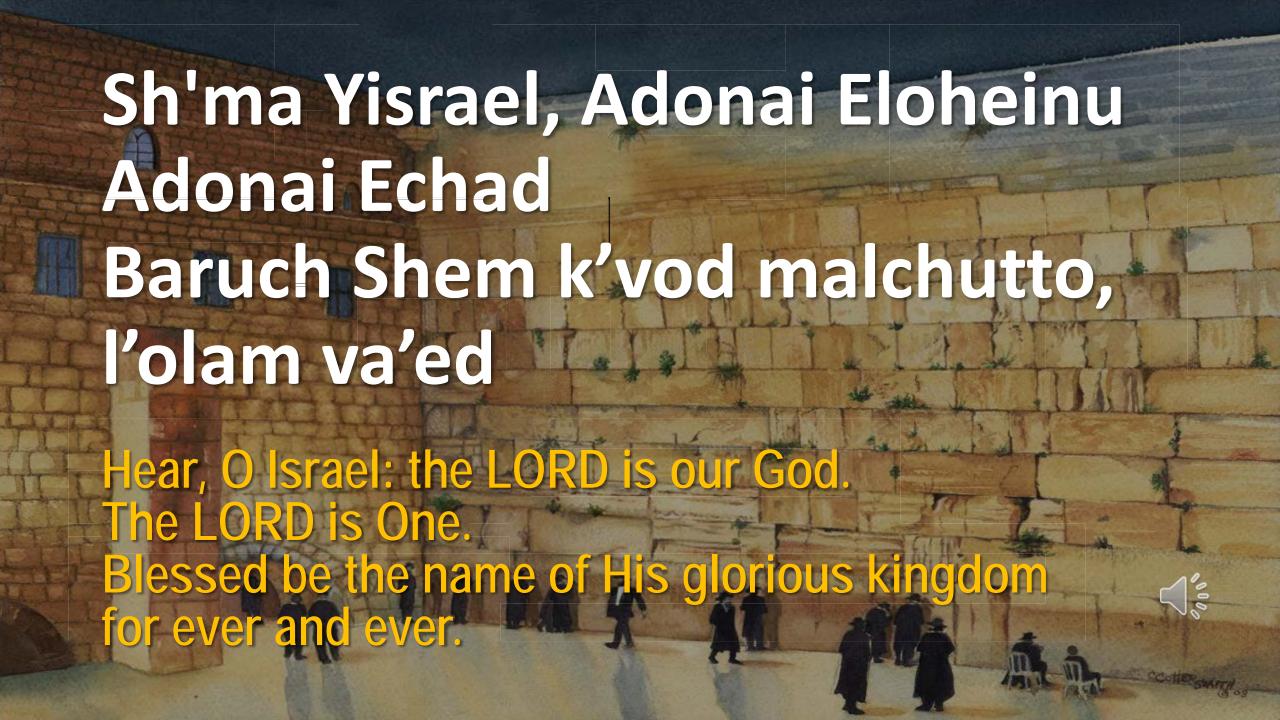
"Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh ADONAI Elohei-Tzva'ot, asher haya v'hoveh v'yavo! Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God of Hosts [Almighty], who was and who is and who is to come!" (Revelation 4:8)



