

Revelation 4:1-11

In 2026, we are to focus God's **MISSION**: What is His Mission for us in 2026?

1. **Disciple your heart** -How will u **Grow** sp.? Word; Prayer; GROUP; Leading
2. **Engage in the WELL**: Get off the sidelines, get involved; **Known** in Comm.; serving; Join, go w/
3. **Sacrifice to accomplish His Mission for family/church family**: What will you need to give up

Recap: Apocalyptic Lit. =Literal/symbols=real (i.e. flag); not allegory & **Futurist**: (Pre-millennial)

Ch. 1-2: Jesus self-identifying as God in all His glorious splendor

Ch. 3: 7 key Churches (flagship churches & post route churches to get message to other churches)

=**Identification: Commendation; Correction; Call to Action** =repent & return to the Lord/holiness

Rev. 4:1-11 – Scene change: Heaven (what is taking place in heaven right now -**outside time/sp.**

-have you ever seen something so amazing; so beautiful -you could not put it into words, and if you did -it would be so overwhelming and inadequate? *Wife on wedd; sunset; birth; IRS refund*
=John on seeing God and the throne room of heaven = overwhelming; out-of-body experience...

4 After these things -Chps. 1-3; the scene is of throne room: (Holy of Holies) *God's dwelling place*

John is invited in (no one sees God and lives); Holy moment! =by proxy we are invited in:

*John, a human, has no real/adequate words to describe what He is seeing. **Vision: God as Father**
I (John the Apostle) **looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven**, [heaven is closed to earth; chasm fixed where we cannot go uninvited; not in outerspace; other-dimensional; **and the first voice which I had 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."**] John is invited up to heaven to see/experience God (in Trinity) and understand what God will show him in order to warn the world =**Truth/judgment**

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and someone was sitting on the throne. This is God the Father, the Creator of heaven/earth; the Covenant God of Israel and the Church – **the HOLY ONE**, the Eternal One(He is a Person; a divine Being; but **NOT** human. He is God the Father, the first member of the Trinity who has primacy & is worthy of ALL worship)

3 And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone [crystal-clear/Re. 21:11-think diamond -God is SPIRIT; God is pure holiness] **and a sardius** [ruby/red-fiery red -God's righteous justice] **in appearance; and there was a rainbow/halo** [lit. *iris*:circular band of *radiant* light-circular, complete, perfection, eternal-a harmonious whole] **around the throne, like an emerald in appearance** [green =emitting life, promise, covenantal faithfulness]*Red=God's justice/wrath & rainbow/**grace mercy**

Why is the Lord described in precious stones? Because He is not human; and He has created elements within creation/earth that reflect His beauty in ways that something human cannot. It's interesting that we adorn ourselves in Jewels & pay the highest dollars to own/wear **diamonds**
These jewels reflect & describe His ornate, other-earthly beauty – He is indescribable & incomprehensible -yet splendidorous & glorious!

-Ezekiel 1:26-28 "Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like ^[z]lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man. ²⁷ Then I ^[aa]noticed from the appearance of His waist and upward *something* like gleaming ^[ab]metal that looked *like fire* all around within it, and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw something like fire; and *there was a radiance* around Him.²⁸ Like the appearance of the rainbow ^[ac]in the clouds on a

rainy day, so *was* the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw *it*, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking."

⁴ 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. Who are the special elders sitting on these thrones? The Patriarchs of the 12 tribes of Israel & the 12 Apostles univ ch. -Matthew 19:28 "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel" These=redeemed in *white*; victor's crown/honor (PIC) *stephanos* v. *diadem* =perseverance/triumph; "*Imperishable wreaths*" of 1 Cor. 9:25

*These elders had been judged & rewarded. = Closest people to the THRONE of God=Ultimate rew. =worship/bow/& sing. In the next ch. these elders have a harp & bowls of incense/prayers of the saints. They sing a unique song & have distinct worship of God the Father & Jesus. Represent God's covenant faithfulness & His promised reward for both OT saints & Church = by faith/GRACE

⁵ Out from the throne *came flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire *burning* before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God (1:4); The Holy Spirit is before the throne – the fullness of the Spirit in all His facets/power –

*Holy Spirit is compared to fire in Scripture: Purification/power/divine presence: & Judgment =Acts 2: Spirit falls like fire at Pentecost (*flaming tongues of fire*).

