

Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context



Revelation Backgrounds 13

The Heavenly Throne Room

Revelation 4



1

Isa 55:8-11 For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. (9) For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. (10) “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, (11) so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.



2

Acts 17:11 (KJV)
**These (Bereans) were more noble than those in
 Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all
 readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily,
 whether those things were so.**

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

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3

Revelation 4 (CJB)

After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things." (2) Instantly I was in the Spirit, and there before me in heaven stood a throne, and on the throne Someone was sitting. (3) The One sitting there gleamed like diamonds and rubies, and a rainbow shining like emerald encircled the throne. (4) Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads. (5) From the throne came forth lightnings, voices and thunderings; and before the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God. (6) In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living beings covered with eyes in front and behind. (7) The first living being was like a lion, the second living being was like an ox, the third living being had a face that looked human, and the fourth living being was like a flying eagle. (8) Each of the four living beings had six wings and was covered with eyes inside and out; and day and night they never stop saying, "Holy, holy, holy is Adonai, God of heaven's armies the One who was, who is and who is coming!" (9) And whenever the living beings give glory, honor and thanks to the One sitting on the throne, to the One who lives forever and ever, (10) the twenty-four elders fall down before the One sitting on the throne, who lives forever and ever, and worship him. They throw their crowns in front of the throne and say, (11) "You are worthy, Adonai Eloheinu, to have glory, honor and power, because you created all things—yes, because of your will they were created and came into being!"



4

Meta Tauta "after these things"

Revelation 4:1	References
<p>After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."</p>	<p>"I looked, and behold."</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eze 10:1 Then I looked, and behold, on the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim there appeared above them something like a sapphire, in appearance like a throne. • Dan 10:5 I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist.



5

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
<p>After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jesus promised this <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joh 1:51 And he said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you will see heaven opened, and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man." • This is the heavenly temple referenced in Hebrews. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heb 9:24 For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf.



6

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
<p>After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."</p>	<p>Genesis 28:12-16 And he dreamed, and behold, there was a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven. And behold, the angels of God were ascending and descending on it! (13) And behold, the LORD stood above it and said, "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. The land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring. (14) Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed."</p>



7

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
<p>After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."</p>	<p>Exodus 19:19-20 And as the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him in thunder. (20) The LORD came down on Mount Sinai, to the top of the mountain. And the LORD called Moses to the top of the mountain, and Moses went up.</p>



8

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven ; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."	Isaiah 6:1 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.



9

Heaven Opened

Revelation 4:1	References
After these things , I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven ; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."	Daniel 7:1-2 In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon, Daniel saw a dream and visions of his head as he lay in his bed. Then he wrote down the dream and told the sum of the matter. (2) Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea.



10

Come up here

Revelation 4:1	References
After these things, I looked; and there before me was a door standing open in heaven; and the voice like a trumpet which I had heard speaking with me before said, " Come up here, and I will show you what must happen after these things."	Exo 19:24 And the LORD said to him, "Go down, and come up bringing Aaron with you. But do not let the priests and the people break through to come up to the LORD, lest he break out against them."



11

Spirit/Seated on a throne

Revelation 4:2	References
Instantly I was in (the) S/spirit , and there before me in heaven stood a throne, and on the throne, Someone was sitting.	<p>Eze 11:1 Then the S/spirit lifted me up and brought me to the East Gate of the LORD's house,</p> <p>Eze 11:24 Then the S/spirit took me up and brought me in a vision by the Spirit of God into Chaldea, to those in captivity. And the vision that I had seen went up from me.</p> <p>Isaiah 6:1 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.</p>



12

Jasper, Sardius, Emerald

Revelation 4:3	References
The One sitting there gleamed like diamonds (jasper) and rubies (carnelian/sardius), and a rainbow shining like an emerald encircled the throne.	Exodus 28:15-20 “You shall make a breastpiece of judgment, in skilled work. In the style of the ephod you shall make it—of gold, blue and purple and scarlet yarns, and fine twined linen shall you make it. (16) It shall be square and doubled, a span its length and a span its breadth. (17) You shall set in it four rows of stones. A row of sardius , topaz, and carbuncle shall be the first row; (18) and the second row an emerald , a sapphire, and a diamond; (19) and the third row a jacinth, an agate, and an amethyst; (20) and the fourth row a beryl, an onyx, and a jasper . They shall be set in gold filigree.



