

**THE BOOK OF REVELATION 'THE THINGS WHICH SHALL BE  
HEREAFTER"**

**CHAPTER FOUR"**

**I. JOHN'S CALL TO HEAVEN**

**A. Allowed him to see the throne of God (1-3)**

1. As we consider where John was called, we now begin to see things from a \_\_\_\_\_ viewpoint (note chapters 4 & 5 are heavenly scenes of activity).
2. What John saw concerning the throne he described. The description and comparisons which he gave are all symbolical of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God (3).
  - a. John said to the One on the throne was like a jasper and a sardius to look upon. The jasper being clear speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God and the sardius being red speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. The reference here is to God the Father. Note 1:4; 4:8; 5:1,7; 6:16; 7:10 which makes this distinction.
  - b. John said there was a \_\_\_\_\_ around about the throne like an emerald. The emerald being green speaks of the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ of God (Hab. 3:2) and also of the promise of God (Note Gen. 9:11-17).

**B. Allowed him to see the things around the throne of God (4-7).**

1. Surrounding the throne were 24 elders seated upon 24 thrones (4). Being clothed with white raiment and having crowns of gold is a picture of those having been \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
  - a. Many hold these elders to be angels, but angels are never seen \_\_\_\_\_ before God because their work is never done.
  - b. There are others who contend that 12 of these elders symbolically represent the church and 12 represent Israel. But 12 could not represent Israel for those crowned are crowned with victors' crowns and Israel is not judged and rewarded until \_\_\_\_\_ the tribulation (Matt. 25:14-30; Dan. 12:3).
  - c. These elders then are apparently a representative body of the \_\_\_\_\_. As David set up 24 orders of the priests to represent all the priests of Israel, so these represent the church which is a kingdom of priests. Note

I Chron. 24:3,5,18. From Ex. 19:6 and I Pet. 2:6-9 what Israel should have been the church became.

2. Coming out of the throne were lightnings and thunderings and voices (5). This is symbolical of a time of \_\_\_\_\_ as before a storm comes and speaks of a throne characterized not by grace but by judgment (compare Ex. 19:16).
3. Before the throne of God were seven lamps burning which are identified as the seven spirits (5). These no doubt symbolize the \_\_\_\_\_ in His sevenfold ministry. Note Isa. 4:4.
4. Before the throne also, as well as in its midst and around it, was a sea of glass like crystal (6). This symbolically represents the foundation which the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ has both in its cleansing and establishing power.
5. Around about the throne John also saw four living creatures (6-7). These are like the \_\_\_\_\_ of Isa. 6 which remain at the throne of God.

C. Allowed him to see what those around the Throne of God were doing (8-11).

1. The four living creatures were involved in continual \_\_\_\_\_ of God giving glory, honor, and thanks to Him (8-9).
2. The 24 elders that John saw were also involved in worshipping God and they did so by falling down before Him, casting their \_\_\_\_\_ before the throne, and ascribing glory to God as Creator (10-11). Note the worship here is directed to God the Father whereas in 5:9 it is directed to the Lamb as Redeemer. The crowns apparently are symbolical of \_\_\_\_\_ for service done on the earth.

D. Is a symbolical reference to the rapture of the church.

1. Notice John is called to heaven before the judgment of the tribulation period. So will the church also be caught up \_\_\_\_\_ the tribulation period (Rev. 3:10; I Thess. 5:9).
2. That John's call to heaven is symbolical of the rapture of the church is also seen in the subjects of this book. From 4:1 to 22:16 the church is not one time mentioned and from 4:1-19:10 the events deal with the judgment of the tribulation period. The reason the church is not mentioned in this course of time is because it is in \_\_\_\_\_ after the rapture.
3. Note also since the church will be in heaven before the tribulation and be judged and rewarded, this makes it more likely that the 24 elders are representative of the church.

