



Revelation 4-5 A Glimpse into Heaven

In Revelation 1, John records what he saw in his initial vision of Jesus Christ. In Revelation 2-3, Jesus speaks to seven churches in the region of Asia Minor. These churches seem to represent all types of churches throughout church history. Now in Revelation 4, John is transported into heaven in the Spirit where he sees not only a glimpse of heaven but a glimpse into the future.

DAY ONE Rev. 4:1-7

“After these things” (4:1) implies a time progression. Based on 1:19, John has written the things he has seen (ch. 1), and the things which are (ch. 2-3), and now the focus shifts to things in the future (ch. 4-22).

Pray and ask God to speak to your heart as you read Revelation 4:1-7.

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

Write down the different things that John sees as he is transported into heaven.

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. ⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

⁶ Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. 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, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.
(NKJV)

Sketch out what John sees in his vision of heaven.

What particular aspect of John's vision captures your attention the most? Why?

DAY TWO
Rev. 4:8-11

There is wide interpretation of the 24 elders and the four living creatures but there seems to be a general consensus that the elders represent redeemed humanity (perhaps symbolic of the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles, cf. 21:12, 14) while the living creatures are angels (cf. Is. 6:2-3).

Pray and ask God to speak to your heart as you read Revelation 4:8-11.

⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy,
Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!”

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, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

¹¹ “You are worthy, O Lord,
To receive glory and honor and power;
For You created all things,
And by Your will they exist and were created.” (NKJV)

What attributes of God are constantly praised around His throne?

What do the living creatures “give” to God?

Why do the 24 elders worship God?

Write down 3-5 observations that you can you make about worship from this passage.

Write out Revelation 4:11 and make it your own declaration of worship to God.

DAY THREE
Rev. 5:1-7

John now sees an event that is key in the book of Revelation...and a climactic moment in the redemptive story. The seven-sealed scroll becomes the seven seals opened in Revelation 6-16.

Pray and ask God to speak to your heart as you read Revelation 5:1-7.

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. ² Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?” ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it.

What is the problem?

⁴ So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. ⁵ But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”

What is John’s response?

⁶ 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, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ Then He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. (NKJV)

How is Jesus described?

What does John see?

John’s tears represent all of our tears as we long for the day of redemption. As you examine your own heart right now, what are you sad about? What grieves your heart?

Thank God that there is hope for redemption because of Jesus Christ!

DAY FOUR
Rev 5:8-10

As the Lamb takes the scroll, the whole assembly in heaven breaks out in praise. The story of redemption is complete. All that has been lost because of sin will be regained because of the work of Jesus Christ.

Pray and ask God to speak to your heart as you read Revelation 5:8-10.

Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll,
And to open its seals;
For You were slain,
And have redeemed us to God by
Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and
people and nation,
¹⁰ And have made us kings and
priests to our God;
And we shall reign on the earth.”
(NKJV)

What do the four living creatures and twenty-four elders do in response to the Lamb taking the scroll?

What is the incense in heaven?

Why is Jesus worthy? What has He done?

What is a prayer request on your heart right now? Write out a prayer to God.

Write down 3-5 observations that you can make from Revelation 5:9-10.

DAY FIVE
Rev. 5:11-14

The worship service that begins in heaven builds with praise and joy. The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders are joined in worship by all the angelic host and every creature in the universe.

Pray and ask God to speak to your heart as you read Revelation 5:11-14.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands,¹² saying with a loud voice:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, And strength and honor and glory and blessing!”

¹³ And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

“Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!”

¹⁴ Then the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever. (NKJV)

What do the angels praise God for?

What is Jesus Christ worthy to receive?

Every creature in the universe joins in worship. What can you learn from their chorus?

What is the response of heaven?

We are created to worship...to give glory and praise to God and to the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Write out your own “chorus of worship” below. What can you praise God for? Thank Him for?
