

The Throne

Summary of Series thus far

Revelation is easy to read if we have read the preceding 65 books. Revelation means unveiling. It is meant to be clear, not confusing, cryptic or mysterious. We have learned what was.....what is through the seven letters to the seven churches and now from this point forward we will learn what will be.

Revelation 1:19 (ESV) — 19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.

Significantly, the word church never occurs in the chapters describing this period of judgment on earth, no where in Revelation chapters 4 through 19.

So we are now moving into future events. And in Chapter 4 John is going to be given an glimpse into Heaven. The very first thing John sees is the throne of God. I am almost certain John thought..."Woa....You want me to try to describe this? In words? Human words?" It is important to understand that what John is seeing is just a representation of God and His throne. God is showing Himself to John in a way that John can understand. He is revealing Himself. We will see that just a glimpse of God on His throne is too much for John....His words...seem to be searching...He seems to be struggling to capture what He is experiencing. We will see that today...and we will join John in his wonder and amazement at God. Let's dive in and see what God wants us to see today.

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Think about how incredible this must have been for John. He is a human on Patmos....He is praying in the Spirit....Jesus Himself says....come up here and describe what you see.

This is not the first time in the Bible that we have been given a glimpse into Heaven.

Remember that nothing new is really presented in the Bible. We have seen glimpses of heaven and the throne in the other Scriptures. For example, In the Book of Job, God gives us a glimpse.

Job 1:6 (NIV84) — 6 One day the angels came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came with them.

Strange. The angels are going to the throne of God in Heaven to present themselves....and Satan also came with them....I wouldn't have thought that Satan would have access to Heaven or the throne of God...but yet there he is. And He is the accuser. In fact in the next verse, God and Satan have a conversation. So in Job we have a vision here....at least a slight one...of God on His throne in Heaven.

So there is a throne in Heaven....Angels present themselves to God....and Satan comes as the accuser and dialogues with God.

1 Peter 5:8 (ESV) — 8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Ephesians 6:11–12 (ESV) — 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

So we get this glimpse of a place that is not where we are. A place where a lot of activity is going on and has been going on for a very long time. A place where activity will continue to go on into the future. This is the throne of God. The epicenter of the battle of good and evil. God's command com. As Paul says...against the Spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

Heaven is a very real places with real beings who populate it and are active there. They know very well that our struggle is not against flesh and blood...this is a spiritual battle being waged in the spiritual realm. Our battle is about the Spiritual powers of THAT place.

Let me explain it this way. There is conflict in Heaven between the Forces of Heaven and the forces of evil and we are brought into that conflict and both suffer and eventually benefit from that conflict like it or not.

Paul is also given an glimpse into heaven.

2 Corinthians 12:1–4 (ESV) — 1 I must go on boasting. Though there is nothing to be gained by it, I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord. 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows. 3 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows— 4 and he heard things that cannot be told, which man may not utter.

In the context of 2nd Corinthians, Paul is clearly referring to himself and he says I am not going to boast about myself....but I will boast about a man who have seen heaven.

Paul heard inexpressible things that a man is not permitted to tell.

This reminds us of Daniel. When he saw the events of end times he fainted away and hit the deck. He couldn't sleep...He couldn't eat....Imagine a first century man seeing a 21st Century destruction of the world.

He too has seen and heard things too inexpressible to tell. In fact, God commands him to seal it up in a scroll. Because these things are not be known yet.

Daniel 12:4 (ESV) — 4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end.

So, we have a scroll...that has been sealed by God.....until the time of the end. Shortly in Revelation we will be opening this scroll to see what has been hidden....we will unveil what God now wants us know because we are in the end times.

Notice that Daniel and Paul have had glimpses into heaven and they saw inexpressible things. Things that they could not describe....and now John in Revelation 4 is going to get a view of Heaven and be asked to describe it. Before we go too far, just know that much of the challenge of understanding Revelation is that this book describes things that are supernatural and beyond this world and beyond the words and emotions that we know to describe them.

We will see that John becomes overwhelmed trying to find the right words....in fact...he is somewhat speechless....but he does his best.

This is what it is like. We experience our world through our senses- taste, sight, touch, smell and sound. This week was my 56th Birthday....so I have been thinking about that day....So imagine that you are in the womb....a month or so before your are born.

