

Let us pretend for a moment that you won an 800 million dollar lottery. You have 400 million left after taxes. The world is your oyster. What do you want to do with all that money. Of course you will tithe! Thanks for that! But then what? There is a TV show called My Lottery Dream Home. And what car would you get? A tricked-out Jeep or a Humvee, or maybe you feel the need for speed and would get a Lamborghini or both. Then maybe you would take a world tour and build a vacation home on your own island. Then what? Perhaps you can think of a few more things, but then what? Is that what it takes to be satisfied? This chapter challenges us to ask what it would take to shift our desires from the things of this world to the heavenly realm? What would cause us to desire that which is eternal more than the world's fleeting pleasures?

Let me come at this from a different angle. What if you were on your death bed and only had a few days left? Would you want your favorite meal, or a few days at your favorite vacation spot? Or would you be preparing your heart to see Jesus' face to face?

After Jesus dictated the letters to John, John received a wondrous invitation. <sup>1</sup> *After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."* Revelation 4:1 This is the same thing that Ezekiel experienced in Ezekiel 1:1. <sup>1b</sup> *the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.* We will see a lot of wording drawn from the Old Testament Scriptures (Zechariah 2:1<sup>i</sup>; Ezekiel 1:4<sup>ii</sup>).

The expression "after this" is used to divide the visions in the book. We will see it again in 7:1<sup>iii</sup>, 9<sup>iv</sup>; 15:5<sup>v</sup>; 18:1<sup>vi</sup>; 19:1<sup>vii</sup>. To read more into the expression than the fact it is moving from the letters to the following vision is to read something into the text that is not there. Nor does the expression "come up here" denote anything more than God's call to John to enter the heavenly realm like Ezekiel did. The two witnesses will be called up physically into heaven with the same command in chapter eleven 11:12<sup>viii</sup>.

John identifies the voice speaking as the voice of Jesus, the One who sounded like a trumpet (1:10<sup>ix</sup>). This door that John is about to step through is a door into the heavenly realms where the past, present and future is now. It is the eternal now of God where all of time is visible. God transcends time. Time is the creation of the One who is eternally outside time and yet invades time. John received the invitation from the voice to enter into that realm to take a look at the future, though we will see that some of the past is included as well. We can see the certainty of God's plan in the word "must", "what must take place after this (1:1<sup>x</sup>)." It is certain because John is seeing the future.

<sup>2</sup> *At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.* Revelation 4:2 Voom! He enters the heavenly dimension and sees a vision of One seated on a throne. The word throne appears forty-seven times in Revelation. The first recipients needed to know God's throne usurps the throne in Rome. We need to know God's throne is infinitely higher than all of man's thrones. We become anxious because we forget that the God who gave Himself for us is on the throne of heaven.

In chapter one verse ten he already said he was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. Now in the Spirit again, He is seeing what many of the Old Testament prophets had seen, such as Macaiah (1 Kings 22:19<sup>xi</sup>), Isaiah (Isaiah 6:1<sup>xii</sup>), Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1:26<sup>xiii</sup>), and others. Though we have the capital letter identifying the word "Spirit" as the Spirit of

God, the Greek has no definitive article. It may be that John is saying that he is in his spirit as opposed to his body, what people call today an out of body experience. He is not the only one in the Old or New Testament that has described such an experience. (Ezekiel 3:14<sup>xiv</sup>) In chapter one John was in Spirit and yet physically fell on his face (1:17<sup>xv</sup>). When Paul was caught up into heaven he could not tell if he was in the body of not (2 Corinthians 12:2<sup>xvi</sup>).

He saw the One on the throne. Who is he seeing? Paul tells us the visible manifestation of the invisible God is Jesus (Colossians 1:15<sup>xvii</sup>). After all, it was Jesus who said that He and the Father are one (John 10:30<sup>xviii</sup>). He was promised the place at the right hand of God (Psalm 110:1<sup>xix</sup>). That is a position of authority more than it is a physical location. But this is not Jesus, for in the next chapter Jesus will receive the scroll from the One on the throne. God is a spirit (John 4:24<sup>xx</sup>). So how can we see a spirit? Apparently, God manifested Himself in a visible way as he did over the Ark of the Covenant with a ball of light referred to as the Shekinah, meaning the Presence. To help us understand what is happening, God manifested His presence, though He fills all of space and time and transcends both.