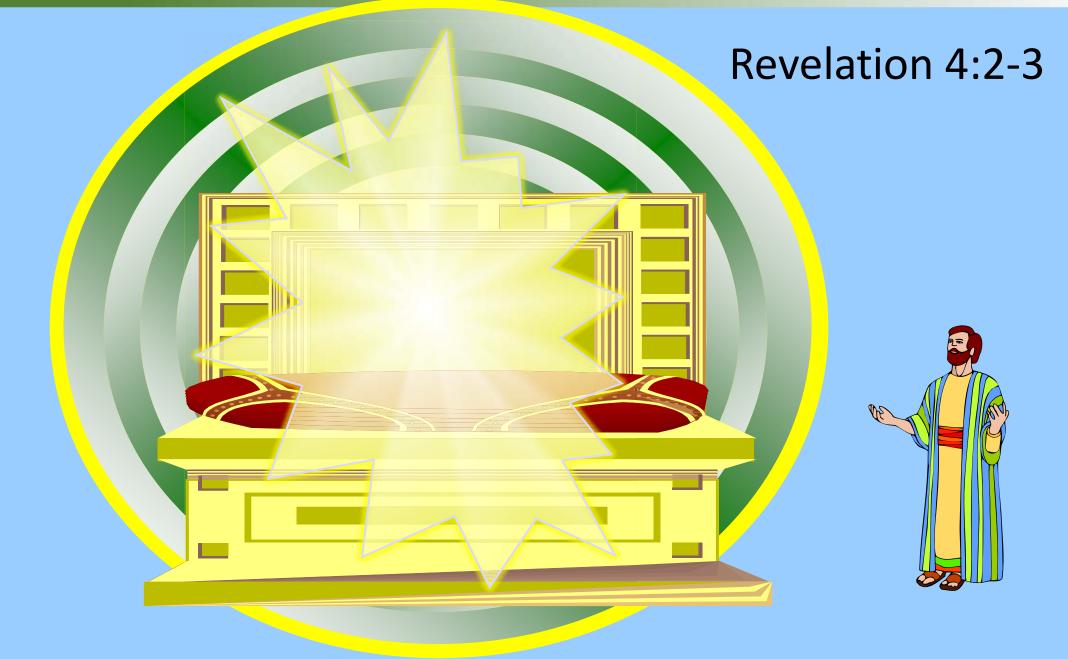


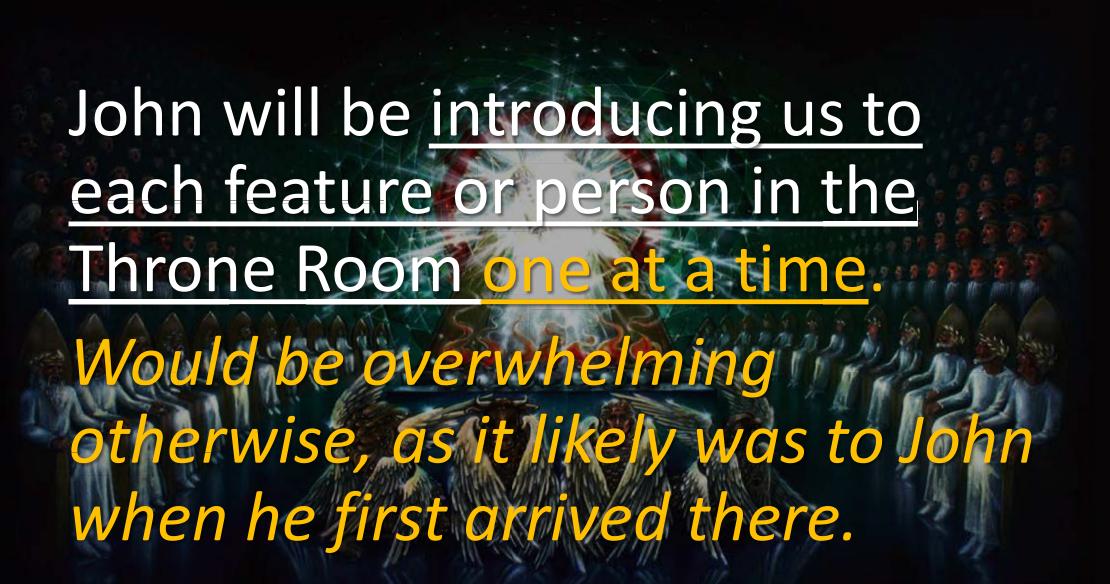


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² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.



