

The Heavenly Throne Room: 4:1-11



We're going to study the prophecies of Revelation as repeating patterns of events that occur throughout the church age.

The book of Revelation could be described as a description of what believers can expect to endure during the last days.

When John uses transitional phrases like "after this," he's referring to the order in which he sees the visions, not the order in which events occur.

In Revelation, recapitulation is occurring, which means that the same events are being described over and over again, but from a different perspective and with a different emphasis each time. We see the same story told seven different times, but with different illustrations and imagery.

On the Throne (4:2-3)

As John walks through the open door into heaven, he sees One seated on a throne. The appearance of precious stones refers to God's wealth, beauty, glory, and splendor. The rainbow reminds us of God's mercy and covenantal faithfulness, which alludes to the story of Noah (Genesis 9:11-13).

Around the Throne (4:4-11)

John describes what is taking place around the throne...

- * There are twenty-four elders, representing the 12 tribes from the Old Testament along with the 12 apostles from the New Testament. Together they represent all of the redeemed from all times. Their white garments represent the righteousness of Christ. They are wearing crowns and sitting on thrones, fulfilling Christ's promise that those who conquer will reign with Him (Rev. 3:22).
- * Emanating from God's throne is lightning and thunder, reflecting God's power (see Exodus 19:16-19).
- * There are seven torches which are the seven spirits of God, referring to the Holy Spirit in His perfection (see Rev. 1:4).
- * Before the throne is a sea of glass, like crystal, which would reflect God's glory back to Him. This sea could also allude to the waters of the Red Sea, to the magnificence and preciousness of God's throne, or to the sea in Solomon's temple used for cleansing (1 Kings 7:23).

* Around the throne are four living creatures (see Ezekiel 1:5-14), cherubim whose job is to attend God's throne.

1. One looks like a lion, the noblest creature.
2. One looks like an ox, the strongest creature.
3. One looks like an eagle, the swiftest creature.
4. One looks like a man, the wisest creature.

We have a beautiful scene, with all believers from all times joining together with all of creation to continually sing praises to their Creator.

The Scroll and the Lamb: 5:1-14



The One seated on the throne is holding a scroll, which contains all of God's plans for human history, including judgment and salvation. He needs someone to carry out these plans for Him, a worthy mediator between Him and mankind.

John saw Jesus as a Lamb, who looked like it had been slain, with seven horns and seven eyes. The eyes represent His knowledge of what is taking place on earth and the horns represent His ability to do something about it. He alone is worthy to open the scroll.

Opening the Scroll: 6:1-17



“Revelation gives us a way to look at the troubles of this world and give them an explanation from a Christian and God-centered point of view.” Derek Thomas

- * Seal 1: The rider on the white horse represents power-hungry people seeking to conquer other people and overthrow other nations through war.
- * Seal 2: The rider on the red horse represents bloodshed, not just from war but from murder and other senseless killing.
- * Seal 3: The rider on the black horse represents famine and injustice, with the rich living well while the poor barely survive.
- * Seal 4: The rider on the pale horse represents death from things such as sword, famine, pestilence, and wild beasts.

The first four seals reveal the judgments that God is sending upon the earth. We should expect to encounter war, famine, murder, disease, death. We should not be surprised by these things. They are intended as punishment to the wicked, as well as a warning to turn away from their wickedness. They are also intended to sanctify believers by causing them to rely on God for protection.

* Seal 5: The souls of those martyred for their faith cry out for justice, showing that religious persecution will happen as we await the return of Christ.

Revelation does not promise that believers will escape persecution. Rather, it encourages us to patiently endure the suffering that is sure to come. However, God will only allow His people to suffer for a certain amount of time before He brings it to an end.

* Seal 6: The final Day of Judgment is described, when a cataclysmic upheaval of both the earth and sky will occur (see Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Joel 2:10; Matthew 24:29).

Those facing God's judgment will try to hide, as they respond with terror instead of repentance. They ask a crucial question, "Who can stand the wrath of the Lamb?"

The 144,000 Sealed: 7:1-8



Four angels stand ready to unleash God's final judgment, but they are told to delay until all of God's servants are sealed with the mark that will protect them from spiritual harm, although they may have to endure physical harm.

Those sealed with the blood of the Lamb will not have to face the wrath of the Lamb.

144,000 are sealed= 12 tribes x 12 apostles x 10 x 10 x 10

This number emphasizes that the number of the redeemed is complete. All of God's chosen will be saved. It also shows that God knows and cares for each one.

"God has set a day when he will set things right. The suffering of God's people has an expiration date. We have to wait a little longer. We have to wait for the day depicted in the opening of the sixth seal."

Nancy Guthrie

The Great Multitude Worshipping: 7:9-17



The great multitude that no one could number, from all nations, represents all of God's redeemed. This shows that the number of the sealed is vast and includes people from all walks of life.

This pause in the opening of the seals shows us what we can expect when we get to heaven. We will join with all believers from throughout history and from all over the world, singing praise to our God and to our Savior, the Lamb.

These people shown are those who came out of the great tribulation. According to Vern Poythress, "Tribulations occur for Christians throughout the church age, so the whole age can be characterized as one of tribulation." Derek Thomas writes, "The great tribulation is already upon us and the only way to be rescued from it is to wash our robes white through the blood of the Lamb."

The Seventh Seal: 8:1



When we get to the final seal, we expect to finally see Christ return in all His glory. However, when the seal is opened there is silence. We're not told what this seal reveals. God is not ready to reveal the final part of His plan yet. But whatever is revealed to those in heaven leaves them in a stunned silence, awestruck by what they see.

Therefore they are before the throne of God,
and serve him day and night in his temple;
and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore,
the sun shall not strike them,
nor any scorching heat.
For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
and he will guide them to springs of living water,
and God will wipe away every tear from their eye.

Revelation 5:15-17

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The book of Revelation could be described as...

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In Revelation, _____ is occurring, which means that the same events are being described over and over again, but from a different perspective and with a different emphasis each time. We see the same story told seven different times, but with different _____ and _____ .

On the Throne (4:2-3)

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The rainbow reminds us of...

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- * **Emanating from God's throne is...**

- * **There are seven torches and the seven spirits of God, which refers to...**

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This sea could also allude to...**

- * **Around the throne are four living creatures (see Ezekiel 1:5-14), cherubim whose job is to attend _____.**
 1. **One looks like a _____, the noblest creature.**
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We have a beautiful scene, with all _____ from all times joining together with all of _____ to continually sing praises to their Creator.

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He needs someone to carry out these plans for Him, a worthy _____ between Him and mankind.

John saw Jesus as a Lamb, who looked like it had been slain, with seven _____ and seven _____.

The eyes represent...

The horns represent...

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* Seal 1:

* Seal 2:

* Seal 3:

* Seal 4:

The first four seals reveal the _____ that God is sending upon the earth.

As we await the return of Christ, we should expect to encounter:

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* Seal 6:

Those facing God's judgment will try to _____, as they respond with terror instead of _____.

They ask a crucial question... "Who can stand the wrath of the Lamb?"

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Four angels stand ready to...

They are told to delay until...

Those sealed with the _____ of the Lamb will not have to face the _____ of the Lamb.

144,000 are sealed= 12 _____ x 12 _____ x 10 x 10 x 10

This number emphasizes that the number of the redeemed is _____. All of God's chosen will be saved. It also shows that God _____ and _____ for each one.

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