What John described seeing is similar to what the prophets described. The book of Revelation has more allusions to Old Testament passages than any other book of the New Testament. Some commentators would say that John is copying these passages. I believe his mind was so full of the Word that when searching for a description he immediately saw the similarity to the words of those who have gone before him. People whose minds are renewed by the Word of God often speak in Biblical expressions.

*<sup>3</sup> And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.* Revelation 1:3 Ezekiel also saw the throne encircled by a rainbow, and he fell on his face at the sight (Ezekiel 1:28). John does not mention falling on his face as he did in chapter one. He may be out of the body so that, now present in this realm, his body is no longer in the way.

The use of gemstones as descriptions was simply something he could relate to in trying to explain what he saw. We cannot be sure of the translation of these stones, but they include the first and last stone of the high priest's breastplate. Later in Revelation jasper is said to be clear as crystal (21:11<sup>xxi</sup>), so some people believe it was a diamond. Carnelian is a red stone that looks like a flame. It reminds me of the tongues of fire at Pentecost (Acts 2:3<sup>xxii</sup>).

In our city, some people ascribe power to crystals and stones. Our sister Cinthia even had some of those stones implanted in a tooth as she thought they gave her power, that is, until she came to know the real power, the Creator of the gemstones. That is when she had that tooth pulled! John wrote that there was the appearance of those stones, not that they were those stones. The reddish brown of the stones may represent judgment while the green of the rainbow may represent grace.

*<sup>4</sup> Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.* Revelation 4:4 We see the same thrones in Daniel 7:9<sup>xxiii</sup>. Some people believe these represent the twelve apostles and the heads of the twelve tribes of Israel (Ephesians 2:14<sup>xxiv</sup>; Revelation 21:12<sup>xxv</sup>, 14<sup>xxvi</sup>). They are not described as such so we cannot say that with certainty. Perhaps they are twenty-four elders from church history. You will recall that James and John wanted to have the thrones next to Jesus. Jesus told them they did

not know what they were asking. He asked them if they could drink the cup He was about to drink (Matthew 20:22<sup>xxvii</sup>). They said they could, not realizing it meant persecution and even martyrdom. Then Jesus told them the Father had prepared those thrones for certain people. We will see these 24 elders on their thrones in the next chapter.

We already saw in the letters that our white robes are a picture of being clothed with the righteousness of Christ (3:5<sup>xxviii</sup>; Romans 13:14<sup>xxix</sup>). He is our righteousness. The golden crowns may represent the crown of life. James wrote that those who remain steadfast under trial will receive a crown of life (2:10<sup>xxx</sup>; James 1:12<sup>xxxi</sup>). The Greek word for crown in this verse means the victors crown which was a perishable wreath. Perhaps using this word and describing it being of gold meant both eternally victorious and reigning with Christ (20:6<sup>xxxii</sup>; 5:10<sup>xxxiii</sup>).

*<sup>5</sup> From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,* Revelation 4:5 Have you ever been near a lightning strike? You would never forget it! When I was a small child, I would spend summers with my grandfather in Oak Creek Canyon. Sitting on his knee we enjoyed the sound of thunder rumbling through the canyon walls. But when it would come very close, feeling the sound wave hit you was frightening.

These descriptions of this heavenly realm invoke awe and wonder. They are similar to the description of God descending on Sinai (Exodus 19:16<sup>xxxiv</sup>). Ezekiel mentions the continual flashing of fire in Ezekiel 1:4<sup>xxxv</sup>. Later in this book they will preclude judgments that strike the earth (8:5<sup>xxxvi</sup>). We saw the seven spirits of God in the introduction to this book and in Jesus' self-description (1:4<sup>xxxvii</sup>). This verse tells us the torches are the seven spirits of God. The Spirit of God is the Holy Spirit. The torches are seen as eyes in 5:6<sup>xxxviii</sup>. Though seven spirits represent the whole or complete attributes of God (Isaiah 11:2<sup>xxxix</sup>), the sense here is of illumination and purification.

*<sup>6</sup> and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:* Revelation 4:6 A sea of glass like crystal, utter calm, in the midst of lightning and thunder. God is undisturbed by all the rebellion of mankind. His throne is in no danger. He is at perfect peace. He already sees the outcome of it all. These creatures are like the cherubim /seraphim of Isaiah 6 verses 2-3<sup>xl</sup> and Ezekiel 1 verse 5-6<sup>xli</sup>. They are not cute little chubby blond-haired babies, but unique creatures that are flying around the throne of God uttering constant praise for what they are beholding. Their voices are so powerful that they shake the foundations of the thresholds of the heavenly temple!

