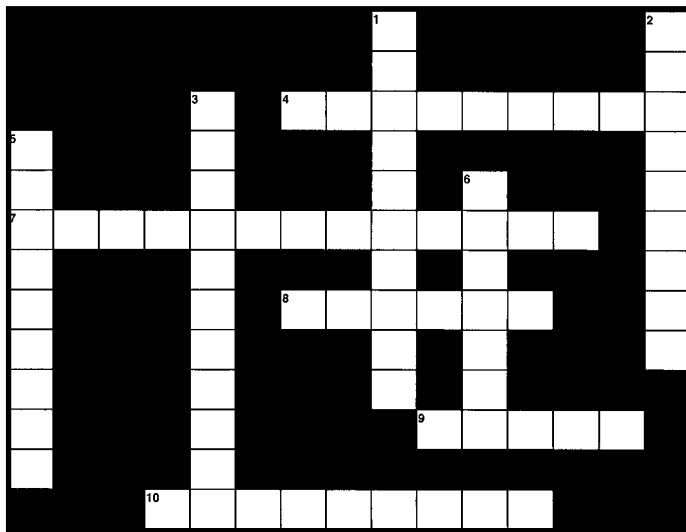




### Questions

**Study Procedure:** Read the Scripture references before answering questions. Unless otherwise instructed, use the Bible only in answering questions. Some questions may be more difficult than others but try to answer as many as you can. Pray for God's wisdom and understanding as you study and don't be discouraged if some answers are not obvious at first. Do not read the study notes for this lesson until AFTER you have completed your questions.

#### Day One



#### ACROSS:

- 4. to change or vacillate like a wave
- 7. a face to face meeting, usually over differences
- 8. organizations joining people with same trade or occupation
- 9. a command or order
- 10. describes something that attempts to draw away from proper conduct

#### DOWN:

- 1. sickening; making one vomit
- 2. a public display of something unusual
- 3. impossible to enter or conquer
- 5. presentation of a lie as if it were the truth
- 6. perforated with numerous holes

#### Review of Seven Churches - Matching:

Ephesus    Smyrna    Pergamus    Thyatira    Sardis    Philadelphia    Laodicea

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_: The persecuted church
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_: The church given an open-door to service; the faithful church
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_: The lukewarm church; they thought they were rich, healthy, and stylish but they were really poor, blind and naked
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_: The dead church
- 5. \_\_\_\_\_: The last works are better than the first in this church but Jezebel should have been stopped
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_: The compromising church which allowed false teaching to continue although they had been faithful to stand against some of Satan's attacks
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_: Needed to go back to their first works; had lost their first love



- 2. Read the following references and circle anything that is similar to the description of God's throne room from Revelation.

(Genesis 9:16) *"The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth."*

(1 Kings 22:19) *Then 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."*

(Ezekiel 1:26,28) *And 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. Like 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.*

(Isaiah 6:1-3) *In 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. Above 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. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!"*

- 3. What songs or hymns do you know based on Revelation 4? Why are these appropriate lyrics for hymns or Christian songs? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Day Four:** Read Revelation 5.

- 1. Write down the phrases from verses 1-5 that indicate the importance and value of the scroll spoken of here. \_\_\_\_\_

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- 2. Who could open it? \_\_\_\_\_

3. Read the following Scriptures and then write in the blank the title for Jesus (from Revelation 5) to which it refers. Your choices are listed at the bottom of the page.

- a. (Genesis 49:9) *Judah is a lion's whelp; from the prey, my son, you have gone up. He bows down, he lies down as a lion; and as a lion, who shall rouse him?* \_\_\_\_\_
- b. (Isaiah 11:1) *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots.* \_\_\_\_\_
- c. (Isaiah 11:10) *"And in that day there shall be a Root of Jesse, Who shall stand as a banner to the people; for the Gentiles shall seek Him, and His resting place shall be glorious."*  
\_\_\_\_\_
- d. (Isaiah 53:7) *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth.*  
\_\_\_\_\_
- e. (John 1:29) *The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* \_\_\_\_\_
- f. (Hebrews 7:14) *For it is evident that our Lord arose from Judah, of which tribe Moses spoke nothing concerning priesthood.* \_\_\_\_\_
- g. (1 Peter 1:19) *but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.* \_\_\_\_\_
- h. (Zechariah 4:10) *For who has despised the day of small things? For these seven rejoice to see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. They are the eyes of the LORD, which scan to and fro throughout the whole earth.* \_\_\_\_\_
- i. (2 Samuel 22:3) *The God of my strength, in whom I will trust; My shield and the horn of my salvation, My stronghold and my refuge; My Savior, You save me from violence.* \_\_\_\_\_

the "Lion of the tribe of Judah"

