THE BEAUTY OF THE LORD

A. One of David's lifelong goals was to encounter the beauty of God regularly.

⁴One thing I have desired...all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord. (Ps. 27:4)

B. Isaiah prophesied that the Spirit would emphasize Jesus' beauty in the generation He returns.

¹⁷"Your eyes will see the King in His beauty..." (Isa. 33:17)

II. BEAUTY REALM OF GOD (REV. 4)

A. Revelation 4 is one of the greatest passages on God's beauty. It describes the Father's throne. I see four main categories, each having three themes. These 12 themes 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 people**: 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)

III. 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. **Jasper stone**: A "diamond-like" crystal brilliance radiates from God's throne (Rev. 21:11)

C. **Sardius stone**: Sardius is a deep red gem. John saw a fiery red brightness radiating from God's throne. Moses saw this same reality when he declared that God is a consuming fire.

²⁴The LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous [passionate] God. (Deut. 4:24)

D. **An emerald rainbow**: The rainbow speaks of how God acts in tender mercy.

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)

IV. 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 and with their own value and dignity. God's salvation so cleanses and exalts His former enemies that they reign with Him (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

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

- A. God's throne releases beautiful and glorious manifestations of His heart and mind to the saints.
⁵From the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. (Rev. 4:5a)
- B. **Lightning:** Flashes of lightning continually go forth to release God's energy, light, and splendor.
- 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 [the message]... (Rev. 10:4)
- D. **Voices:** This includes various sounds, songs, and music (Rev. 4:5; 8:5; 11:19; 16:18).

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

- A. God's beauty is seen in how the Spirit imparts His presence to strengthen His people.
⁵Seven 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...like a man...and fourth...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 on the sea of glass-like crystal in God's fire (Rev. 15:2).
²I 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)
- D. **Living creatures:** The four living creatures are *seraphim*, which means "the burning ones." They are a picture of those fully alive in the Spirit and of the different ways that His people are to relate to God and serve in His kingdom.