

## OUR GREATEST AMBITION

*REVELATION 4, Part 2*

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*“This is the message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open.”*

(Revelation 3:7, NLT)

*“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends.”*

(Revelation 3:20, NLT)

### 1. MY GREATEST AMBITION IS TO KNOW GOD. (Revelation 4)

*“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)

- a. Heaven the place of God’s dwelling.

*“All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God. And I will also write on them my new name.”* (Revelation 3:12, NLT)

- b. Heaven the cosmic order of creation.

*“Then there was war in heaven. Michael and his angels fought against the dragon and his angels.”* (Revelation 12:7, NLT)

- c. Heaven the sky.

*“Then the stars of the sky fell to the earth like green figs falling from a tree shaken by a strong wind.”* (Revelation 6:13, NLT)

## 2. UNDERSTANDING REVELATION BEGINS WITH WORSHIP AT GOD’S THRONE.

*“I saw a throne in heaven ....”* (Revelation 4:2, NLT)

- a. I am given a foretaste of heaven in worship.

*“We have the Holy Spirit within us as a foretaste of future glory, ...”*  
(Romans 8:23, NLT)

- b. Heaven is pictured as a Temple.

*“Then I looked and saw that the Temple in heaven, God’s Tabernacle, was thrown wide open.”* (Revelation 15:5, NLT)

*“Then, in heaven, the Temple of God was opened and the Ark of his covenant could be seen inside the Temple.”* (Revelation 11:19, NLT)

*“In front of the throne were seven torches with burning flames.”*  
(Revelation 4:5, NLT)

*“... gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of God’s people.”* (Revelation 5:8, NLT)

*“Then Hiram cast a great round basin, 15 feet across from rim to rim, called the Sea.”* (1 Kings 7:23, NLT)

- c. God’s throne means there are absolutes.
- d. God’s throne means there is absolute authority.
- e. God’s throne means there is security.
- f. God’s throne is a place of awe.
  - i. Jasper and Carenlian– The purity of God and the blood of Christ. First two stones on the breastplate of the High Priest. (Exodus 28:17-20)
  - ii. Rainbow – The promises of God.
  - iii. Lightning and thunder – The judgment of God.

*“On the morning of the third day, thunder roared and lightning flashed, and a dense cloud came down on the mountain. There was a long, loud blast from a ram’s horn, and all the people trembled.”* (Exodus 19:16, NLT)
  - iv. The Sea – the glory and mystery 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.”* (Revelation 4:6, NLT)

*“As they stood with wings lowered, a voice spoke from beyond the crystal surface above them. Above this surface was something that looked like a throne made of blue lapis lazuli.*

*And on this throne high above was a figure whose appearance resembled a man. From what appeared to be his waist up, he looked like gleaming amber, flickering like a fire. And from his waist down, he looked like a burning flame, shining with splendor. All around him was a glowing halo, like a rainbow shining in the clouds on a rainy day. This is what the glory of the LORD looked like to me. When I saw it, I fell face down on the ground, and I heard someone's voice speaking to me.”*  
(Ezekiel 1:20–28, NLT)

*“I saw before me what seemed to be a glass sea mixed with fire. And on it stood all the people who had been victorious over the beast and his statue and the number representing his name. They were all holding harps that God had given them. And they were singing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb: “Great and marvelous are your works, O Lord God, the Almighty. Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations. Who will not fear you, Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous deeds have been revealed.”* (Revelation 15:2–4, NLT)

v. Four Living Beings – All Creation

*“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.”* (Isaiah 6:2, NLT)

*“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!”* (Isaiah 6:3, NLT)

vi. 24 Elders – 12 Tribes and 12 Apostles

3. I HONOR GOD BY TALKING TO HIM, ABOUT HIM, AND SERVING HIM.

*“I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God will curse Jesus, and no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit is the source of them all. There are different kinds of service, but we serve the same Lord. God works in different ways, but it is the same God who does the work in all of us. A spiritual gift is given to each of us so we can help each other.”*  
(1 Corinthians 12:3–7, NLT)

KNOWING GOD PUTS ALL OF MY PROBLEMS IN PROPER  
PERSPECTIVE.