

Chapter Nine

The Things That Will Take Place After These Things

(Revelation 4:1-11)

In Chapter 4, John records the second vision he saw, the first being the vision of our Lord Jesus Christ (**1:12-17**) and the seven churches.

John shows us a preview of what heaven is going to be like.

The phrase “after these things” is used to mark the beginning of a new vision.

The focus shifts from matters concerning the church on earth (**the church is not mentioned in chapters 4-19**) to a scene in heaven.

We see that heaven is about God and how he is to be worshiped. We are ushered right into the throne room of God.

When John gets there in his vision there is a worship service going on.

I. A view of Heaven. (**4:1-11**)

I. After this. (**4:1**) – **The Things Which Are**

A. Before me was a door standing open. (**4:1a**)

- 1) We cannot see heaven when we travel through the heavens.
- 2) The door must be opened for us.
- 3) Heaven is not a place you just walk into, you are let in because of Christ.
- 4) We enter Gods heavenly domain by invitation only.

John 10:7(NKJV) ⁷Then Jesus said to them again, “Most assuredly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep.

2 Corinthians 12:1-6(NKJV) ¹It is [£]doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord: ²I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. ³And I know such a man—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴**how he was caught up into Paradise** and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter. ⁵Of such a one I will boast; yet of myself I will not boast, except in my

infirmities. ⁶For though I might desire to boast, I will not be a fool; for I will speak the truth. But I refrain, lest anyone should think of me above what he sees me *to be* or hears from me.

5) The voice like a trumpet said “come up here. (4:1b)

6) I will show you what must take place after this. (4:1c)

(The Church Age or what is known as the dispensation age).

II. The Throne. (4:2a)

I. He was in the Spirit immediately. (4:2a)

II. There was a throne before him. (4:2a)

III. On the throne. (4: 2b-3a)

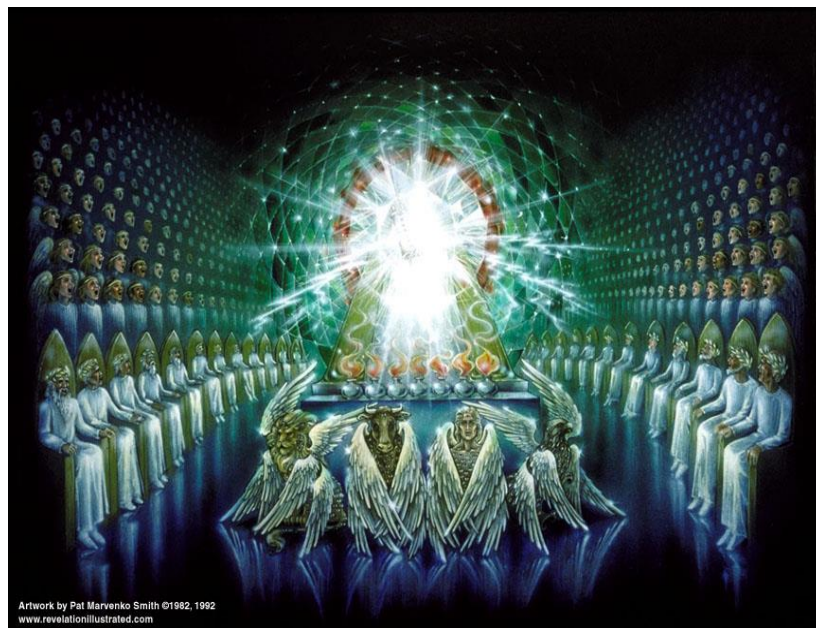
I. Someone sitting on it. (4:2b) (We will see later who this person was)

II. He had the appearance of Jasper and Carnelian or Sardis stone. (4:3a)

A. These stones were put on the breastplate of the high priest.

B. Each stone in the breastplate represented one tribe of Israel

C. Jasper was crystal clear according to *Rev. 21:11*. It can be compared to a diamond with all its facets.



D. The Sardis stone was red in color

1 Kings 22:19(NKJV) ¹⁹Then *Micaiah* said, “Therefore hear the word of the Lord: **I saw the Lord sitting on His throne**, and all the host of heaven standing by, on His right hand and on His left.

Isaiah 6:1-2(NKJV) ¹In the year that King Uzziah died, **I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.** ²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

Ezekiel 1:26-28(NKJV) ²⁶And above the firmament over their heads *was* the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne *was* a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. ²⁷Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. ²⁸Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so *was* the appearance of the brightness all around it. **This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord.** So when I saw *it*, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

Daniel 7:9-10(NKJV) ⁹“I watched till thrones were put in place, **And the Ancient of Days was seated**; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire; ¹⁰A fiery stream issued And came forth from before Him. A thousand thousands ministered to Him; Ten thousand times ten thousand stood before Him. The [£]court was seated, And the books were opened.

IV. Around the throne. (4:3b-4)

I. A rainbow resembling an emerald. (4:3b) (This speaks of His covenant faithfulness.)

II. 24 other thrones. (4:4a)

III. 24 elders seated on the thrones. (4:4b)

IV. They were dressed in white. (4:4c)

V. Had crowns of gold on their heads. (4:4c)

A. Some believe these were angels. (5:9a)

B. Some split them into two groups of twelve, one representing the church and the other Israel, represented by the twelve apostles. (5:9b)

C. Others believe these are the elders of the redeemed, the firstborn of the household.

D. Still others believe these 24 represent the raptured, glorified, and coronated church.

Mark Hitchcock states “Others believe the 24 elders depict the totality of God’s people in heaven—Israel (the twelve tribes) plus the church (the twelve apostles). The problem with this view is that Israel is not a completed group at this time. The elders are pictured as having received their rewards (crowns) ; however, Old Testament saints will not be resurrected and rewarded until the second coming of Christ, which will take place after the Tribulation (Daniel 12:1-3)¹

V. From the throne. (4:5a)

I. Came flashes of lighting, rumblings and peals of thunder.

VI. Before the throne. (5b-6a)

I. Seven lamps (**outdoor torches**) were blazing. (5b)
(**Torches are associated with war**)

A. These are the seven spirits of God. (5c)
(**Describes the fullness of the Holy Spirit**)

Isaiah 11:1-2 (NKJV) ¹There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The **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**.

B. Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass. (6a)

Exodus 24:9-10(NKJV) ⁹Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. And *there was* under His feet as it were a paved work of sapphire stone, and it was like the very heavens in *its* clarity.

VII. In and around the Throne. (4:6b-8a)

I. Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back. (6b)
(**This speaks of the ability to see everything, they are aware and alert**)

II. The first living creature was like a lion. (4:7a)

¹ 101 Answers to Questions About the Book of Revelation, Mark Hitchcock, Harvest House Publishers, Pg.113

III. The second creature was like a calf. (4:7b)

IV. The third creature had a face like a man. (4:7c)

V. The fourth was like a flying eagle. (4:7d)

VI. Each of the living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. (4:8a)

Isaiah 6:1-3(NKJV) ¹In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. ²Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!”

Ezekiel 1:4-10(NKJV) ⁴Then I looked, and behold, a whirlwind was coming out of the north, a great cloud with raging fire engulfing itself; and brightness *was* all around it and radiating out of its midst like the color of amber, out of the midst of the fire. ⁵Also from within it *came* the likeness of four living creatures. And this *was* their appearance: they had the likeness of a man. ⁶Each one had four faces, and each one had four wings. ⁷Their legs *were* straight, and the soles of their feet *were* like the soles of calves’ feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze. ⁸The hands of a man *were* under their wings on their four sides; and each of the four had faces and wings. ⁹Their wings touched one another. *The creatures* did not turn when they went, but each one went straight forward. ¹⁰As for the likeness of their faces, *each* had the face of a man; each of the four had the face of a lion on the right side, each of the four had the face of an ox on the left side, and each of the four had the face of an eagle.