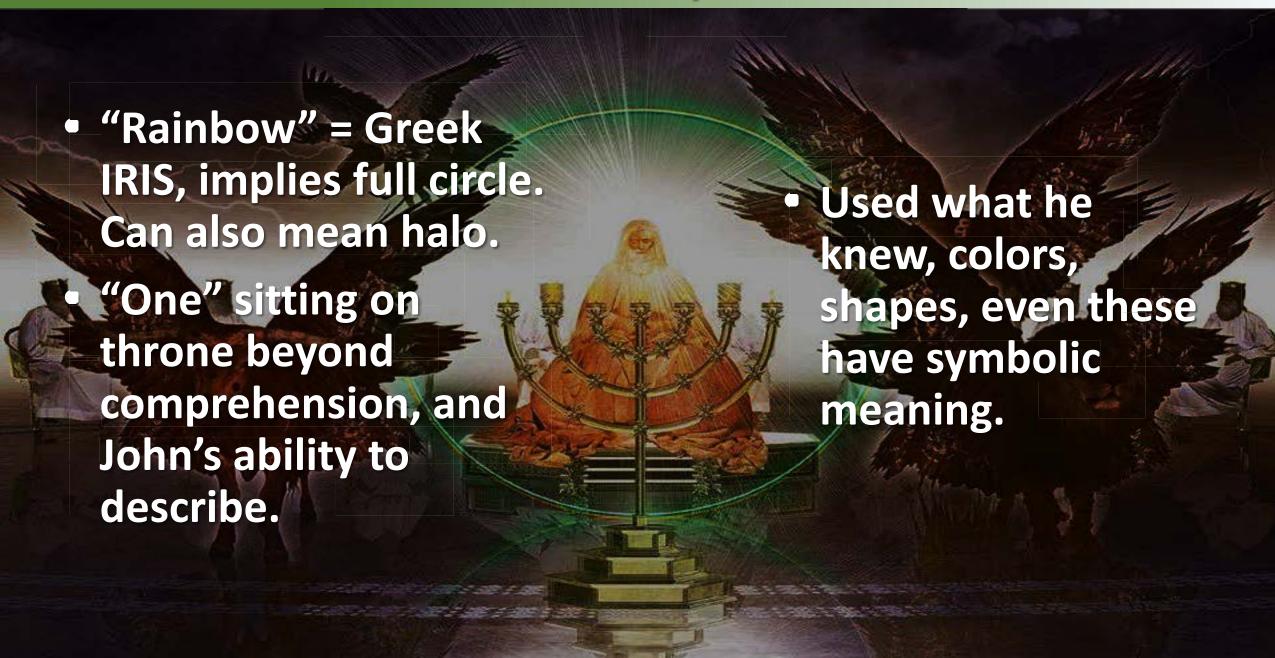


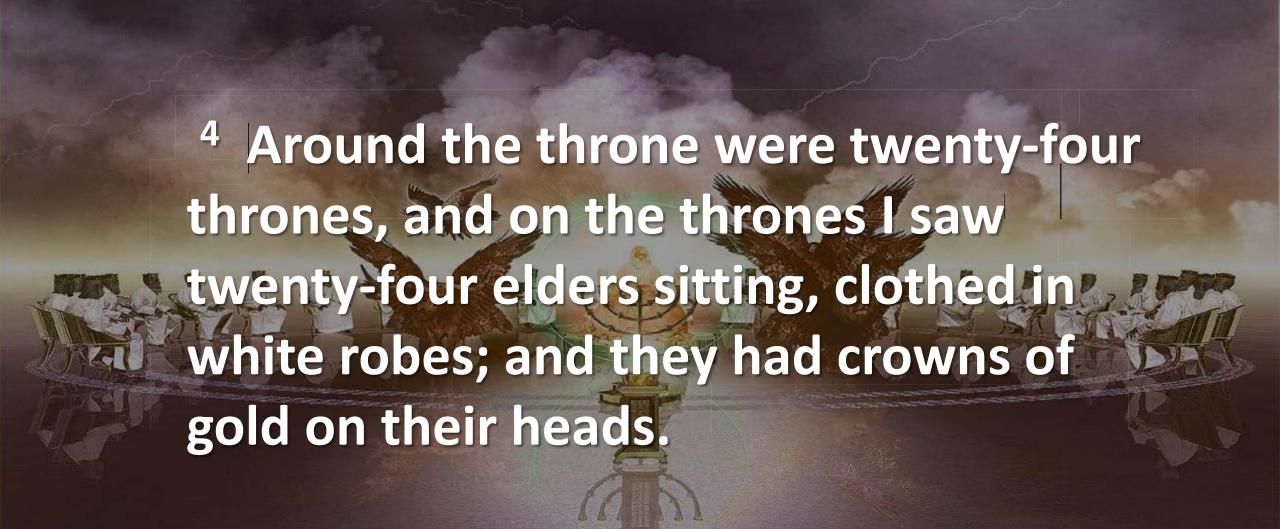
- "Immediately" –interesting word. Paul used phrase "in the twinkling of an eye."
- Think about this... "There are three portions of time to consider ..., The wink, the blink and the twink (no kidding-there was actually a study done). A blink is a controlled movement of the eye and so it's length of time is indeterminate, but the quickest blink lasts for a half second. A blink is a reflex action of the eye and lasts somewhere between 300 and 400 milliseconds. A twink is a reflected particle of light seen in the eye and thusly travels at the speed of light (983,571,056 feet per second) This equates to an infinitesimally small fraction of a second, so it would be fair to say it occurs in about a billionth of a second (which in itself is such a small period of time as to be nearly inconceiveable..."

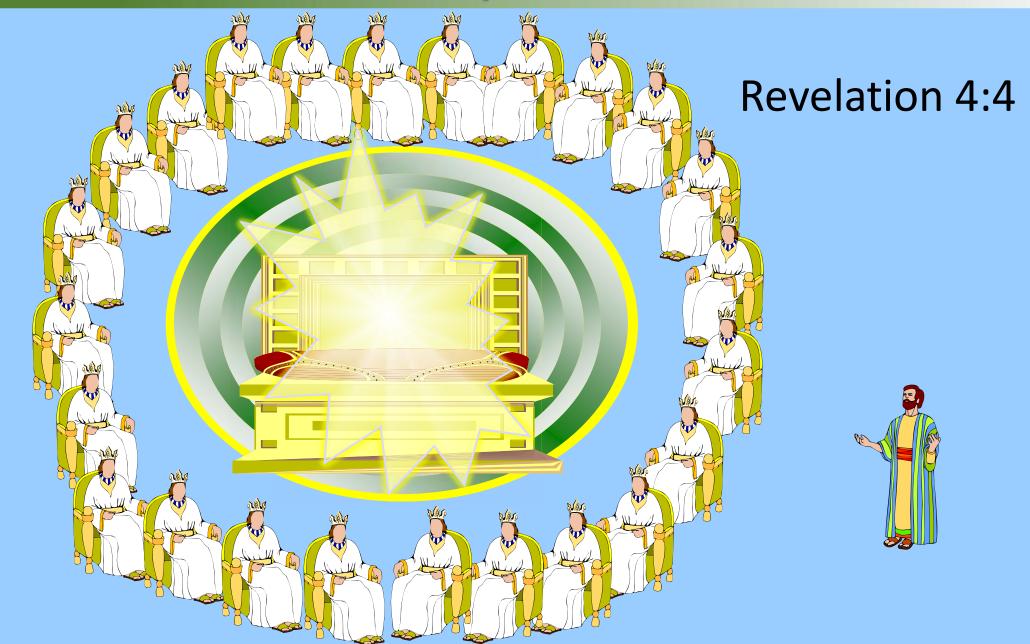
(https://www.answers.com/Q/What_is_the_meaning_of_%27twinkling_of_an_eye%27)

- "In the Spirit" —place of unique fellowship with God, transcends physical plane.
- John describing a vision. Not physically in this place.
- "Throne" word 45X in Revelation, and every chapter except 2, 8 and 9. God's Throne is center of all activity.
 "A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary." (Jeremiah 17:12)

- Jasper different today. <u>Jasper likely clear, diamond-like</u>.
 Last stone in breastplate of high priest. (Exodus 28:20)
- Sardius blood (fiery) red. Both seen in wall and foundation of New Jerusalem (Revelation 21).
- Emerald green rainbow (Greek = iris, halo, full circle)
- WHITE = purity, absolute holiness
- RED = Blood of the Lamb
- GREEN = Life abundant, God giver and taker of life







• "24 thrones and 24 elders" – elders highest officials in church, represented entire church when assembled (Titus 1:5, Acts 15:6, 20:28, 1 Peter 2:5 and 9)

WHO ARE THESE "ELDERS?"

