



"John's Initial Views of Heaven"

Revelation 4:2-4

February 1, 2026

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: [Rev 4:1-4 NASB95]

Introduction.

"1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door [standing] open in heaven, 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." 2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. 3 And He who was sitting [was] like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and [there was] a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance. 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." [Rev 4:1-4 NASB95]

INTRODUCTION - The _____ begins in heaven from the throne of God.

"1 After these things I looked, and there was a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said: "Come up here so that I can show you what must happen after these things." [Rev 4:1 NET]

Three of John's first views of heaven:

1. **The view of the _____ standing open.**

1. **It is a view of the time of the _____ of the nations and what follows.**

"19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, **and the things which will take place after these things.**" [Rev 1:19 NASB95]

2. **John views the _____ events as they unfold from heaven.**

And the first voice I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said: "Come up here so that I can show you what must happen after these things." [Rev 4:1b NET]

3. **"After these things" indicates the _____ of the church preceding Daniel's 70th week.**

4. **The first vision begins in chapter one with a vision of the _____ Christ.**

5. **The first vision is Christ message in chapter 2 and 3 to the _____ churches.**

"Against the dark background of external and internal pressure on the church, Revelation was written to reveal the final outcome of human history to God's people to encourage them and exhort them to faithfulness because even though evil seems to prevail, God is in control of all the events of human history and Christ will return someday in power and great glory to punish the wicked and establish His kingdom." Dr. Mark Hitchcock

6. **This vision begins with a vision of the _____ God.**

2. **The view of God the Father on the throne in the _____ of _____.**

At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne." [Rev 4:2 ESV]

1. **This throne is where _____ is made and the Father's _____ is commissioned.**

1. **The incarcerated Apostle John is assured of _____ judgment here.**

"9 I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus." [Rev 1:9 ESV]

2. **At the throne we have an _____ with the Father.**

"1 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, **Jesus Christ the righteous;**" [1Jo 2:1 NASB95]

2. Seated on the throne is the glorious _____ God.

1. This throne is our _____ place where we wait for God's word.

"114 You are my hiding place and my shield; I wait for Your word." [Psa 119:114 NASB95]

2. This throne is where _____ control is issued.

"34 At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation; 35 all the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, and he does according to his will among the host of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand or say to him, "What have you done?"" [Dan 4:34-35 ESV]

3. Seated on the throne is a _____ description of God the Father.

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." [Rev 4:3 ESV]

1. A person is identified with a _____ pronoun .

"And he who sat there"

2. There is no image or figure but an appearance of ancient _____ difficult to identify by color.

• Jasper is usually identified as a greenish opaque color but a range of other colors are possible.

• Carnelian or sardis - usually reddish brown or orange stone

• Emerald - is a bright green color identified by today's appearance.

3. The view of _____ upon thrones are of men and not angels.

"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." [Rev 4:4 NASB]

1. The term elder is _____ and is only used of men. [πρεσβύτερος]

"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." [Rev 4:4 NASB]

2. The elders are described as overcomers sitting on _____.

1. Christ promised _____ in His kingdom to the church.

"21 'He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne." [Rev 3:21 NASB95]

2. Christ promised rule over the _____ of Israel to John and the other Apostles.

"28 And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." [Mat 19:28 NASB95]

3. The elders are described as overcomers clothed in Christ's _____.

"5 'He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels." [Rev 3:5 NASB95]

4. The elders are described as overcomers wearing _____ as promised to the church.

Christ promised _____ crowns in scripture promised to the church..

1. The crown of _____.

"10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life." [Rev 2:10 NASB95]

2. The crown of _____.

"19 For what [is] our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? [Is it] not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming?" [1Th 2:19 NKJV]

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3. The crown of _____.

- “8 in the future there is laid up for me **the crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.” [2Ti 4:8 NASB95]

4. The _____ crown

- “25 Each competitor must exercise self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an **imperishable** one.” [1Co 9:25 NET]

5. The crown of _____.

- “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive **the unfading crown of glory**.” [1Pe 5:1-4]

5. Men alone, not angels, can sing of being _____ by Christ’s blood.

“9 And **they sang a new song**, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and **purchased for God** with Your blood [men] from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” [Rev 5:9 NASB95]

6. Church age saints alone could be _____ pre-tribulation not tribulation saints.

“9 And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and **purchased for God** with Your blood [men] from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.” [Rev 5:9 NASB95]

CONCLUSION - God’s _____ for Israel and tribulation saints.

- “8 For the LORD who rules over all says to me that for his own glory he has sent me to the nations that plundered you - for **anyone who touches you touches the pupil of his eye**. ... 11 “Many nations will join themselves to the LORD on the day of salvation, and they will also be my people. Indeed, I will settle in the midst of you all.” Then you will know that the LORD who rules over all has sent me to you. 12 The LORD will take possession of Judah as his portion in the holy land and he will choose Jerusalem once again. 13 Be silent in the LORD’s presence, all people everywhere, for he is being moved to action in his holy dwelling place.” [Zec 2:8, 11-13 NET]
- “8 For the LORD who rules over all says to me that for his own glory he has sent me to the nations that plundered you - for **anyone who touches you touches the pupil of his eye**. ... 11 “Many nations will join themselves to the LORD on the day of salvation, and they will also be my people. Indeed, I will settle in the midst of you all.” Then you will know that the LORD who rules over all has sent me to you. 12 **The LORD will take possession of Judah** as his portion in the holy land and **he will choose Jerusalem once again**. 13 Be silent in the LORD’s presence, all people everywhere, for he is being moved to action in his holy dwelling place.” [Zec 2:8, 11-13 NET]
- “24 and they will fall by the edge of the sword, and will be led captive into all the nations; and Jerusalem will be trampled under foot by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.” [Luk 21:24 NASB95]
- “6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, “Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?” 7 He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;” [Act 1:6-7 NASB95]
- “25 For I do not want you, brethren, to be uninformed of this mystery--so that you will not be wise in your own estimation--that a partial hardening has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in; 26 and so all Israel will be saved; just as it is written, “THE DELIVERER WILL COME FROM ZION, HE WILL REMOVE UNGODLINESS FROM JACOB.” 27 “THIS IS MY COVENANT WITH THEM, WHEN I TAKE AWAY THEIR SINS.” 28 From the standpoint of the gospel they are enemies for your sake, but from the standpoint of [God’s] choice they are beloved for the sake of the fathers; 29 for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.” [Rom 11:25-29 NASB95]