Fully developed...conscious person....with all 5 senses. You are self aware...you can feel pain...you can hear sound....muffled sound....but sound. But inside the womb it is dark, no sense of hot or cold....you can feel pressure when you push with a foot or hand...you may be right side up...upside down....and you are in fluid. You are comfortable being uncomfortable in a limited world....but then catastrophe strikes.

All the sudden the fluid that you are floating in is gone....then these horrible things start happening to you....pressure all around...you are tight and you can't move....you are being pushed and then all the sudden you plop out into this world.

Color...sound...people....talking...temperature...No wonder babies cry. It must be a horrifying and shocking experience. Your life had been pretty nice up until now. All of the sudden everything has changed.

Because of both of my jobs, I think a lot about death, and I suspect that death is very similar to that...In our human form we have a very limited perspective.

Our sight can only see a very limited range of color....our hearing is only so good...(dogs)...my range of hearing is getting more limited every year. ...our sense of smell is very limited (Rocko)..some dogs can identify cancer by smell. And you thought the CAT scan was the most important. Dolphins navigate by sonar a sense that we don't 'have at all.

When we leave this world, we will enter into a world without those limits....to see, smell, hear...touch things that as Paul says are inexpressible. You don't have the words as a human to describe them.

So we are going to see John try to describe the indescribable. He will often say...well it was like this....or it had the appearance of this....or it seemed to do this....they looks something like this....he uses simile...he uses metaphor he uses imagery from other parts of the Bible like Daniel or Ezekiel and he applies it....and anything else he can think of to try to share what he is experiencing.

He is so limited by human experience and words that it is likely what we are reading is a two dimensional black and white when what he is actually seeing is 3D and in High Definition, living color and Dolby sound. That is why Revelation sometimes leaves us asking for more information or a better description

That is the gap that we must accept between what John says and what John actually sees.

Revelation 4:1–2 (ESV) — 1 After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.” 2 At once I was in the Spirit,

Remember that Paul was not sure if he was in the flesh or in the Spirit, but John knows that he was in the Spirit. His body is not taken to Heaven...this is a spiritual vision

Revelation 4:2–3 (ESV) — 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. 3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

This throne was what first impressed John, and it is the centerpiece of this vision. John was fixated on the occupied throne, and everything else is described in relation to this throne. i.

The bottom line of atheism or materialism is that there is no throne, there is no seat of authority or power that the entire universe must answer to. The bottom line of humanism is that there is a throne, but man sits upon it.

The throne is not empty. There is some One who sits on this great heavenly throne. The throne is a powerful declaration of not merely God's presence, but of His sovereign, rightful reign, and His prerogative to judge.

We can't think rightly about much of anything until we settle in our mind that there is an occupied throne in heaven, and the God of the Bible rules from the throne. “While there

may be many differing interpretations, the fundamental truths are self-evident. At the center of everything is an occupied throne.”

John sees the throne and someone is sitting on it....this someone is a bit hard to describe...He has the appearance of jasper and carnelian...He is not made of those things...but that is what John thinks of when he sees Him.

A throne says, “I can do whatever I want, because I rule.” A promise says, “I will fulfill this word to you, and I cannot do otherwise.” A rainbow around the throne is a remarkable thing, showing that God will always limit Himself by His own promises.

Then he says that a rainbow that resembled an emerald encircled the throne. Rainbows have 7 colors...perfection...but this rainbow resembled one color...an emerald. It is greenish....it seems like a rainbow and yet it encircled the throne. It is more like a three dimensional dome over the throne.

Revelation 4:4 (ESV) — 4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

So he sees 24 other thrones....with 24 elders....we mentioned these before when we talked about the Pre-Trib rapture. These are presbyterios....elders...dressed in white and with crowns on their heads...Crowns that were given to humans...These are the 24 elders of the Raptured Church.

Revelation 4:5–6 (ESV) — 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, 6 and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.

The lightning, thunder, voices and fire are reminiscent of God’s fearful presence at Mount Sinai

The lamps of fire are important because the Holy Spirit is not ordinarily visible. To become visible, He represents Himself in a physical form like a dove or a tongue of fire.

Picture the image he sees. There is a throne with a figure on it. He can't quite make out the figure but there are colors emanating from Him. Like Carnelian and Jasper. He is blurry or shrouded in mist, there is three dimensional rainbow like dome that is over it and greenish in color that resembled or reminded him of an emerald. John could see clearly the 24 elders in white with crowns seated on their thrones.

