**Lesson 2**

**4:1-5:14 God and Christ glorified through Christ’s resurrection**

**4:1** An open door represents a divine invitation to a divine revelation. John enters the timeless presence of God.

“What *must* take place. This is either because God has decreed it, or it is necessary for God’s purposes to be fulfilled.

**4:2** A throne in heaven. The context is a heavenly temple. This vision is very similar to Daniel 7:9-14 Many believe Revelation 4-5 is based largely on Ezekiel 1. A throne is mentioned 17 times in chapters 4-5 and 21 more times in chapters 6-22. No description of the one on the throne is given, as it is absent throughout Scripture.

**4:3** Jasper will be the first stone mentioned in the city walls as well (21:19)

A rainbow represents God’s mercy and glory. Just as it is seen after God’s judgment on the earth in Noah’s day, so it is evident after God has judged the earth in the last days.

**4:4** 24 Elders can represent the 24 orders of priests (1 Chron. 24:3-19; 24), Levitical gatekeepers (1 Chron. 26:17-19), 24 Levitical worship leaders (1 Chron. 25:6-31). It most likely represents the 12 tribes and the 12 apostles. These may be angelic beings representing the apostles and tribes.

**4:5** Flashes of lightning and rumblings/peals of thunder recall Exodus and Mt. Sinai.

7 fiery torches represent the Holy Spirit and alludes to Zechariah 4:2-3.

**4:6** Sea of glass may link to the bronze sea in Solomon’s temple (2 Kings 25:13). It could also refer to the Red Sea and the exodus. It could also refer to Ezekiel 1:22. In Revelation, the sea represents a place of mysterious evil (13:1; 15:2; 16:3; 21:1). A crystal sea would be pure and clean.

**4:7** Four living creatures have parallels in Isaiah and Ezekiel. They may represent the entire created order of animate life. The eyes could represent divine omniscience.

**4:8** Holy holy holy! Threefold holy is perfect, complete holiness. There are parallels to Daniel 7 and Ezekiel 1.

**4:10** The one who lives forever, distinguishes him from temporal kings and rulers who quickly pass from the scene of history. (Today “Caesar” is a salad dressing, but Christ is still on his throne!).

Casting their crowns acknowledges that they have no power or authority apart from God. The elders will prostrate themselves before the throne repeatedly (5:8, 14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4). This would have been practiced by those petitioning the Roman emperor.

**4:11** “our Lord and our God” became a way of acknowledging the emperor Domitian who ruled Rome at that time.

**Chapter 5**

**5:1** A scroll written on both sides means it is full. In the right hand was to be in the strong, mighty hand. Seven seals meant it was fully, perfectly sealed. If it is a scroll, a new section might be opened as each seal is opened.

This chapter appears to be associated with Daniel 7. The book of judgment may also be linked to Daniel 12:4, 9; Ezekiel 2:9-10; Isaiah 29:11.

The scroll could also have been a Roman will. Wills were typically sealed with seven seals and could not be opened or executed until a proper executor was present.

**5:2** The angelic spokesman parallels Daniel 4:13-14, 23.

Daniel’s prophecies spoke of the latter days, or end times (Dan. 2:28; 12:4, 9). In Revelation the end times that Daniel prophesied about have commenced with Jesus’ resurrection.

**5:4** John wept because it appeared that God’s purposes could not be carried out.

**5:6** The “lion” of verse 5 is now pictured as a lamb. In chapters 4-22, a lamb is the predominant title for Christ, used 27 times.

The lamb is “slaughtered.” His death continues to describe his ongoing work and power.

His seven horns represent his power (Deut. 33:17; Ps. 89:17).

The seven eyes represent the fulness of the Spirit (Zech. 3:8-9).

**5:7** Here the Son takes the scroll out of the right hand of God the Father (See Dan. 7:13-14).

**5:8** Grammatically, the 24 elders had harps. They were responsible for heavenly worship and the prayers of the saints, which are seen as delightful incense.

**5:9** The lamb’s power and strength come from suffering and death.

**5:10** God’s people have been made a kingdom of priests, just as Moses and Daniel foretold (Ex. 19:6; Dan. 7:22, 27)

**5:11** “Thousands of thousands” see Daniel 7:10.

**5:14** The seven churches can be encouraged that there are angelic forces worshipping and praying on their behalf in heaven, even though people on earth may suffer, for a time.

**Questions**

1. **What strikes you about God’s throne room?**
2. **How important is it to review these chapters in our current day?**
3. **How do you think you will react when you stand before this throne one day?**
4. **How does your worship compare with the worship that occurs in heaven?**