

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.

⁶“...knowledge will be the...strength of salvation...¹⁷Your 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 most detailed passages on God's beauty. It describes the Father's 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 ...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. 4:3-6)

- B. I identify four 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, and voices (Rev. 4:5)
4. The beauty of **God's presence**: His fire on lamps, seraphim, and the sea (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2)

III. BEAUTY OF GOD'S PERSON: HOW GOD LOOKS, FEELS, AND ACTS (REV. 4:3)

- A. God's appearance—color radiates from God's being, including the brightness of diamonds (jasper), fiery red glory (sardius), and all the colors of the emerald rainbow. The jasper speaks of His splendor; the sardius, His fiery desires (love and holiness); 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 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 (Deut. 4:24; Ex. 34:6).

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

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

¹³“I 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 PEOPLE: SAINTS 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; they had crowns of gold on their heads. (Rev. 4:4)
- B. **Enthroned:** The elders reign with authority—here we see the value and dignity of the redeemed. God's salvation so cleanses, equips, and exalts His former enemies that they reign with Him.
⁹Eye has not seen...the things which God has prepared for those who love Him. (1 Cor. 2:9)
- C. **Robed:** The elders being 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...⁷The first living creature was like a lion, the second...like a calf [ox], the third...like a man...and the fourth...a flying eagle. (Rev. 4:5b-7)*
- B. **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)
- C. **Lamps of fire:** The lamps speak of the Spirit's manifest presence (Isa. 11:2; Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 5:6).
- D. **Living creatures:** The four living creatures are *seraphim*, which means "the burning ones." They are a picture of those who are fully alive in the Spirit and of the different ways that God's people are to relate to Him and serve in His kingdom—the fearless courage represented by a *lion*, the servant spirit and reliability represented by a *calf* (oxen), the dignity of a *man* created in God's image and called to participate in God's family, and the supernatural dimension of a *flying eagle*.