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The Throne of God in Revelation 4

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I (John) looked and behold a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice (the glorious Christ) which I heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.

- Christ ascended to heaven after His resurrection and He has been seated at the right hand of the Father since then (Acts 7:55).

Immediately I was in the spirit and behold a throne was standing in heaven and One (God the Father) sitting on the throne.

And He who was sitting was like jasper stone (like clear diamond) and sardius (like red ruby) in appearance;

And there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald (like green) in appearance.

- The heavenly rainbow would completely encircle the throne of God.

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

- 24 elders are mentioned 5 times in Revelation.
- These are glorified believers of the church age, who have gone to be with Jesus (John 14:1-4), either as 24 elders or representing the larger group of the church.

Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder.

- The tribulation judgments come from the throne.

And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

- Like army torches. Isaiah 11:2 spoke of the sevenfold fullness of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, reverence, and deity.

And before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living beings full of eyes in front and behind. The first being like a lion, and the second like a calf and the third being had a face like that of a man, and the fourth being like a flying eagle. And the four living beings, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, Holy, Holy, the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."

- Holy is to be completely separated from evil. God's holiness will not allow Him to even look at sin (Habakkuk 1:13) and therefore to pour out His wrath on the world.
- Four times these beings are involved in the judgments of the tribulation.

And when the living beings give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne,

- Some things change around the throne, but the 24 elders are always there. (This is not believers giving their rewards back to Christ. Only the 24 elders are involved in this act of worship.)

Saying, "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory, honor, and power; for you created all things,

- As the creator, God has the right to judge His creation and take it back from Satan, demons, and sinners. *For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God* (Romans 8:8).

and because of Your will they existed and were created."

- All things were created and exist because of the will of God the Father.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:9).

"For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day" (John 6:40).