⁶ and before the throne *there was something* like a sea of glass, like crystal; =description of holy array before & around the throne. We approach God in holiness & purity = Spotless crystal floors representing infinite calmness, transparency, serenity in His presence, tranquility, & peace!

and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures [Cherubim Angels: #4 - global/universal] full of eyes in front and behind. ⁷ The first living creature *was* like a lion [represented wild beasts], the second creature like a calf/ox [represented the tame beasts], the third creature had a face like that of a man[mankind as the pinnacle of creation], and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle [represented all creatures above/below earth]. ⁸ And the four living creatures, 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** is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come." =**Cherubim** angels (Ez. 1, 10) who protect the shekinah glory of God & His Throne and around God's throne; they praise God day and night. They declare God's goodness -His transcendent otherness – He is HOLY – a perfect, complete, eternal, indivisible, divine Being (nothing in the universe like Him) – God is holy other – Holy, Holy, Holy (Majestic in Glory, in Justice, and mercy): **God Eternal!** =Is. 6:3 "**The whole earth is full of His glory**" **and even closer to God's very presence (Is. 6) **Seraphim** angels -6 wings who protect the very presence of God Himself.

*Notice the perfection of worship as the sole existence of those around/near the Throne:

⁹ And when the living creatures give glory, honor, and **thanks** to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,¹⁰ the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and they will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created." ='The Hymn of Creation' = God's glory manifested in Creation **Vision: God as Father...CREATOR**

God is identified & worshipped as Creator! Everything exists bc of God; all that you are & all that you have is bc of God. He exists in glory; we were created by His glory & for His glory = we return worship (thankfulness) to God in glory...

- You are alive today bc of God.
- Your life has eternal value & meaning today bc of God
- You can experience joy today bc of God
- You have a hope & purpose in this life and the next bc of God
- You exist for eternity bc of God....so why is your worship on the earth so weak???? WORSHIP now is practice for eternity.

APPLICATION

-God's greatest attribute (transcendent holiness) = thrice holy; our only holiness is imputed via J.
-God allows us this vision of heaven now: His existence/presence = both **Holy/Just/wrath/Mercy**
-The modern world has attacked God & His good creation [**evol**] undermining His sovereignty & purpose (to mock God & **rob His glory**): Marriage/Sexuality/Gender = Inst. of Church/Family

In 1837, **Queen Victoria** was awakened early one morning to learn that her uncle, King William IV, had died in the night. At just eighteen years old, she was now the sovereign of the British Empire. When the archbishop arrived to inform her formally, he expected panic or uncertainty. Instead, Victoria asked quietly, "*Since I am Queen, may I be alone for a few moments?*" She went into a private room, knelt by her bed, and prayed: "O God, give me wisdom to rule well." = From that day forward, through wars, political turmoil, assassinations, economic crises, and cultural upheaval, **the throne of England was never empty**. Governments changed. Prime ministers came and went. Nations shook. But the throne remained occupied.

John is writing to churches facing persecution, instability, and fear. And before God explains seals, judgments, beasts, or the future of the world, He shows John one thing: **There is a throne in heaven—and Someone is seated on it.** Lightning may flash. Thunder may roll. The sea may look threatening. The earth may feel unstable. But heaven is not in crisis. **God is sovereign & reigning over the entire universe. No problem is too big for God!**

So when you walk back into your Monday—into diagnosis, conflict, uncertainty, grief, or fear—remember this: **The most important seat in the universe is not empty.** And it never has been. And it never will be. **The throne is occupied. And that changes everything.**

Community Group Discussion Questions

1. Heaven was opened to John: What does this image suggest about God's desire to reveal Himself to His people?
2. Where in your life right now do you need a reminder that heaven is not closed?
3. The first thing John notices is a throne with Someone seated on it. Why do you think God shows John the throne before explaining future events?
4. How does believing the throne is occupied shape the way we face uncertainty or fear?
5. The living creatures continually declare, "*Holy, holy, holy.*" What does God's holiness mean to you personally—not just theologically? How is awe different from familiarity in our relationship with God?
6. The elders respond to God's glory by falling down and laying their crowns before the throne. What "crowns" (achievements, control, identity, comfort) are hardest for you to lay down?
7. What might it look like to surrender those in everyday life?
 - Heaven never stops worshiping, and believers are invited to join that reality now.
- What keeps us from living lives of worship throughout the week?
- What is one practical way you can "join the song" this week in how you live, speak, or trust God?