

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Part 2 (c. 95–96)

Revelation 4:1–8:1

The Throne of God

4:1 After these *things* I looked, and behold, an open door in heaven, and the former voice that I had heard like a trumpet speaking with me was saying, “Come up here and I will show you *the things* which must take place after these *things*.”

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one was seated on the throne.

3 And the one seated was similar in appearance to jasper and carnelian stone, and a rainbow was around the throne similar in appearance to emerald.

4 And around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing, and on their heads were gold crowns.

5 And from the throne came out lightnings and sounds and thunders, and seven torches of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

6a And before the throne was *something* like a sea of glass, like crystal,

The Four Living Creatures and the Twenty-four Elders Worship God

6b and in the midst of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

7 And the first living creature was similar to a lion, and the second living creature was similar to an ox, and the third living creature had a face like a man’s, and the fourth living creature was similar to an eagle flying.

8 And the four living creatures, each one of them, had six wings apiece, full of eyes around and inside, and they do not have rest day and night, saying,

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God All-Powerful, [cf. [Isa 6:3](#)]
the one who was and the one who is and the one who is coming!”

9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the one who is seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders fall down before the one who is seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever, and put down their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 “You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
because you have created all *things*,
and because of your will they existed and were created.”

The Scroll With Seven Seals

5:1 And I saw in the right hand of the one who is seated on the throne a scroll, written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

2 And I saw a powerful angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to break its seals?”

3 And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it.

4 And I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it.

The Lamb of God—Worthy to Open the Scroll’s Seals

5 And one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! Behold, the lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals.

6 And I saw in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures and in the midst of the elders a Lamb standing as though slaughtered, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth.

7 And he came and took *the scroll* from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne.

Songs of Worship for God and the Lamb

8 And when he took the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one of whom had a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

9 And they were singing a new song, saying,

“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slaughtered,
and bought *people* for God by your blood
from every tribe and language and people and nation,

10 and made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”

11 And I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and of the living creatures and of the elders, and their number was ten thousand times ten thousand and thousands times thousands,
12 saying with a loud voice,

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slaughtered
to receive power and riches
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

13 And I heard every creature that *is* in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and in the sea and everything in them saying,

“To the one who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb
be praise and honor and glory and power
forever and ever.”

14 And the four living creatures were saying, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

The First Seal is Opened—A White Horse

6:1 And I watched when the Lamb opened one of the seven seals, and I heard one of the four living creatures saying like the sound of thunder, “Come!”

2 And I looked, and behold, a white horse, and the one seated on it had a bow, and a crown was given to him, and he went out conquering and in order that he might conquer.

The Second Seal is Opened—A Fiery Red Horse

3 And when he opened the second seal, I heard the second living creature saying, “Come!”

4 And another horse came out, fiery red, and it was granted to the one seated on it to take peace from the earth, and that they would slaughter one another, and a large sword was given to him.

The Third Seal is Opened—A Black Horse

5 And when he opened the third seal, I heard the third living creature saying, “Come!” And I looked, and behold, a black horse, and the one seated on it had a balance scale in his hand.

6 And I heard *something* like a voice in the midst of the four living creatures saying, “A quart of wheat for a denarius, and three quarts of barley for a denarius, and do not damage the olive oil and the wine!”

The Fourth Seal is Opened—A Pale Green Horse

7 And when he opened the fourth seal, I heard a voice from the fourth living creature saying, “Come!”

8 And I looked, and behold, a pale green horse, and the one seated on it was named Death, and Hades followed after him. And authority was granted to them over a fourth of the earth, to kill by the sword and by famine and by pestilence and by the wild beasts of the earth.

The Fifth Seal is Opened—The Martyred Saints

9 And when he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slaughtered because of the word of God and because of the testimony which they had,

10 and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, holy and true Lord, will you not judge and avenge our blood from those who live on the earth?”

11 And to each one of them a white robe was given, and it was said to them that they should rest yet a short time, until *the number* of their fellow slaves and their brothers who were about to be killed as they *had been* were completed also.

The Sixth Seal is Opened—The Great Earthquake

12 And I watched when he opened the sixth seal, and a great earthquake took place, and the sun became black like sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood,

13 and the stars of heaven fell to the earth like a fig tree throws down its unripe figs *when* shaken by a great wind.

14 And the sky was split apart like a scroll that is rolled up, and every mountain and island were moved from their place.

15 And the kings of the earth, and the most important people, and the military leaders, and the rich, and the powerful, and every slave and free person hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains,

16 And they said to the mountains and to the rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of the one who is seated on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb,

17 because the great day of their wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” [cf. [Joel 2:11](#); [Mal 3:2](#)]

First Interlude—The Sealing of the Saints

7:1 After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, so that no wind could blow on the earth or on the sea or on any tree.

2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, holding the seal of the living God, and he cried out with a loud voice to the four angels who were given permission to damage the earth and the sea,

3 saying, “Do not damage the earth or the sea or the trees until we have sealed the slaves of our God on their foreheads.”

4 And I heard the number of the ones who were sealed, one hundred forty-four thousand sealed from every tribe of the sons of Israel:

5 from the tribe of Judah, twelve thousand sealed,

from the tribe of Reuben, twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Gad, twelve thousand,

6 from the tribe of Asher, twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Naphtali, twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Manasseh, twelve thousand,

7 from the tribe of Simeon, twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Levi, twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Issachar, twelve thousand,

8 from the tribe of Zebulun, twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Joseph, twelve thousand,

from the tribe of Benjamin, twelve thousand were sealed.

A Great Multitude Worship God Around His Throne

9 After these *things* I looked, and behold, a great crowd that no one was able to number, from every nation and tribe and people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, dressed *in* white robes and *with* palm branches in their hands.

10 And they were crying out with a loud voice, saying,

“Salvation to our God
who is seated on the throne,
and to the Lamb!”

11 And all the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

12 saying,

“Amen! Praise and glory,
and wisdom and thanksgiving,
and honor and power and strength
be to our God forever and ever. Amen!”

An Elder Identifies Those in Long White Robes as Having Been Martyred in the Great Tribulation

13 And one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are dressed *in* the white robes—who are *they*, and from where have they come?”

14 And I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me,

“These are the ones who have come out of the great tribulation,
and have washed their robes
and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

15 Because of this, they are before the throne of God,

and they serve him day and night in his temple,
and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

16 They will not be hungry *any* longer or be thirsty *any* longer,
nor will the sun ever beat down on them, nor any heat, [[Isa 49:10](#)]

17 because the Lamb *who is* in the midst of the throne will shepherd them
and will lead them to springs of living waters,

and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” [cf. [Isa 25:8](#)]

The Seventh Seal is Opened—Silence in Heaven

8:1 And when he opened the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven *for* about half an hour.

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