From the throne came flashes of light....like lightening...not bolts but rather really bright light that is flashing. All from within that emerald like dome. And there are rumblings and peals of thunder....This is an incredible thing John is seeing...it is magnificent and terrifying at the same time

Also in front of the throne there was an area that resembled a sea of glass that is clear as crystal. It was not a pool...it is a sea of glass. Like as far as you can see. It moved like water....yet you could see through it all the way....It had dimension and it was like a liquid....it was moving...and clear as if looking through crystal. Like looking through liquid air.

You can see how John is stretching to try to describe what he is seeing and experiencing.

Then John Continues...

Revelation 4:6–8 (ESV) — 6 And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: 7 the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

We have seen these creatures before...back in Ezekiel

Ezekiel 1:1 (ESV) — 1 In the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, on the fifth day of the month, as I was among the exiles by the Chebar canal, the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.

Ezekiel 1:4 (ESV) — 4 As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal.

Doesn't this sound like the description John had of the throne of God?

John describes the color emanating from the throne as carnelion and jasper. Ezekiel calls it gleaming metal.

Ezekiel 1:5 (ESV) — 5 And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures.

These are the same 4 living creatures that John sees in Revelation.

Ezekiel 1:9–10 (ESV) — 9 their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. 10 As for the likeness of their faces, each had a human face. The four had the face of a lion on the right side, the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and the four had the face of an eagle.

John is seeing these creatures from straight on but in Ezekiel they are moving. He sees the faces of a man, a lion, an ox and an eagle just like John would describe. But as they move he realizes that they each have 4 faces. John gets a two dimensional static look at these creatures but Ezekiel sees them in 3D and they are moving.

Ezekiel 1:5–9 (ESV) — 5 And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, 6 but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. 7 Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. 8 Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: 9 their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went.

Ezekiel 1:11–14 (ESV) — 11 Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies. 12 And each went straight forward. Wherever the spirit would go, they went, without turning as they went. 13 As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches moving to and fro among the living creatures. And the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. 14 And the living creatures darted to and fro, like the appearance of a flash of lightning.

Ezekiel 1:15–21 (ESV) — 15 Now as I looked at the living creatures, I saw a wheel on the earth beside the living creatures, one for each of the four of them. 16 As for the appearance of the wheels and their construction: their appearance was like the gleaming of beryl. And the four had the same likeness, their appearance and construction being as it were a wheel within a wheel. 17 When they went, they went in any of their four directions without turning as they went. 18 And their rims were tall and awesome, and the rims of all four were full of eyes all around. 19 And when the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures rose from the earth, the wheels rose. 20 Wherever the spirit wanted to go, they went, and the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. 21 When those went, these went; and when those stood, these stood; and when those rose from the earth, the wheels rose along with them, for the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels.

Again John doesn't mention this because he is looking at a stationary image. With Ezekiel the entire scene is moving and rotating as it approaches him like a storm.

The Prophet Isaiah also saw the throne in heaven.

Isaiah 6:1–5 (ESV) — 1 In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. 2 Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. 3 And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!” 4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. 5 And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Isaiah tries to describe what he sees. The Lord sitting on a throne....high...lifted up...his robe fills the temple....above him creatures with wings....call out Holy Holy Holy is the Lord....the foundation shaking under the sound of a voice....the whole house filled with mist or smoke.

So they are looking at the very same thing...Back to Revelation

Revelation 4:7–11 (ESV) — 8 And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” 9 And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 11 “Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created.”

From comparison with Ezekiel 1:4–14 and 10:20–22, we understand these creatures to be cherubim, the spectacular angelic beings surrounding the throne of God. Satan was once one of these high angelic beings, according to Ezekiel 28:14.

Ezekiel 28:14–15 (ESV) 14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

“In Hebrew, the double repetition of a word adds emphasis, while the rare threefold repetition designates the superlative and calls attention to the infinite holiness of God.”

Wow what a picture. This is the throne of God being revealed to us.

Revelation 5:1 (ESV) — 1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

So John sees Him who is seated on the throne....Father God.....and in His right hand is a scroll that is sealed with seven seals....what scroll could this be?

Daniel 12:1–4 (ESV) — 1 “At that time shall arise Michael, the great prince who has charge of your people. And there shall be a time of trouble, such as never has been since there was a nation till that time. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone whose name shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. 4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

Daniel 12:8–9 (ESV) — 8 I heard, but I did not understand. Then I said, “O my lord, what shall be the outcome of these things?” 9 He said, “Go your way, Daniel, for the words are shut up and sealed until the time of the end.

