

Revelation 4.4-5, 9/10/17 Study 22 Study Notes
What Will Heaven Be Like? Part 2

Rev 4:4 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.

-One throne is not closer than the other.

There is only **one place** where the **number 24** is used- **1 Chron 24**.

King David organized the 24,000 priests, the descendants of Aaron, in the priesthood into 24 courses.

These 24 courses represented all the priests, Nowhere in scriptures are Angels referred to as Priests.

However, Christians are a holy priesthood, not offering up sacrifices of animals to the Lord

1Pet. 2:4are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

Point #1 - In heaven, we will be offering continual praise and thanksgiving to God.

Rev 7:11-14 -11 All the angels(1) stood around the throne and the elders (2) and the four living creatures (3), and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

4 separate groups here-All the Angels-24 elders-4 living creatures-Martyred Saints from the Great Tribulation

Thus, the 24 elders are not angelic beings nor Tribulation Believers

The 24 elders are Not the Nation of Israel (Rev 7 & 12) for God is dealing with the nation of Israel throughout the Tribulation. It is the time of Jacob's Trouble.

They are called Elders - The word for elders is the Greek word presbyteros- a term of rank or office- among the Christians, those who presided over the assemblies- bishop, elders, and presbyters

God is sharing his authority in heaven with 24 elders sitting on lesser thrones, around the throne.

Nowhere in Scripture do angels ever rule or sit on thrones.

Point #2 -As joint heirs with Christ, we will be ruling and reigning in heaven.

The **white robes** of the elders seem to indicate that they are again indeed the church.

We see believers *crowned with 5 different crowns*:

- **Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim 4:8) for those who loved His appearing.**
- **Crown of Life (Jas 1:12; Rev 2:10) for those who have suffered for His sake.**
- **Crown of Glory (1 Pet 5:4) for those who fed the flock.**
- **Crown Incorruptible (1 Cor 9:24-27) for those who press on steadfastly.**
- **Crown of Rejoicing (1Th 2:19) for those who win souls.**

Point #3 - While our salvation is a gift of God, we will be rewarded with crowns for our soul-winning, steadfastness, shepherding, suffering and seeking His soon return.

In Revelation 5:9-10, the twenty-four elders sang a song of praise to Jesus, and they cried out: *For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.*

Thus, the twenty-four elders clearly spoke as representatives of all God's people, the redeemed.

-Can't be angels, Angels aren't redeemed to God by the blood of Christ!

-These 24 elders are saying **you have redeemed US “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.”**”

There are more than 24 tongues and 24 nations, instead they must represent all of the redeemed of God.

Point #4 - The 24 elders before God’s throne represent you, the redeemed of God!

Rev 4:5 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.

The lightnings, thunderings, and voices proceeding from the throne God **communicate the awesome majesty associated with the throne of God.**

Point #5 - Heaven will be filled with the awesomeness, power and majesty proceeding from the throne of God.

4:5 Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

The word for lamps - **BLB-lam-pas’ a lamp, the flame of which is fed with oil.**

-In **Act 2:2-4** The HS as typified as fire on the believers head, as they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

-In **Luke 3:22** we see the Holy Spirit as a dove landing upon Jesus.

This was Prophesied in **Is. 11:2** “There shall come forth a Rod/Branch from the stem/trunk/stock of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”

Jesse was the father of King David. God promised David that his seed would, indeed, establish his throne forever. This is a messianic prophecy for Jesus is the rod, the branch that came forth from Jesse.



Exo 25: 31 "You shall also make a **lampstand of pure gold**; the lampstand shall be of hammered work. Its shaft, its branches, its bowls, its ornamental knobs, and flowers shall be **of one piece. ...**

The Hebrew word for **lampstand, a candlestick** מְנוּרָה *mənowrah meno-rrah’ or menorah*. The Menorah is a **seven branch lampstand or candlestick.**

Amazing - 7 lamps of fire in the Holy Place which is before the ark of God, the very place where God dwelt.

Right now the Holy Spirit indwells the life of every believer.

Eph 5:18 NKJV 18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.

2Co 4:7 NKJV 7 But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us.

Point # 6 - God desires that we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit!