

Revelation 4

The Glorious Throne of God

After this I looked, and there in heaven was [an open door](#).

Revelation 11:19 (CSB): *Then the temple of God in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant appeared in his temple. There were flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder, an earthquake, and severe hail.*

Revelation 15:5 (CSB): *After this I looked, and the heavenly temple—the tabernacle of testimony—was opened.*

The first voice that I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "[Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.](#)"

Revelation 1:19 (CSB): *Therefore write what you have seen, what is, and [what will take place after this](#).*

²Immediately I was in the Spirit, and there was a [throne in heaven](#) and someone was seated on it. ³The one seated there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian stone. A rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald surrounded the throne.

Isaiah 6:1-5 (CSB): *In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. ²Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³And one called to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!" ⁴And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. ⁵And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!"*

*⁴Around the throne were [twenty-four thrones](#), and on the thrones sat [twenty-four elders](#) dressed in **white** clothes, with **golden crowns** on their heads.*

1 Chronicles 24:5 (CSB): *They were assigned by lot, for there were officers of the sanctuary and officers of God among both Eleazar's and Ithamar's descendants.*

Verses 6-19 explain that there will be 24 officers of the sanctuary.

1 Chronicles 25:6 (CSB): *All these men were under their own fathers' authority for the music in the Lord's temple, with cymbals, harps, and lyres for the service of God's temple.*

Verses 7-31 explain that there will be 24 musicians in the temple.

Matthew 19:28 (CSB): *Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, in the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.*

⁵Flashes of lightning and rumblings and peals of thunder came from the throne. Seven fiery torches were burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God. ⁶Something like a sea of glass, similar to crystal, was also before the throne.

The lightning, rumblings and thunder are a consistent theme to describe the voice of God throughout Scripture. Psalm 18:13; 29:3-9; 46:6; 2 Samuel 22:14.

Psalm 68:32-33 (CSB): *Sing to God, you kingdoms of the earth; sing praise to the Lord, Selah ³³to him who rides in the ancient, highest heavens.*

Four living creatures covered with eyes in front and in back were around the throne on each side. ⁷The first living creature was like a lion; the second living creature was like an ox; the third living creature had a face like a man; and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸Each of the four living creatures had six wings; they were covered with eyes around and inside. Day and night they never stop, saying,

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God, the Almighty, who was, who is, and who is to come.

Ezekiel 1:22-24 (CSB): *²²Over the heads of the living creatures the likeness of an expanse was spread out. It gleamed like awe-inspiring crystal, ²³and under the expanse their wings extended one toward another. They each also had two wings covering their bodies. ²⁴When they moved, I heard the sound of their wings like the roar of a huge torrent, like the voice of the Almighty, and a sound of tumult like the noise of an army. When they stopped, they lowered their wings.*

⁹Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one seated on the throne, the one who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰the twenty-four elders fall down before the one seated on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne and say,

¹¹Our Lord and God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power, because you have created all things, and by your will they exist and were created.

The One seated on the throne, the One who lives forever and ever, is the center of the worship in the book of Revelation.

Whenever the 24 elders are mentioned...it's tied to worship.

- Revelation 4:10-11 – The elders responded to the four living creatures by glorying God.
- Revelation 5:8-10 – The elders along with the four living creatures sing a song of praise to God.
- Revelation 11:16-18 – The elders worshipped God.
- Revelation 19:4 – The elders along with the four living creatures lead in worship.