Daniel. God says, I have given you all the information that you can handle. So I am rolling up the scroll and sealing it until the time of the end.

Daniel 12:13 (ESV) — 13 But go your way till the end. And you shall rest and shall stand in your allotted place at the end of the days.”

Daniel's Scroll....that he read...with writing on both sides that made him faint...that made him sick....was sealed by God. And now John sees that scroll in the right hand of the one on the throne of God.

Revelation 5:1–4 (ESV) — 1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. 2 And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the scroll and 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.

To look upon the scroll, one must have the right to open the scroll and possess it—and no creature was found worthy.

There was no answer to the strong angel's challenge because the creation is utterly incapable of deciding or effecting its own destiny. Someone above the order of created beings must determine the course of history—only God can unfold this plan.

Revelation 5:5 (ESV) — 5 And one of the elders said to me, “Weep no more; 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.”

Revelation 5:6 (ESV) — 6 And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Because of the elder's announcement, John expected to see a Lion, but saw a Lamb instead. John even used the specific word for a little lamb; he “Signifies a little or delicate lamb.”

The Lamb is presented in a way both sympathetic and powerful; He is living (stood a Lamb), but He still had the marks of previous sacrifice upon Him (as though it had been slain).

It's hard to describe what John saw, but this Lamb had the marks of sacrifice on it. The coming judgment beginning in chapter six is dictated and administrated by the Lamb who already offered an escape from judgment by taking judgment upon Himself. The judgment will come upon a world that hates the Lamb and all He stands for, and rejects His offer of escape.

The idea is that the sacrifice of Jesus is still fresh and current before God the Father. There is nothing stale or outworn in the work of Jesus on the cross. Thousands of years later, it is still fresh as the day He died on the cross.

Even though the marks of His sacrifice were evident, the Lamb was not presented as an object of pity. He also bore the marks of omnipotence (seven horns) and omniscience (seven eyes). What a figure! A slain Lamb, who has the marks of omniscience and omnipotence! i. Throughout the Scriptures, eyes suggest knowledge and wisdom, and horns suggest power. This Lamb has knowledge, wisdom, and power fulfilled perfectly: seven horns and seven eyes.

This image that John has been seeing on the throne that he can't quite make out...that looks like Carnelian and Jasper....that Ezekiel said looks like shining metal....Seems to be morphing in some way to represent a slain lamb....and within it....seven spirits of God....the totality of the Spirit of God.

What John is trying to describe it seems is the Trinity. God all at one time....on the throne....as the lamb....as the Spirit.....John is trying to put into words what it is like to see God as a Trinitarian being.

He sees the Father....morphing into the lamb....morphing into the Spirit...all at the same time. It is not sequential it is all happening at one time. He can see three persons at once....all equally present...individual and yet one.

Don't miss how incredible this is and how hard it must be to put into words. John is seeing the throne of God and simultaneously seeing the Father, The Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are all together morphing into one and yet three at all times.

Now the fullness of the Spirit....the seven spirits....have been sent out in to all the earth. Remember that Risen Christ said that He would send to us the Holy Spirit.

Revelation 5:6–8 (ESV) — 7 And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. 8 And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints.

This throne...God in the Trinity....24 Elders...4 living creatures...and now we see the prayers of all the saints filling bowls as incense. And each elder is holding an instrument that looks like a harp.

Revelation 5:9–10 (ESV) — 9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, 10 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

They are singing a song that John has never heard before.

We sing about this all the time...Worthy is the Lamb who was slain...Holy Holy is He. Sing a new song to Him who sits on Heaven's Mercy Seat...

Here, the emphasis is on His work of redemption. • The song honors the price of redemption: for You were slain • The song honors the worker of redemption: have redeemed us • The song honors the destination of redemption: have redeemed us to God • The song honors the payment of redemption: by Your blood • The song honors the scope of redemption: every tribe and tongue and people and nation • The song honors the length of redemption: have made us kings and priests to our God • The song honors the result of redemption: and we shall reign on the earth

Revelation 5:11 (ESV) — 11 Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels, numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands,

It is as if John is seeing an endless stadium or theatre for as far as you can see...full of angles....a number far too great to count....and they were all singing.

Revelation 5:12 (ESV) — 12 saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”

Wow imagine that scene.....not yet....it gets even better.

