Revelation Chapter 4

The Throne of God and His Heavenly Court

1. The opened door (vv1,2)
   1. John receives special grace to see a special vision.
   2. Jesus is the mediator of the vision.
      1. After chapter 7 the angels take over in mediating the vision.
   3. John is again “in the spirit.”
      1. In chapter 1 “in the spirit” referred to worshipping God. Here the experience is more mystical.
         1. Similar to the Apostle Paul’s experience in 2 Cor. 12:1-4
2. The Throne (vv2b-3)
   1. The one seated on the throne is God the Father. (see notes on verse 8).
   2. John describes the presence of God’s glory as reflected in the appearance of precious stones.
      1. The three precious stones, jasper, carnelian and emeralds were part of the high priests breast plate (Ex. 28:15-21)
   3. The rainbow halo
      1. This is a sign of God’s majestic mercy.
3. The 24 elders (v4)
   1. They represent all the saints from both the Old Testament and New Testament.
      1. The 12 patriarchs of the Old and 12 apostles in the New signify all of God’s people who worship Him.
4. The lightning and the thunder (v5,6a)
   1. These same elements accompanied God when He appeared to Moses and the people on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:16).
   2. These elements signify God’s awesome and fearsome presence.
   3. The Holy Spirit is signified by 7 lamps. In chapter 5 one will notice the Holy Spirit is signified by the 7 eyes of God (Rev. 5:6)
   4. The glassy sea
      1. This represents separation from God as well as chaos and evil.
5. The four winged creatures (v6b-8a)
   1. These four winged creatures lead the heavenly host in the praise and adoration of God.
6. The Great Hymn of Praise (Te Deum) (v8b-11)
   1. Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty
      1. The personal name for God in Hebrew is Yahweh (Ex. 3:14). The Septuagint is the Greek translation of the Old Testament and translates Yahweh as kurios. That is the Greek word here in verse 8.
   2. “the Almighty, who was and is and is to come”
      1. This is the same designation and title used of God the Father in Revelation 1:4 and 1:8.
   3. God is praised for the fact He is the creator.
   4. More verses will be added to this Great Hymn of Praise throughout the Book of Revelation.