- **ELDER** = (presbuteros) most mature (not necessarily oldest) of believers in church. Paul's letters to Titus/Timothy give qualifications.
- White robes spotless robes of righteousness, given by Jesus; Crowns of gold – (Stephanos) crown of victory (not diadema, crown of authority, kingship)

- Some say <u>angels</u>, but angels don't wear crowns of victory.
- Some say <u>priests</u>, were 24 courses of priests established by King David (1 Chronicles 24:5).
- Israel? OT saints? Reasons neither of these fits.
- Revelation 5 singing "song of the redeemed." Who are the redeemed? Believers: The entire Church.
- Best interpretation = entire redeemed church, represented by 12 tribes (Israel, Jews) and the 12 disciples (Church) combined into one redeemed group. (we are a "kingdom of priests" – Revelation 1:6)

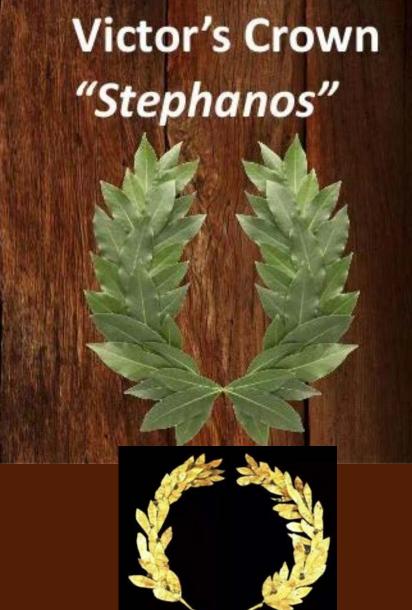
Several crowns in scripture (never promised to angels):

- crown of **life:** those who have suffered for Him ("Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the <u>crown of life</u> which the Lord has promised to those who love Him." James 1:12; "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the <u>crown of life</u>." Rev 2:10)
- crown of righteousness those who loved His appearing ("Finally, there is laid up for me the <u>crown of righteousness</u>, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:8)

- crown of **glory:** those who fed the lambs, sheep, flock ("...and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away." 1 Peter 5:4)
- crown **imperishable**: those who press on steadfastly ("And everyone who competes *for the prize* is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a perishable crown, but we *for* an imperishable *crown*." 1 Corinthians 9:25); The VOICE: "Athletes in training are very strict with themselves, exercising self-control over desires, and for what? For a wreath that soon withers or is crushed or simply forgotten. That is not our race. We run for the crown that we will wear for eternity."

crown of rejoicing: those who win souls ("For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? For you are our glory and joy." 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20)





- And just to set the record straight...nowhere does it say we will receive jewels in our crowns!
- Only scripture close = Zechariah 9:16

"ADONAI their God will save them on that day as the flock of His people. They will be like gems of a crown sparkling over His land." (TLV)

 Referencing God's people in His land, during Millennium



SO, WHO ARE THESE "ELDERS?"

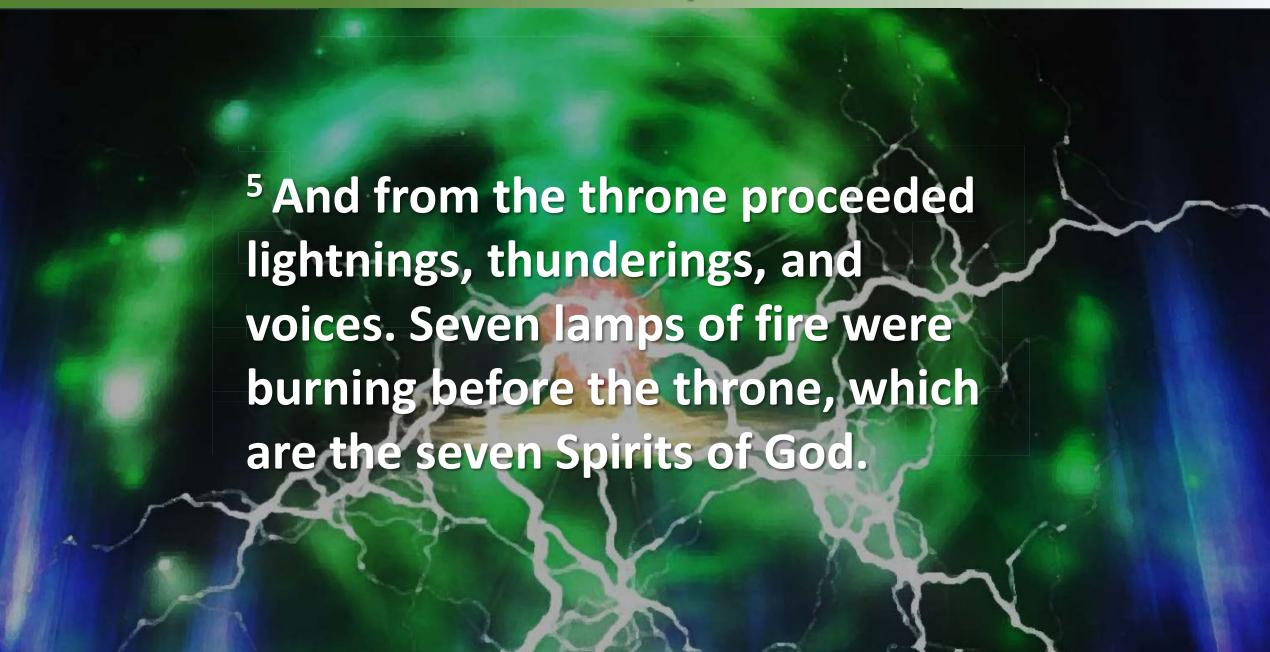
ALL REDEEMED BELIEVERS ("CHURCH") TRANSLATED AND IN HEAVEN WITH GOD ALREADY!

