

Revelation 4

Review from *Rev. 3*:

- Church at Sardis?** Left programs uncompleted; still had a few people there who were walking with Jesus in white
- Church at Philadelphia?** An open door that no-one could shut
- Rev. 3.12* – they were a pillar in the kingdom of God
- Church at Laodicea?** Lukewarm – would be spit out of Jesus' mouth

Revelation 4.1-4

V1 – **The setting for the vision?** Door left open to heaven

- John could see into heaven (the command post for the Universe)
- First voice?** See *Rev. 1.10* – the voice of Jesus
- Notice: a "voice like a trumpet" – not an actual trumpet
- These things?**

V2 – **One on throne?** God

V3 – **Description of God?** Jasper, sardius, emerald

- It is hard to describe this scene in human languages
- A turtle was crossing a country road; a man stopped and picked it up and took it to work that day
- The turtle saw all the lights of the office; the people fed it great food; they gave it attention
- That evening the man took it back to the place where he had picked it up
- How could that turtle have possibly described to his fellow turtles what had happened to him that day and where he had been?

V4 – 24 thrones

- God is proud of those serving as elders in his kingdom
- There were 12 thrones representing the elders in the Old Testament (starting with the men Moses appointed), and 12 representing the elders who serve in the New Testament church
- What was the appearance of the 24 elders?** Clothed in white garments with golden crowns on their heads
- For elders who get discouraged from time to time, this is a very encouraging passage!
- For all elders today, their 12 representatives are always sitting in front of the throne of God
- Read Hebrews 13.17**

Revelation 4.5-11

V5 – **7 lamps?** The seven churches of Asia

V6-7 – 4 living creatures

- John never tells us who they were or what they were created for, but they seem to be directing worship in heaven
- Ezekiel also saw them! – **Read Ezek. 1.4-11**

V 8 – **What were these 4 creatures doing?** Saying: "*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come*" (we have several songs in our songbook based on this passage)
-The 3 "holies" represent the Trinity (See *Isaiah 6*)

V 9-10 – **What do the 24 elders do?** They cast their crowns down before God
-Several times in the book they cast their crowns down before God, but then they reappear wearing their crowns
-The message: God puts their crowns back on – in other words, they are to get back to work and not give up

V 11 – **The theme of the book of *Revelation* (along with *Rev. 11.15*)?** The Roman Empire was not the greatest kingdom on the earth, but the kingdom of Jesus Christ will always be the greatest and will endure forever

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