Lamb standing, yet as though it had been slain

the "Root of David."

having seven horns and seven eyes

**Day Five:** Revelation 5 continued.



1. What happened when the Lamb took the scroll? \_\_\_\_\_

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2. **Research Question:** Find out what it was about incense that made it an appropriate representation of the *“prayers of the saints.”* Use a Bible dictionary or cross reference in your Bible to find this information. Write down what you find in the space provided.

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3. From verses 9 and 10, what had the Lamb done for the saints? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What phrase describes how far-reaching or how inclusive was the praise for God and the Lamb? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. How would a scene from your church’s worship service compare with this?

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6. Now take a few minutes and read the notes for this lesson.

# Notes

## The Throne Room of God

### After These Things...

Chapter 4 began with "After these things...." John had just finished the letters to the seven churches, which to him corresponded to 1:19's "the things which are." Here, then, in Chapter 4, was a movement to a new phase of this revelation: "the things which will take place after this." He is told to "behold" a certain door "standing open in heaven" and to respond to a voice "like a trumpet" which said, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this" (4:1). This may lead the reader to ask the question, "After what?"

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*Many students of Revelation believe the "after this" refers to the time when God's plan for and through the church on earth is finished.*

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**preceded** - went before or ahead of

**restrains** - holds back

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*Being fully God, the Holy Spirit will not be absent from the world, but the absence of the people who know and obey Him will make a big difference in how quickly Satan's forces come to power.*

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Many students of Revelation believe the "after this" refers to the time when God's plan for and through the church on earth is finished. They see the trumpet-like voice and the command to "come up here" as a parallel of the pattern set in 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17 for the catching away of the church to be with Jesus in heaven. Some other reasons used to back up this view are that (1) the church is not mentioned as being on earth at any time during the description of the seven years of tribulation, but only begins to be mentioned again in chapter 19 as the wife of Christ, ready for the wedding feast, after the seven years are over. (2) Also, the images, language, and symbols used in chapters 4 through 18 describing the tribulation period are decidedly Jewish, appropriate since that period has been described as the "time of Jacob's trouble" while the "time of the Gentiles" has been the era of the church. (3) Finally, in comforting the church at Thessalonica which mistakenly thought it might have missed the return of Christ, Paul told them that the tribulation period marked by the rise to power of the "Man of Sin" would be **preceded** by a time of falling away, evidently from the truth of the gospel. At least in some degree this is already happening: "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now **restrains** will do so until He is taken out of the way" (2 Thessalonians 2:7). Many identify this "restrainer" as the Holy Spirit, and see the catching away of the church, with each of its members indwelt by the Holy Spirit, as a point when the Antichrist can begin his work almost unchallenged. Those who know Jesus and believe the Scriptures will be gone, and the absence of "salt" and "light" will allow the corruption and destruction of the tribulation period to proceed with speed. Being fully God, the Holy Spirit will not be absent from the world, but the absence of the people who know and obey Him will make a big difference in how quickly Satan's forces come to power.

### What John Saw Up There

#### I. On the Throne

In the opening of his gospel, John wrote: "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him." In keeping with this, John does not give a description of God on the throne here that would enable us to see Him with any identifiable human characteristics, but, instead, uses color, light, sound, and imagery to express the **incomparable** greatness of the vision of that One he was allowed to see. As the vision of the all-powerful Jesus in Revelation 1 prepared us to know better His infinite knowledge of and concern for the churches of chapters 2 and 3, this description of the throneroom of God makes us secure that He is in control and worthy of praise and obedience, no matter how severe the judgment will be that is described in the following chapters.

**incomparable**- without equal, so outstanding as to be beyond comparison

"He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance...." These are the first and last stones on the breastplate of the High Priest of Israel, each of the twelve on the breastplate representing a particular tribe of Israel (Exodus 28:15-21). The idea was that the High Priest was to have continually on his own heart and also present before God, the concerns of Israel. The ancient jasper was like our diamond and the sardius was like our ruby. These, dazzling white, representing purity, coupled with the red of sacrifice, expressed the holiness and yet the compassionate provision for sin that are characteristic of God. John also saw the throne surrounded by a rainbow, "in appearance like an emerald." Green, reminding us of the plant life on earth seems an appropriate color to serve as a covenant symbol surrounding the God of Creation. From heaven's view (in fact, even from an airplane) the rainbow is circular. From down on earth, we only see part of it. The same with God. He sees all, knows all, and continues in excellence, wisdom, and compassion to oversee all things. We can only know partially His great covenant love; the real **comprehension** of it awaits us in Heaven.