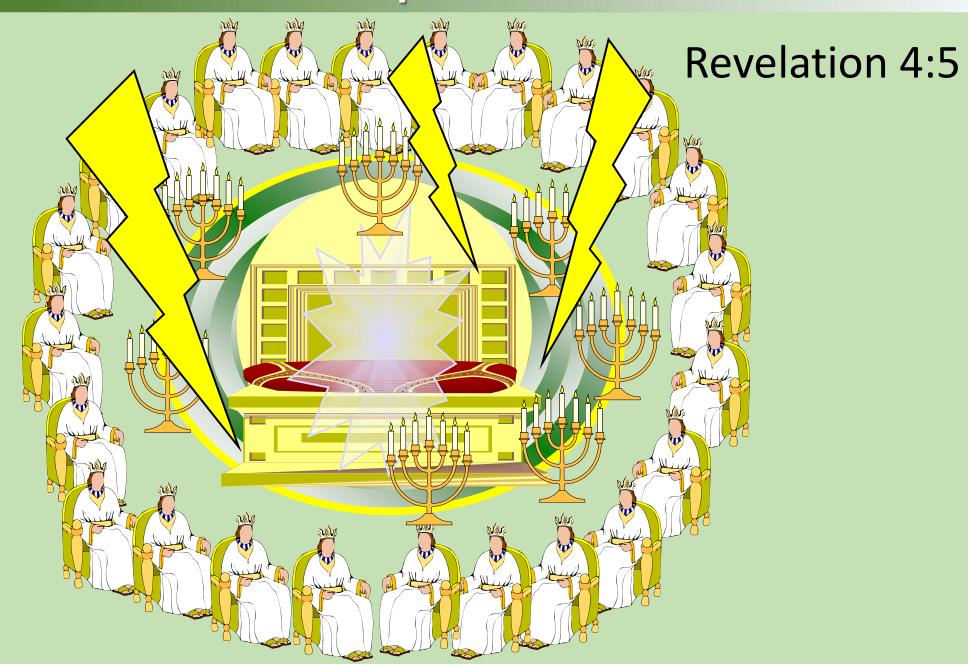
Already have crowns (of victory), wear white of righteousness, sing songs of redemption, have gone to place God prepared for them...

So much discussion over identity of these elders. <u>Very simple</u> when you keep the cardinal rule of interpretation:

CARDINAL RULE...

Always rely on scripture to interpret scripture!







 "lightnings and thunderings and voices" multiple times in Revelation, also at Mt. Sinai. Always seen at throne of God.

Exodus 19:16: Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

Exodus 20:18: Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they trembled and stood afar off.

Lightnings, thunderings, voices – small representation of His power, majesty and awesome nature!

Revelation 4:5: And from the throne proceeded <u>lightnings</u>, <u>thunderings</u>, and <u>voices</u>. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 6:1: Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a <u>voice like thunder</u>, "Come and see."

Revelation 8:5: Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were <u>noises</u>, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

7 X in Revelation alone!

Revelation 11:19: Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were <u>lightnings</u>, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation 14:2: And I heard a voice from heaven, like the <u>voice of many waters</u>, and like the <u>voice of loud thunder</u>. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

Revelation 16:18: And there were <u>noises and thunderings and lightnings</u>; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

Revelation 19:6: And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of <u>mighty</u> thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

Job 37:3: He sends it forth under the whole heaven, His <u>lightning</u> to the ends of the earth.

Job 38:35: Can you send out <u>lightnings</u>, that they may go, And say to you, 'Here we are!'?

Job 40:9: Have you an arm like God? Or <u>can you thunder with a voice like His</u>?

Psalm 77:18: The <u>voice of Your thunder</u> was in the whirlwind; The <u>lightnings lit up the world</u>; The earth trembled and shook.

Psalm 97:4: His <u>lightnings light the world</u>; The earth sees and trembles.

Psalm 104:7: At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.

Psalm 135:7: He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes <u>lightning</u> for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries.

Psalm 144:6: Flash forth <u>lightning</u> and scatter them; Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them.

Isaiah 29:6: You will be punished by the Lord of hosts With thunder and earthquake and great noise, With storm and tempest And the flame of devouring fire.

Jeremiah 10:13 When He utters His voice, There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: "And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes <u>lightning</u> for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasuries."

Jeremiah 51:16: When He utters His voice— There is a multitude of waters in the heavens: "He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes <u>lightnings</u> for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries."

Ezekiel 1:13: As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning.

Ezekiel 1:14: And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance <u>like a flash of lightning</u>.

Daniel 10:6: His body was like beryl, his face <u>like the appearance</u> of <u>lightning</u>, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the <u>voice of a multitude</u>.

Zechariah 9:14 Then the Lord will be seen over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning. The Lord God will blow the trumpet, And go with whirlwinds from the south.

Matthew 24:27: For as the <u>lightning comes from the east and</u> flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

Luke 17:24: For as the lightning that flashes out of one part under heaven shines to the other part under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

- "Seven lamps" many believe these are those lampstands previously seen in chapter 1 as the churches, now in heaven around the throne.
- However, they are slightly different, and are now identified as the seven Spirits of God.
- May be a reference to 7 aspects of Holy Spirit from Isaiah 11:1-2 — "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.



 Others say merely another reference to Holy Spirit's role and operation, repeatedly seen in Revelation as a 7-fold **function:** "John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,..." (Revelation 1:4)

- "And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, <u>having seven</u> <u>horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God</u> sent out into all the earth." (Revelation 5:6)
- So these lamps may not indicate the Church (as in the lampstands seen in Chapter 1) but rather the Holy Spirit Himself, present around the throne. Makes sense!





- "like..." notice how often John uses this word.