13

Rainbow

Revelation 4:3	References
The One sitting there gleamed like diamonds (jasper) and rubies (carnelian/sardius), and a rainbow shining like an emerald encircled the throne.	Ezekiel 1:26-28 And above the expanse over their heads there was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like sapphire; and seated above the likeness of a throne was a likeness with a human appearance. (27) And upward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were gleaming metal, like the appearance of fire enclosed all around. And downward from what had the appearance of his waist I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and there was brightness around him. (28) Like the appearance of the bow that is in the cloud on the day of rain , so was the appearance of the brightness all around. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. And when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard the voice of one speaking.



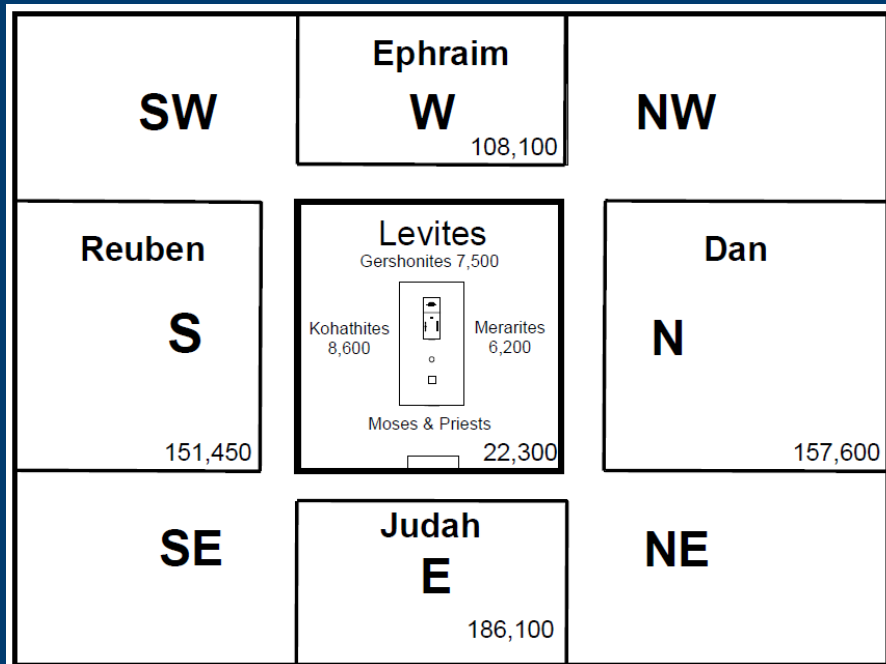
14

24 Elders

Revelation 4:4	References
<p>Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads.</p>	<p>1 Chronicles 24:3b, 18 David organized them (<i>i.e., the Levitical priesthood</i>) according to the appointed duties in their service...the twenty-fourth to Maaziah</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Luk 1:5, 8-9 In the days of Herod, king of Judea, there was a priest named Zechariah, of the division of Abijah. (8) Now while he was serving as priest before God when his division was on duty, (9) according to the custom of the priesthood, he was chosen by lot to enter the temple of the Lord and burn incense. (23) And when his time of service was ended, he went to his home. 1Ch 24:10 the eighth to Abijah,



15



16

24 Elders = Priests?

Revelation 4:4	References
Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads.	<p>Jethro: Exo 3:1 Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God.</p> <p>Melchizedek: Gen 14:18 And Melchizedek king of Salem brought out bread and wine. (He was priest of God Most High.)</p> <p>US!: 1 Pet 2:9 But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.</p>



17

Crowns

Revelation 4:4	References
Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothing and wearing gold crowns on their heads.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crown of life for those who love Him and suffer for His sake (Jas 1:12, Rev 2:10) • Crown of righteousness for those who loved his appearing (2 Tim 4:8) • Crown of glory for those who feed the flock (1 Pet 5:4) • Crown incorruptible for those who persevere (1 Cor 9:25) • Crown of rejoicing for those who win souls (1 Thes 2:19) • These are the "Bema seat" rewards for those whose works survived the judgment (gold, silver, precious stones, vs wood, hay, stubble 1 Cor 3).



