

## Revelation 4 Part 2

Hi, this is Richard Oliver, and we are looking at Revelation chapter four, this is part two, we're picking it up at verse three, just after we found that there was One sitting on the throne. John was called up to heaven, and One was sitting on the throne of God. It was God, of course, Himself. This is, of course, unit number thirteen in our series.

Verse three then of chapter four.

*'And He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.'*

This is the colour of God, a sort of amber green. Emerald, of course, is green, and sardine stone and the jasper, it's all that greenie-gold colour.

Verse four, *'And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.'*

Four and twenty elders, who are they? Well, there's twelve from the Old Testament and there's twelve from the New. The twelve from the Old Testament are the patriarchs, the key guys who were the beginners of the tribes of Israel, so that's people like Reuben, Jacob, Levi, and so on. They are the twelve elders from the Old Testament. The New is, of course, the twelve apostles. And, I know, someone is going to say, well Judas was got rid of, does this mean this is Matthias, I don't personally think so. Matthias was voted in but never seen again in the bible. However, one person was met by Jesus Christ in a different form. He was on the road to Damascus and he was one of the greatest apostles of all time, and that, of course, is Paul. My guess is that he would be that twelfth one.

Verse five, *'And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.'*

The seven Spirits are the seven representations of God, the messengers who brought God's message, they are the seven church age messengers.

Verse six, *'And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.'*

There is a scripture in the Old Testament that says 'I will guide thee by mine eye.' The eye, of course, is the way that light gets into the body. If thine eye be whole, and so on. So this is all talking about revelation. Revelation comes from the prophets. It comes from the key people that God sends with messages. They bring God's Word and revelation should strike us.

Not only, let's take the case of Martin Luther, not only was he the main one at that time, but there were other eyes as well. People like Calvin, Knox and so on. So that's what eyes are, bringing light into things.

And, the four beasts. Now a beast, of course, represents a power, its strong, it does things, just as the four horses, we talked about the horse rider who rode the four horses, the white, red, black and pale. They indicate the sort of power that is in operation. A horse tends to be war-like. A king comes on a horse he's coming in war, if he comes on a donkey he's coming in peace. And these four beasts are also key things. Their natures are indicated by what they are. And these, of course, match those four beasts that Ezekiel talks about in chapter one.

But we'll pick it up at verse seven.

*'And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.'*

Now it's interesting that in the Old Testament times when the Jews came from Egypt, they built a tabernacle, and then they used to camp around the tabernacle, three tribes on each side. And there was a key tribe, if you like, a major tribe, and it was their emblem that used to fly on their particular side of the tabernacle. And those emblems were a lion, an ox or a calf, a man and an eagle. The only way to get to God would be to go through one of those sides, one of those groups, and then you would actually meet with God. Exactly the same has happened in the New Testament. God has shown us how the Holy Spirit should work, or should be allowed to work, in the book of Acts. The book of Acts is not just the acts of the apostles, it is the acts of the Holy Spirit working through the apostles. And the only way you're going to understand how the whole thing works and what's going on, is go through one of the gospels. You have to go through, read one of the gospels to understand the message of what is going on.

There are four gospels, and the first one, Matthew, is about kingship, and that's the lion. Mark is like an ox. He's carrying the weight, he just puts it out there straight forwardly. Luke, however, is a historian, a man of quality, he collated all the eye-witness accounts and put them in his book. And finally, of course, you've got an eagle. John starts, he's flying higher, he's not stuck on earth. He starts with 'In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God,' that's the eagle. So that's the four beasts again in operation.

Verse eight, *'And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.'*

*'And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,*

*'The four and twenty elders fall down before Him that sat on the throne, and worship Him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,'*

They are acknowledging He is Lord of all, He is King, He is the be-all and end-all, and they say this in verse eleven.

*'Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for Thou hast created all things, and for Thy pleasure they are and were created.'*

The whole program, everything, is for Christ. It is not for us. It is for Christ. We are simply a part of that program.

May God bless you.