 Trying to describe what he sees, but he has little to compare it to. Visions unlike anything he has ever seen before.
- Be careful to notice when word "like" is used. John is making a comparison to help us understand what he sees. NOT to be taken literally. For example, sea was not literal glass or crystal, it was (seemed) "like" that.

- "Sea of glass" like crystal, OT reference in laver, (referenced as "molten sea.")
- Laver where <u>priests washed before entering Tabernacle</u>.
 Solomon expanded laver into huge piece very prominent in courtyard before entrance to Temple.
- Later in Revelation 15 sea is "mingled with fire" and the "tribulation saints" are standing on it. No fire here.
- Implies they have been persecuted and come out of judgment (fire, refined) into God's presence.

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

⁷ The first living creature was like a lion,









- Be careful with "like" again. <u>NOT</u> a lion, man, ox, or eagle, <u>but LIKE them</u>.
- "living creatures" very unique beings! Literal translation = "living creature" not beast (Greek therion).
- <u>Difficult to imagine</u> these creatures. Also difficult to understand what or who they are. Like John, we have never before encountered these beings. Also defy symbolism.
- LOTS of speculation about who or what they are, from a symbolic (allegorical) interpretation to a literal interpretation.

- FOUR number = creation, earth (4 ordinal directions, etc.). Similar beings Genesis 3:24, identified as
 Cherubim, rank of angels created by God, and also in Ezekiel 1.
- Isaiah 6 similar description, of something called "seraphim."
- Very similar to beings (slight differences) described in Ezekiel 1:5-10 in amazing description of God's throne...

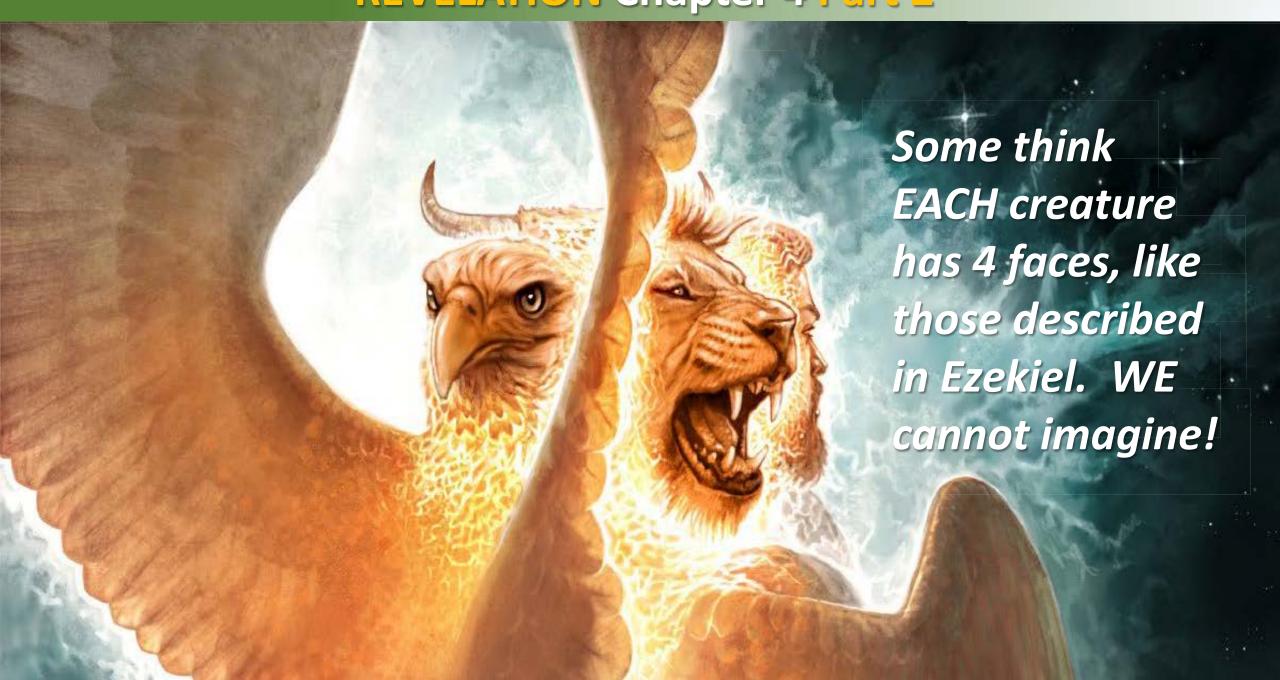
⁵ Also from within it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. ⁶ Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. ⁷ Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze. 8 The hands of a man were under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. ⁹ Their wings touched one another. The creatures did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward.

¹⁰ As for the likeness of their faces, each had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle. ¹¹ Thus were their faces. ...

Their wings stretched upward; two wings of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies. ¹² And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went.

¹³ As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. ¹⁴ And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning.

- Some suggest they <u>represent the creation</u>, which always praises God as well. (Due to the number 4, symbolic of the 4 ordinal directions of the creation.)
- However, their likeness to other similar beings in Genesis, Isaiah and Ezekiel, indicate may not be that simple.
- It may be <u>impossible for us to know precisely</u> who or what these creatures are.



commentary

COMMENTARY:

"The four living creatures are found in Revelation 4:6-9; 5:6-14; 6:1-8; 14:3; 15:7; and 19:4. The texts that describe these creatures do not indicate that they are figurative—they are real, actual beings. The four living creatures (literally "beings") are a special, exalted order of angelic being or cherubim. This is clear by their close proximity to the throne of God. Ezekiel 1:12-20 suggests that they are in constant motion around the throne. Revelation 5:6-14 describes the duties or purposes of the four living creatures. They fall down and worship the Lamb, Jesus Christ, offering the same reverence to Him that they did to the Father (Revelation 4:6–9), proof positive of the deity of Jesus Christ. ...