Ezekiel 1:11-21(NKJV) ¹¹Thus *were* their faces. Their wings stretched upward; two *wings* of each one touched one another, and two covered their bodies. ¹²And each one went straight forward; they went wherever the spirit wanted to go, and they did not turn when they went. ¹³As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance *was* like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning. ¹⁴And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning. ¹⁵Now as I looked at the living creatures, behold, a wheel *was* on the earth beside each living creature with its four faces. ¹⁶The appearance of the wheels and their workings *was* like the color of beryl, and all four had the same likeness. The appearance of their workings *was*, as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. ¹⁷When they moved, they went toward any one of four directions; they did not turn aside when they went. ¹⁸As for their rims, they were so high they were awesome; and their rims *were* full of eyes, all around the four of them. ¹⁹When the living creatures went, the wheels went beside them; and when the living creatures were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up. ²⁰Wherever the spirit wanted to

go, they went, *because* there the spirit went; and the wheels were lifted together with them, for the spirit of the [£]living creatures *was* in the wheels. ²¹When those went, *these* went; when those stood, *these* stood; and when those were lifted up from the earth, the wheels were lifted up together with them, for the spirit of the [£]living creatures *was* in the wheels.

Ezekiel 1:22-28(NKJV) ²²The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the [£]living creatures *was* like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads. ²³And under the firmament their wings *spread out* straight, one toward another. Each one had two which covered one side, and each one had two which covered the other side of the body. ²⁴When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult like the noise of an army; and when they stood still, they let down their wings. ²⁵A voice came from above the firmament that *was* over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings. ²⁶And above the firmament over their heads *was* the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne *was* a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. ²⁷Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. ²⁸Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so *was* the appearance of the brightness all around it. This *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. So when I saw *it*, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

Ezekiel 10:1-2(NKJV) ¹And I looked, and there in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubim, there appeared something like a sapphire stone, having the appearance of the likeness of a throne. ²Then He spoke to the man clothed with linen, and said, “Go in among the wheels, under the cherub, fill your hands with coals of fire from among the cherubim, and scatter *them* over the city.” And he went in as I watched.

Ezekiel 10:3-14(NKJV) ³Now the cherubim were standing on the south side of the [£]temple when the man went in, and the cloud filled the inner court. ⁴Then the glory of the Lord went up from the cherub, *and paused* over the threshold of the temple; and the house was filled with the cloud, and the court was full of the brightness of the Lord’s glory. ⁵And the sound of the wings of the cherubim was heard *even* in the outer court, like the voice of Almighty God when He speaks. ⁶Then it happened, when He commanded the man clothed in linen, saying, “Take fire from among the wheels, from among the cherubim,” that he went in and stood beside the wheels. ⁷And the cherub stretched out his hand from among the cherubim to the fire that *was* among the cherubim, and took *some of it* and put *it* into the hands of the *man* clothed with linen, who took *it* and went out. ⁸The cherubim appeared to have the form of a man’s hand under their wings. ⁹And when I looked, there were four wheels by the cherubim, one wheel by one cherub and another wheel by each other cherub; the wheels appeared *to have* the color of

a beryl stone. ¹⁰As for their appearance, all four looked alike—as it were, a wheel in the middle of a wheel. ¹¹When they went, they went toward *any of* their four directions; they did not turn aside when they went, but followed in the direction the head was facing. They did not turn aside when they went. ¹²And their whole body, with their back, their hands, their wings, and the wheels that the four had, *were* full of eyes all around. ¹³As for the wheels, they were called in my hearing, “Wheel.” ¹⁴Each one had four faces: the first face *was* the face of a cherub, the second face the face of a man, the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

Ezekiel 10:15-22(NKJV) ¹⁵And the cherubim were lifted up. This *was* the living creature I saw by the River Chebar. ¹⁶When the cherubim went, the wheels went beside them; and when the cherubim lifted their wings to mount up from the earth, the same wheels also did not turn from beside them. ¹⁷When [£]*the cherubim* stood still, *the wheels* stood still, and when [£]*one* was lifted up, [£]*the other* lifted itself up, for the spirit of the living creature *was* in them. ¹⁸Then the glory of the Lord departed from the threshold of the temple and stood over the cherubim. ¹⁹And the cherubim lifted their wings and mounted up from the earth in my sight. When they went out, the wheels *were* beside them; and they stood at the door of the east gate of the Lord’S house, and the glory of the God of Israel *was* above them. ²⁰This *is* the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar, and I knew they *were* cherubim. ²¹Each one had four faces and each one four wings, and the likeness of the hands of a man *was* under their wings. ²²And the likeness of their faces *was* the same *as* the faces which I had seen by the River Chebar, their appearance and their persons. They each went straight forward.