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*We can only know partially His great covenant love; the real comprehension of it awaits us in Heaven.*

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**comprehension**- full understanding

#### II. Around the Throne

There is a great debate as to the identity of those sitting on the twenty-four thrones surrounding God's throne. Some say they are angels of a high order with supervisory responsibilities; others counter that angels are not depicted as sitting but serving, and in no other place in Scripture do they wear the gold crown of the "overcomer" or winner of a race. That is the origin of the word for crown here: *stephanos*, the wreath or crown given for a certain victory or accomplishment. The number 24 is that governmental number of God (12) times the number of witness (2). For some, then, number 24 points to the unity of God's plan for salvation through Messiah in both the Old (12 tribes of Israel) and New (12 disciples of Christ) Testaments. Also, David did organize the large

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*They are constantly  
worshipping God and  
are joined by the  
twenty-four elders  
who leave their  
thrones to fall  
before God and  
offer their crowns to  
Him in worship.  
What a dramatically  
glorious vision of  
the constant worship  
due to Him who  
“created all things.”*

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**turbulent**- marked by a violent disturbance

**laver**- a container used for washing; from the root word *lava*, to wash

**seraphim**- angels of a high order, having six wings, who surround God's throne with worship; described in Isaiah 6

numbers of priests in his day into 24 “courses” (1 Chronicles 24). So, some have thought that these elders represent the priesthood of all believers. The word “elders” was a common one used in the government of the church, but the white robes are worn by both angels and redeemed saints in the Scriptures. This mystery might not be solved until we get to heaven but must not be fretted over too much. God would have made it clearer if we had to know it for sure now.

### III. From the Throne

Hollywood could not compete with this sound and light demonstration! Lightning, thunder, and voices came from the throne of God. All this dramatically emphasizing the power and authority of the mighty God on the throne.

### IV. Before the Throne

A. Seven lamps, again representing the seven Spirits of God. Each of these are seen to represent a particular aspect of the one Holy Spirit. Isaiah had named some of these aspects in Isaiah 11:2 when he described the coming Messiah: *“The 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. Besides the lamps, there was a *“sea of glass, like crystal.”* A sea normally is thought to be **turbulent**, and the sea was used in Scripture to represent the restless multitudes of all nations. However, the “sea” in heaven is like glass—smooth, solid, without wave or change. There could be a relationship in this “sea of glass” with a piece of furniture built for the tabernacle and later the temple (1 Kings 7:23). That was a brass “sea,” sometimes called a **laver**, which was actually a gigantic brass bowl where water was kept for the constant needs of the priests who had to prepare the animal sacrifices. Again, the “real” tabernacle in heaven would have no need for the cleansing water and so would be correctly depicted as crystal-like and solidly pure (Hebrews 8:1-5). If, actually, the sea of glass before the throne were only meant to reflect and radiate the glory of God to the rest of heaven, that would be a beautifully useful thing in itself.

C. The four living creatures were also before the throne, *“each having six wings, . . . full of eyes around and within . . . do not rest day or night, saying: Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”* These seem to be a particularly high order of angels, having some similarities with the **seraphim** described in Isaiah’s vision of God’s throne room (Isaiah 6). They are constantly worshipping God and are joined by the twenty-four elders who leave their thrones to fall before God and offer their crowns to Him in worship. What a dramatically glorious vision of the constant worship due to Him who “created all things.”



**The Scroll  
and  
the Lamb  
(Revelation 5:1-7)**

This chapter begins with *“And...”* and so is a continuation of the scene in heaven from chapter four. However, suddenly, the focus changes for John from the scene of worship to something God was holding in His right hand. It was a scroll. The passage emphasized its great importance. First, God held it with the right hand, the side always associated with power, honor, or favor. Next, it was written on the front and back, evidently full of important words. Further, it was sealed, not just once, but seven times. Top secret, valuable, or privileged was the information it contained. But what, exactly? First, it seemed to relate to mankind. A strong angel asked loudly for someone to come forward who was worthy of opening it, but none was found. Note carefully that the angel did not ask *“who is willing?”* Many have been willing to come forward because of a desire for power or adventure or glory: Charlemagne, Constantine, Alexander the Great, Napoleon, and even Hitler were all willing. But the question was, *“who is worthy?”* None on earth, born in sin, could qualify. John must have sensed a great loss for himself and others if the scroll were not opened. He *“wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it,”* but he was quickly comforted by one of the elders.