18

Thunder, lightening, voices, fire

Revelation 4:5	References
From the throne came forth lightnings, voices, and thunderings; and before the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God.	<p>Exo 19:16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ezekiel 1:4 As I looked, behold, a stormy wind came out of the north, and a great cloud, with brightness around it, and fire flashing forth continually, and in the midst of the fire, as it were gleaming metal. • Ezekiel 3:12 Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me the voice of a great earthquake: "Blessed be the glory of the LORD from its place!"



19

Shavuot/Pentecost

Revelation 4:5	References
From the throne came forth lightnings, voices, and thunderings; and before the throne were seven flaming torches, which are the sevenfold Spirit of God.	<p>Exo 19:16 Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act 2:1-3 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. (3) Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.



20

Sea of Crystal

Revelation 4:6	References
In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal . In the center, around the throne, were four living beings covered with eyes in front and behind.	<p>1 Kings 7:23-25 Then he made the sea of cast metal. It was round, ten cubits from brim to brim, and five cubits high, and a line of thirty cubits measured its circumference. (24) Under its brim were gourds, for ten cubits, compassing the sea all around. The gourds were in two rows, cast with it when it was cast. (25) It stood on twelve oxen, three facing north, three facing west, three facing south, and three facing east. The sea was set on them, and all their rear parts were inward.</p> <p>Eze 1:22 The likeness of the firmament above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gen 1:6-8 Then God said, "Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters." (7) Thus God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. (8) And God called the firmament Heaven. So the evening and the morning were the second day.

21

Living Creatures/Eyes

Revelation 4:6	References
In front of the throne was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal. In the center, around the throne, were four living beings covered with eyes in front and behind .	<p>Eze 10:12 And their whole body, their rims, and their spokes, their wings, and the wheels were full of eyes all around—the wheels that the four of them had.</p> <p>Psa 11:4 The LORD is in His holy temple, The LORD's throne is in heaven; His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.</p>

22

Four Living Creatures

Revelation 4:7

The first living being was like a **lion**, the second living being was like an **ox**, the third living being had a face that looked **human**, and the fourth living being was like a flying **eagle**.

References

Ezekiel 1:5-11 (5) And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness, (6) but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings. (7) Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the sole of a calf's foot. And they sparkled like burnished bronze. (8) Under their wings on their four sides they had human hands. And the four had their faces and their wings thus: (9) their wings touched one another. Each one of them went straight forward, without turning as they went. (10) As for the likeness of their faces, each had a **human** face. The four had the face of a **lion** on the right side, the four had the face of an **ox** on the left side, and the four had the face of an **eagle**. (11) Such were their faces. And their wings were spread out above. Each creature had two wings, each of which touched the wing of another, while two covered their bodies.



23



24

Six wings - Holy Holy Holy

Revelation 4:8	References
Each of the four living beings had six wings and was covered with eyes inside and out; and day and night they never stop saying, " Holy, holy, holy is Adonai, God of heaven's armies the One who was, who is and who is coming!"	Isaiah 6:2-3 Above 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. 3 And one called to another and said: " Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts ; the whole earth is full of his glory!"



25

He reigns forever

Revelation 4:9	References
And whenever the living beings give glory, honor, and thanks to the One sitting on the throne, to the One who lives forever and ever,	Exodus 15: 18 The LORD will reign forever and ever.



26

He reigns forever

Revelation 4:10-11

The twenty-four elders fall down before the One sitting on the throne, who lives forever and ever, and worship him. They throw their crowns in front of the throne and say, "You are worthy, Adonai Eloheinu, to have glory, honor and power, because you created all things—yes, because of your will they were created and came into being!"

References

1 Chr 29: 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.

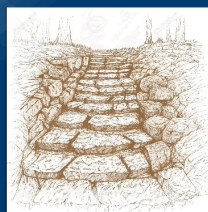
Isa 6:5 And I said: "Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts!"

Rev 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last



27

Talmidim Way



28