COMMENTARY: (continued)



Along with the twenty-four elders, they have "harps and golden vials full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints" (Revelation 5:8). Harps are frequently associated with worship in the Old Testament, as well as with prophecy (2) Kings 3:15; 1 Chronicles 25:1). Incense represents the prayers of the saints. Therefore, taken together, the four living creatures and twenty-four elders hold in their hands all that prophets ever prophesied and believers ever prayed for—all about to come to pass....

COMMENTARY: (continued)



The purpose of the four living creatures also has to do with declaring the holiness of God and leading in worship and adoration of God, and they are involved in some way with God's justice, for when He opens the first four seals and sends out the four horsemen to destroy, their powerful voices, like thunder, command "come" (Revelation 6:1–8). The horsemen respond to the summons of the four powerful creatures, indicating the power the creatures possess. That power is seen again in Revelation 15:7 when one of the four unleashes the last seven plagues of God's wrath on mankind....



COMMENTARY: (continued)

The four living creatures are very similar, if not the same, beings as those in Ezekiel chapters 1 and 10 and Isaiah 6:1–3. They are four in number, full of eyes, have faces like the beings in Ezekiel 1:10, have six wings (Isaiah 6:2), and offer worship as the beings in Isaiah 6:3, saying, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord." They may not be the exact same beings, but they <u>definitely are comparable and probably of the same order</u>.



COMMENTARY: (continued)

In summary, these beings are an exalted order of angels whose purpose is primarily that of worship (Revelation 19:4). They are very similar to the beings in Ezekiel 1 and 10 and Isaiah 6:1-3, and they are in some ways involved in God's divine justice."

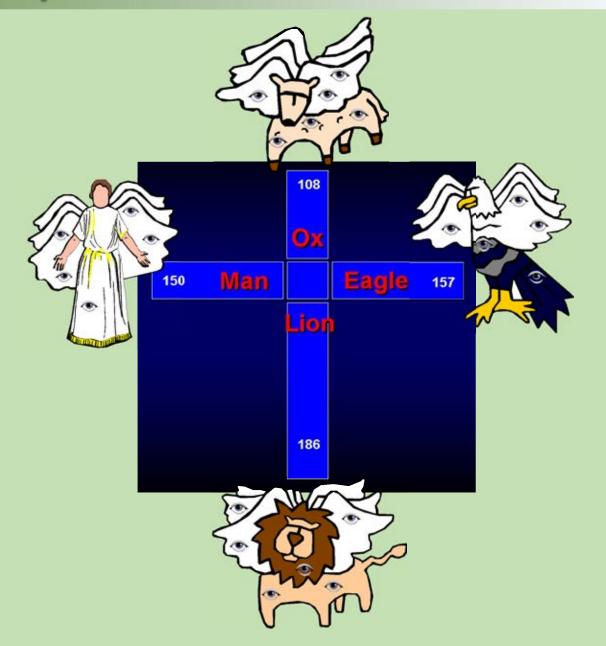
(www.gotquestions.org)

Revelation "Living Creatures"

- "living <u>creatures</u>" (zoon) not
 "beasts" (therion)
- "Like" a Lion, calf (ox), man, eagle
- 6 wings
- Full of eyes around and within
- Do not rest day or night
- Praising 24/7



- Living creatures here not given name or title, just description.
- Four faces (lion, calf, man, eagle) same as 4 standards of tribes of Israel that camped in desert around Tabernacle. (Numbers 2)



- Also represented in stained glass as 4 gospels
- Matthew = lion, for Lion of the Tribe of Judah;
- Mark = Ox, depicts Jesus as servant,
- Luke = Man, captures humanity of Jesus
- John = Eagle, symbol of God's divinity/provision



⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within.

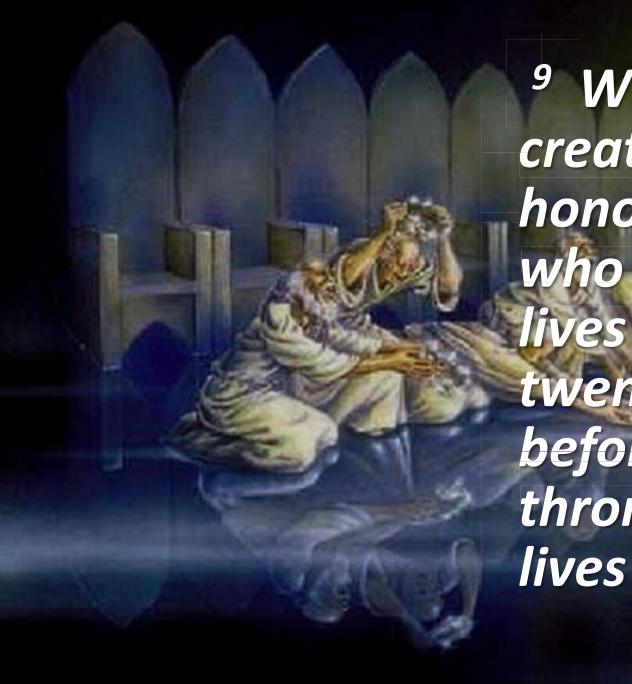


And they do not rest day of night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"

- "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"
- "Kadosh, kadosh YHVH Elohei-Tzva'ot, (or Adonai Elohim Shaddai) asher haya v'hoveh v'yavo!
- YHVH Elohei Tzva'ot = YHVH God of Hosts (supreme God)
- Adonai Elohim Shaddai = literally Lord God Almighty
- These creatures never cease in their praise. They are at it day and night without rest. 24/7

Purpose of all created beings, whether earthly or heavenly, to worship and praise God.

