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***THE BOOK OF REVELATION***  
**The Glorious Throne**

**REVELATION 4:1-2**

**4:1 – 5:14: GOD AND CHRIST ARE GLORIFIED BECAUSE CHRIST’S RESURRECTION  
DEMONSTRATES THAT THEY ARE SOVEREIGN OVER CREATION TO JUDGE AND  
TO REDEEM**

(G. K. Beale, *The Book of Revelation*)

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The book now shifts from the seven churches in Asia to the future of the worldwide church. John saw the course of coming events similar to the way Daniel and Ezekiel had seen them. Many of these passages contain clear spiritual teachings, but others seem beyond our ability to understand. The clear teaching of this book is that God will defeat all evil in the end. Meanwhile, we must live in obedience to Jesus Christ, the coming Conqueror and Judge.

Revelation 4-5 provide glimpses into Christ’s glory. Chapter 4 is John’s vision into the throne room of heaven, and chapter 5 is John’s vision of the Lamb and the scroll. The events described in chapters 8 and 7 occur as the seals on the scroll are broken. Therefore, chapters 4-8 contain one continuous vision.

God is on the throne, orchestrating all the events that John recorded. The world is under his control, and he will carry out his plans as Christ initiates the final battle with the forces of evil.

After writing the letters to the seven churches, John looked and saw a door standing open in heaven. Ezekiel said, “The heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God” (Ezekiel 1:1). It is God who opens the door, so this is God revealing these visions to John and to us. This first voice that sounded like a trumpet was

the voice of Christ (see 1:10-11). The voice spoke again and told John to “come up here.” From there, Christ would show John what must take place after this – that is, after the time of the letters to the churches in chapters 2 and 3. These would be visions of the end of the world and the beginning of Christ’s kingdom.

Some who subscribe to the pre- Tribulation theory see a veiled reference to the rapture of the church in the words of Christ to “come up.” But the text indicates that John alone was commanded to be transported in the Spirit to heaven. The Rapture is not mentioned specifically in the book of Revelation. For more on the Rapture, see 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17.

Four times in the book of Revelation, John wrote that he was in the Spirit (1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10). This expression means that the Holy Spirit was giving him a vision – showing him situations and events that he could not have seen with mere human eyesight. All true prophecy comes from God through the Holy Spirit (1:10; 2 Peter 1:20-21).

John saw a throne in heaven and someone sitting on it (compare with 1 Kings 22:19; Isaiah 6:1; Ezekiel 1:1). The throne of God is mentioned forty times in the book of Revelation. In Jewish mysticism God was pictured as ruling all of creation from a celestial throne, the throne symbolizes God’s absolute authority, for the first-century readers, the most powerful throne in the world would have been Caesar’s throne. Caesar sat on the most glorious throne in the world and had control of one-half of the gross national product of the Roman Empire. His glory and wealth, however, were nothing compared to God’s. God’s throne was as brilliant as gemstones, Jasper and carnelian were semiprecious stones. Caesar’s pomp and splendor were nothing compared to the glow of an emerald that circled God’s throne like a rainbow. The stones symbolize great wealth – God owns all the riches of the entire world. These gemstones were the most pure elements known at that time – and God transcends even these. John did not describe this person on the throne, other than to mention the brilliant light around him. God alone is sovereign; Caesar is not a god. Only God is God.

(Life Application Bible Commentary)

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“*Lectio Divina*”  
**Divine Reading**

**Study the verses, Revelation 4:4-2, in quietness, reflect and ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you take inventory of your own faith walk.**

- 1. Read the entire passage and note words, sentences, and phrases that speak directly to your heart.**
- 2. Meditate on the verses and your own life journey. What do you hear God calling you to do? In what ways do you worship God on a daily basis?**
- 3. Respond in your own prayer to the Lord speaking to you specifically about authority, sovereignty, the world powers, and your power.**
- 4. Contemplate God’s presence in the world, nation, church, your home, and life.**
- 5. For what should you be praying?**

Resources for this study:

*Life Application Bible Commentary*

*Revelation*, Grant R. Osborne

*Reading Revelation*, C. Marvin Pate

*Revelation*, N.T. Wright

*Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament: Revelation*, Buist M. Fanning

*Reading Revelation Responsibly*, Michael J. Gorman

*Discovering Revelation*, David A. Silva

*Revelation*, Mitchell G. Reddish

*Revelation*, Amos Yong