Revelation 5:13–14 (ESV) — 13 And I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be

“blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” 14 And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” and the elders fell down and worshiped.

Wow...what a scene....All of creation...every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea....shouting out...singing....praises to the Lamb.

John is trying to stretch his language and experience to describe something that is far beyond his language or experience.

I want you to shift gears and think about not the visual aspect of Heaven that John is describing....but the audio....What does heaven sound like?

We tend to think of Heaven as a quiet...peaceful....place. Like walking through a meadow on a beautiful day.. plenty of sunshine coming my way....its actual and everything is satisfactual

Yet in John's vision...there is a great deal of noise....4 Living Creatures crying out..Holy Holy Holy....is the Lord God Almighty who is and was and is to come...they sing this day and night and never stop....the 24 elders they are singing....then countless angels proclaiming the praises of God....then all living creatures...every fish, every insect every worm...every animal....all praising God.

Throne

A throne is a special seat reserved for a monarch. When the Bible speaks of God's "throne," the emphasis is on God's transcendence, dignity, and sovereign rule. The fact that His throne is in heaven further underscores the transcendent nature of God's existence.

The throne of God need not be thought of as a literal throne. God the Father is incorporeal (John 4:24). Not having a physical body, God does not literally "sit." References to a divine throne are akin to biblical allusions to God's "hand" or "mouth" or "eyes"—they are anthropomorphisms, descriptions of God couched in human terms out of deference to our limited knowledge. God has to describe Himself in ways we can understand.

Isaiah sees the Lord "high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple" (Isaiah 6:1). At that time, the prophet was having an inspired vision. God's throne (and His robe) are not to be taken as literal, physical objects. Rather, God was communicating to Isaiah the magnificence, splendor, and exaltation of His Being. Other descriptions of the throne of God are found in other prophetic visions, e.g., in those of Ezekiel and John.

God's throne is a place of power and authority. In 2 Chronicles 18:18, the prophet Micaiah relates his vision of God's throne room, in which spirit beings stand in attendance. Compare this to Job 1:6, where God demands answers from the angelic beings summoned there.

God's throne is a place of majesty and honor. The Bible says that, when Jesus ascended to heaven, He "sat down at the right hand of the throne of God" (Hebrews 12:2). There is no higher place than heaven. God is the King of heaven, and Jesus holds the place of honor at God's right hand.

God's throne is a place of perfect justice. "He has prepared His throne for judgment" (Psalm 9:7; cf. 89:14). The final judgment, described in Revelation 20, is held before "a great white throne" (verse 11).

God's throne is a place of sovereignty and holiness. "God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne" (Psalm 47:8; cf. 103:19). He does whatever He pleases, and all He does is good.

God's throne is a place of praise. John's vision of heaven includes a scene in which a "new song" is sung in praise to the One who occupies the throne (Revelation 14:3). Around the throne, the praise of God is surely "glorious" (Psalm 66:2).

God's throne is a place of purity. Only the redeemed, those who have been granted the righteousness of Christ, will have the right to stand before His throne (Revelation 14:5).

God's throne is a place of eternal life. God is the Source of life. In heaven, John sees "the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1).

God's throne is a place of grace. Not only does the throne of God represent judgment for the unbeliever, but it also represents mercy and grace for His children. "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need" (Hebrews 4:16). Inside the Jewish temple was the Ark of the Covenant, which was a "copy of the true" (Hebrews 9:24), and it had a "mercy seat" where God's presence would appear (Leviticus 16:2, ESV).

One day, all creation will bow to the majesty of God's throne (Philippians 2:9–11). The regal beings surrounding the throne of God will "lay their crowns before the throne and say: 'You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power'" (Revelation 4:10–11).

So the first thing that God reveals to John is His Throne. He wants to make sure that before telling what is to come that everyone knows....He is on His Throne. Nothing that He is about to reveal occurs beyond His authority and power.

While God is on His throne....the question for us to consider as we leave today....Is He on the throne of your life?

Many of us have placed ourselves or our money or something else on the throne of our lives. We are worshiping other little gods and in many ways worshiping ourselves.

God is on His throne right where He belongs. Some recognizing Him as high and lifted up. Others face what He is about to describe....what is to come. Don't leave today until you know who occupies the throne that is over your life. God is on His throne.....regardless of what you think about it....On a day in our future....on the calendar...every one will bow to God on the Throne. For some it will be a familiar experience...For others..it will be for the first and sadly the last time..... Lets' Pray