There was One, after all, found to be worthy—the *“Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David”*—none other than Jesus! (See Genesis 49:9; Hebrews 7:14; Isaiah 11:1.) John turned to see Jesus and described Him as *“in the midst of the throne”*—showing His unity with God the Father—yet appearing like a Lamb, standing, though apparently previously slain. (See Isaiah 53:7 and John 1:29.) The resurrected Savior is meant to be seen here with the seven horns and seven eyes representing His position as God with perfect and complete power (horns) and knowledge (eyes). (See Zechariah 4:10 and 2 Samuel 22:3.) The worthy Lamb took the scroll from the right hand of God.

**Worship of  
the Lamb  
(Revelation 5:8-14)**

Whatever the scroll contained, the mere possession of it by Jesus started an outbreak of praise to Him from heaven and earth. The hosts of heaven sang a *“new song”* about the worthiness of Jesus. They used harps and brought bowls of incense, the perfume of which **embodied** the prayers of the saints, always a sweet fragrance before the throne of God. The song was in specific praise for the work of redemption by His blood which freed people from *“every tribe and tongue”* to, it is implied, leave their low place and be made *“kings and priests”* to God. Ten thousand times ten thousand continued to praise His worth and were joined by *“every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea.”*

**embodied**- gave form to; personified

### But What Was in that Scroll?

**dominion**- authority over; rulership of

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*The scroll Jesus was worthy to hold was the title deed to earth that He had won when He "redeemed us to God" by His blood. That is what started the glorious scene of praise in heaven and earth of Revelation 5!*

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*He defeated and removed Satan from our "land" and the title-deed is restored to the rightful owners of that lost inheritance.*

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Some have guessed that the scroll was the gospel, but the gospel was not a sealed book after its mystery was revealed in the New Testament. Others think it is the list of all those who are saved. However, the most biblically consistent explanation is that this scroll gave to the one who was worthy of opening it, the right to restore human beings to the roles for which they were originally created: to a position as kings (implying rulership and dominion over the earth) and priests (a role in which they would serve to bring the lost to Christ and the broken to know His forgiving and healing grace). (See 1 Peter 2:9.) When Adam and Eve chose their will over God's, they lost their place of **dominion** over the earth which God had given them. Satan became the new "ruler of this world" (John 12:31). Since a sinless man lost it, it could only be won back by a sinless man facing Satan and winning it back by paying the penalty required; the penalty was death. No man after Adam was ever born without sin, and even if one were, if a mere human offered his life in payment for the debt, he would not have the ability to rise again and enjoy that for which he had paid, much less help anyone else. So, in God's mind, "before the foundation of the world," He had planned for Jesus—none other than God Himself born on earth at a specific time in a human body—to face Satan, pay the penalty, rise again, and claim for all of mankind what had been lost (Revelation 13:8). The scroll Jesus was worthy to hold was the title deed to earth that He had won when He "redeemed us to God" by His blood. That is what started the glorious scene of praise in heaven and earth of Revelation 5! In God's plan, the victory was won and all who would acknowledge their Lamb, would be redeemed and promoted as "kings and priests."

The prophet Jeremiah had been told to do something that illustrates this principle. While Jerusalem was besieged by Babylon, with no hope of relief, God told Jeremiah to buy some land from his cousin, having the deed drawn up and carefully witnessed. He was to even preserve permanently a copy of the deed. It seemed a senseless thing to do since the property he bought was already occupied by the enemy and God had promised Judah would be removed from her land for seventy years, but he obeyed. He himself never lived to enjoy that to which he had the deed. All his life it was occupied by the enemy. But sometime in the future, God promised, that enemy would be gone and Israel would return to re-take and rebuild their land. Then, that title-deed would still be valid for some member of Jeremiah's family line (Jeremiah 32:9-12). This pictures what Jesus did for us. He defeated and removed Satan from our "land" and the title-deed is restored to the rightful owners of that lost inheritance. God's Word is always to be trusted. He did bring redemption to the world through the slain but standing Lamb of God. He is so worthy to be praised!