Are you living your purpose???



⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, ...

- Living creatures aren't only ones constantly praising.
- 24 elders also fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, (sign of complete submission, know they are not worthy, only ONE who is worthy)
- They offer Him worship, glory, honor, thanks (v 10), power (v. 11)

• "glory" – doxa, lit. honor resulting from a good opinion (something very apparent) – fame, reputation (Hebrew,

kavod [kabod]), "weighty"

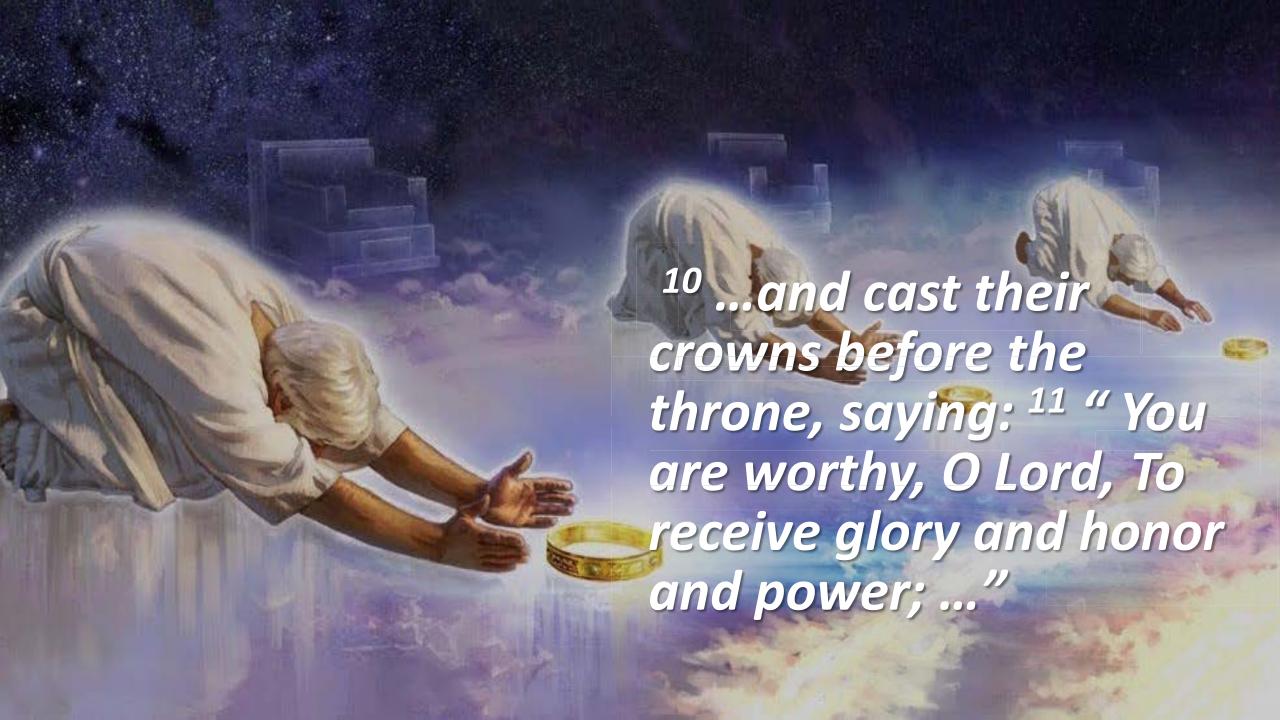
TO GLORIFY = TO

- think, suppose, be of opinion
- praise, extol, magnify, celebrate
- honor, do honor to, hold in honor
- make glorious, clothe with splendor
- impart glory, render it excellent
- make renowned, render illustrious
- Make known glorious nature

FROM ROOT WORD **DOKEO**, **TO REVEAL!** to cause dignity and worth of person or thing to become KNOWN and acknowledged (to reveal God!)

- "Honor" time, lit. value, highest esteem
- "thanks" eucharistia, grateful language to God, to receive something as expression of grace, as if not deserved
- "power" dunamis, inherent power, authority, force
- "worship" proskuneo, prostrated adoration

To understand rich messages of scripture we must also understand the <u>original words</u> and their meanings.



- Living creatures give glory, honor, thanks
- 24 elders cast their crowns (throw, intense action)
 Know beyond a doubt only ONE deserves a crown!

 He gets ALL the glory!
- Everything, everyone praising
- Amazing scene
- "You are worthy..."
- "...to receive glory, honor, thanks, power, worship..."

What are we giving Him 24/7?

"...For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

LET ALL OF CREATION

PRAIS THE LORD

- "and by Your will" (literally for His pleasure, what God WANTED to do)
- "they exist and were created." Answer to question of the ages!

ANSWER TO AGE OLD QUESTIONS:

- Why was I created?
- Why am I here?
- What is my purpose?

- We were created by his desire, pleasure, will
- No mistakes, no accidents, always with purpose

- ✓ Glorify reveal Him
- ✓ Magnify praise Him
- ✓ Worship adore Him

Your PURPOSE? To GLORIFY (reveal), MAGNIFY (praise) and WORSHIP (adore) God! It's really very simple. Makes life so much easier.

- Chapter is beyond our comprehension, but it places heaven and God in perspective to the creation. He is the ruling center.
- Stage set for entrance of hero, superstar of drama. All heaven rejoices and praises.
- Soon a crisis will appear, but so will the solution.





Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha May the LORD bless you and keep you

iviay the LORD bless you and keep you

Ya'er Adonai panav elekha vihunneka

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem lekha shalom.

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.