VII. Who are these creatures that we find here in chapter 4?

A. I believe they are exactly what the above scriptures say they are, angels, a special type of angel, one that is exalted, one that serves God at His throne.

B. They seem to always be associated with God’s holy power.

1 Samuel 4:4(NKJV) ⁴So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from there the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, who dwells *between* the cherubim. And the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, *were* there with the ark of the covenant of God.

2 Samuel 6:2(NKJV) ²And David arose and went with all the people who *were* with him from Baale Judah to bring up from there the ark of God, whose name is called [£]by the Name, the Lord of Hosts, who dwells *between* the cherubim.

2 Samuel 22:11(NKJV) ¹¹ He rode upon a cherub, and flew; And He [£]was seen upon the wings of the wind.

Isaiah 37:15-16(NKJV) ¹⁵Then Hezekiah prayed to the Lord, saying: ¹⁶“O Lord of hosts, God of Israel, *the One* who dwells *between* the cherubim, *You are* God, You alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth.

VIII. When Adam and Eve sinned.

Genesis 3:24(NKJV) ²⁴So He drove out the man; and **He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword** which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

IX. The Cherubim symbolically guard God’s holiness.

1 Kings 6:23-28(NKJV) ²³Inside the inner sanctuary he made two cherubim *of* olive wood, *each* ten cubits high. ²⁴One wing of the cherub *was* five cubits, and the other wing of the cherub five cubits: ten cubits from the tip of one wing to the tip of the other. ²⁵And the other cherub *was* ten cubits; both cherubim *were* of the same size and shape. ²⁶The height of one cherub *was* ten cubits, and so *was* the other cherub. ²⁷Then he set the cherubim inside the inner [£]room; and they stretched out the wings of the cherubim so that the wing of the one touched *one* wall, and the wing of the other cherub touched the other wall. And their wings touched each other in the middle of the room. ²⁸Also he overlaid the cherubim with gold.

X. Satan before he fell was a cherub.

A. His duty was to attend God’s throne.

Ezekiel 28:14-16(NKJV) ¹⁴ **“You were the anointed cherub who covers;** I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. ¹⁵ You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. ¹⁶ “By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones.

XI. What do the four faces on these Cherubim's stand for?

A. We have established that these creatures were angels (Cherubim's).

B. Those descriptions view the four cherubim in relation to the created world; the **lion** represents wild creatures, the **calf** domestic animals, the **eagle** flying creatures, and **man** the pinnacle of creation. Symbolically, the **lion** represents strength, the **calf** service, the **man** reason, and the **eagle** speed. The Talmud saw in these four creatures the four primary forms of life in God’s creation. It also noted that the twelve tribes of Israel camped under these four banners; some with

Reuben (symbolized by a man), others with Dan (symbolized by an eagle), others with Ephraim (symbolized by the calf, or ox), and the rest with Judah (symbolized by a lion) Their **six wings** denote that their supreme responsibility and privilege is to constantly worship God. From Isaiah's vision, we learn that the seraphim (possibly the same beings as the cherubim) used their six wings in the following manner: "with two [they] covered [their faces], and with two [they] covered [their] feet, and with two [they] flew" (*Isa. 6:2*). Four of their six wings related to worship; with two they covered their faces, since even the most exalted created beings cannot look on the unveiled glory of God without being consumed. They also used two wings to cover their feet, since they stood on holy ground. Worship is thus their privilege, calling, and permanent occupation.²

VIII. Toward The Throne. (4:8b-11)

I. Day and night. (4:8b)

A. They never stop saying "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty."

B. Who was, and is and is to come.

II. The living creatures were always giving praise to him who sits on the throne. (4:9)

III. The twenty-four elders. (4:10-11)

A. Fall down before him. (4:10a)

B. They worship him who lives for ever and ever. (4:10b)

C. They lay their crowns before the throne. (4:10c)

D. They say he is worthy to receive glory, honor, and power. (4:11)

1) Because he is Lord and God. (4:11a)

2) He created all things. (4:11b)

3) All things have their being because of him. (4:11c)

² MacArthur's New Testament Commentary: Revelation 1-11 Edition ©1999 by John MacArthur, Jr. Copyright © 2003,