

## **A GLIMPSE INTO HEAVEN**

### *REVELATION 4*

Pastor Dennis Clanton

Woodland Church

Wednesday, April 25, 2018

*“Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast. The voice said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after this.” And instantly I was in the Spirit, and I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it. The one sitting on the throne was as brilliant as gemstones—like jasper and carnelian. And the glow of an emerald circled his throne like a rainbow. Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning and the rumble of thunder. And in front of the throne were seven torches with burning flames. This is the sevenfold Spirit of God. In front of the throne was a shiny sea of glass, sparkling like crystal. In the center and around the throne were four living beings, each covered with eyes, front and back. The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight. Each of these living beings had six wings, and their wings were covered all over with eyes, inside and out. Day after day and night after night they keep on saying,*

*“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty—the one who always was, who is, and who is still to come.”*

*Whenever the living beings give glory and honor and thanks to the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever), the twenty-four elders fall down and worship the one sitting on the throne (the one who lives forever and ever). And they lay their crowns before the throne and say,*

*“You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased.”*

*(Revelation 4, NLT)*

### **THE TRUMPET BLAST IS THE VOICE OF JESUS CHRIST.**

*“Then as I looked, I saw a door standing open in heaven, and the same voice I had heard before spoke to me like a trumpet blast.” (Revelation 4:1, NLT)*

*“I will show you what must happen after this.” (Revelation 4:2, NLT)*

## **GOD'S PRESENCE PREDOMINATES.**

*"I saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it." (Revelation 4:2 (NLT))*

*"The first of these living beings was like a lion; the second was like an ox; the third had a human face; and the fourth was like an eagle in flight." (Revelation 4:7, NLT)*

## **WE ARE GIVEN A PICTURE OF WORSHIP IN HEAVEN.**

*"Twenty-four thrones surrounded him, and twenty-four elders sat on them. They were all clothed in white and had gold crowns on their heads." (Revelation 4:4, NLT)*

## **THE HEAVENLY BEINGS WORSHIP.**

*"You are worthy, O Lord our God, to receive glory and honor and power. For you created all things, and they exist because you created what you pleased." (Revelation 4:11, NLT)*

*"I saw the Lord. He was sitting on a lofty throne, and the train of his robe filled the Temple. Attending him were mighty seraphim, each having six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they flew. They were calling out to each other, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Heaven's Armies! The whole earth is filled with his glory!" Their voices shook the Temple to its foundations, and the entire building was filled with smoke." (Isaiah 6:1-4, NLT)*

Also compare Ezekiel 1

## **JOHN WAS NOT CURIOUS OR SEEKING A VISION; HE WAS WORSHIPPING THE LORD.**

## **WE ARE INVITED TO WORSHIP.**

*"...they lay their crowns before the throne." (Revelation 4:10, NLT)*

## **HUMILITY IS NOT HUMILATION.**

## **CROWNS ARE PERSONAL GLORY.**

**WORSHIP WILL CHANGE OUR CHARACTER, COUNTENANCE AND CIRCUMSTANCES.**

*“From the rising of the sun to its setting, the name of the Lord is to be praised!”*  
(Psalm 113:3, NLT)

**WORSHIP IS NOT THE INVENTION OF NICE THINGS TO SAY ABOUT GOD BUT ACKNOWLEDGING WHO HE IS, WHAT HE HAS DONE AND WHAT HE HAS PROMISED TO DO!**

“How can we turn our knowledge about God into knowledge of God? The rule for doing this is simple but demanding. It is that we turn each truth that we learn about God into matter for meditation before God, leading to prayer and praise to God.”  
- J. I. Packer, *Knowing God*, p. 23

**CHAPTER FOUR REVEALS GOD’S DESIRE FOR OUR LOVE.**

*“Jesus asked, “Didn’t I heal ten men? Where are the other nine? Has no one returned to give glory to God except this foreigner?”* (Luke 17:17-18, NLT)

**THE APOSTLE JOHN IS SETTING THE CONTEXT FOR EVERYTHING THAT FOLLOWS IN THE REVELATION.**