*<sup>7</sup> the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight. <sup>8</sup> And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"* Revelation 4:7,8 John was only given the glimpse of one face of each creature, but Ezekiel describes each as having all four faces (Ezekiel 1:6<sup>xlii</sup>). If John were merely copying Ezekiel, he would have used his description. The creature faces may represent ferocity, power, wisdom, and oversight. The eyes represent their ability to see everything. They do not miss any feature of God's glory. That is why they never cease giving praise.

Nor does John copy Isaiah's version of what is said by the creatures. Isaiah heard them say to each other, "*Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is filled with His glory!*" Isaiah 6:3 John hears these beings who are designated to be near the throne of God and to forever praise His eternal holy nature praise God for who He is in the past, who He is in the present, and who He is in the future.

*There is a rabbinic saying in its present form dating from c. ad 300, but possibly much older: 'The mightiest among the birds is the eagle, the mightiest among the domestic animals is the bull, the mightiest among the wild beasts is the lion, and the mightiest among all is man' (S Bk). This may give us the clue. As Swete puts it: 'The four forms suggest whatever is noblest, strongest, wisest, and swiftest in animate Nature. Nature, including Man, is represented before the Throne, taking its part in the fulfillment of the Divine Will, and the worship of the Divine Majesty.'*<sup>xliii</sup>

Imagine these beings designed to be in the presence of God to declare His glory, and yet even they must shelter their eyes from the full glory of God with one set of their wings (Isaiah 6:2<sup>xliiv</sup>). As they peek through their wings, they get another glimpse of just a facet of the perfections of God and burst forth with praise that shakes the thresholds of the doorposts of the temple in heaven (Isaiah 6:4<sup>xliv</sup>), over and over and over again. It is as if they cannot help but respond to the wonder of what they see.

Whatever attribute they are praising, they begin with the threefold "holy!" In Hebrew the double repetition means especially so. The triple repetition means the ultimate expression of the word. There is none holy like the Lord (1 Samuel 2:2<sup>xlvi</sup>)!

With two wings they fly around the throne as they sing these powerful praises. Their other two wings cover their feet, their creatureliness, as if embarrassed to be created beings that have the honor of being in the presence of the uncreated eternal One. Revelation after revelation of the Creator's greatness and glory overwhelms them again and again forever. What a scene! And if you have placed your trust in Christ, one day you will see this with your own transformed eyes.

*<sup>9</sup> And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever.* Revelation 4:9,10a John has seen Jesus in His glory in chapter One. What a contrast this present vision would have been to even seeing Jesus' resurrected body on earth! Now He is seeing the glory of God the Father. That same glory was manifested in earthly action in the Son (John 14:9<sup>xlvii</sup>). We need to realize that oneness the Father and the Son experience. To me it declares that when I look at what Jesus did for us, I am seeing what John was seeing in the Father. Our salvation is so much more than we comprehend.

Jesus prayed, *<sup>5</sup> And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.* John 17:5 Jesus is now back to His pre-incarnate glory like that which John is witnessing, but now He has been given all-authority and the name above every name (Philippians 2:9<sup>xlviii</sup>) and has secured the salvation of all that will come to Him by grace through faith. God's glorious heart was manifested in creation and the incarnation so that humankind might be able to see the greatness of His love and grace and justice (Psalm 103:11<sup>xlix</sup>).

The living creatures are constantly giving glory, honor, and thanks to the Eternal One. To give glory is to speak of the goodness of someone. In this case they are

proclaiming the perfections of God's eternal nature. They see a little more with each look and proclaim it to all within the sound of their mighty voices (Psalm 115:1<sup>l</sup>).

They give honor to Him by declaring the greatness of His nature and deeds. No wonder this goes on forever, for He is continually doing glorious things and manifesting His mercy and love, as well as His righteous judgments (Psalm 92:5<sup>li</sup>).

They also give thanks. They thank Him for who He is and what He does and probably for being so privileged to be front row witnesses of His greatness. Heaven resounds with thanksgiving, and we should be joining their songs even now.

When we celebrate Thanksgiving, most of us thank God for family and friends, for provision and health, and especially for salvation and a relationship with Jesus. But do we thank Him for being eternally gracious and merciful? Do we thank Him for His perfect attributes and how we see them manifest in the earth? Do we thank Him for reigning in righteousness? That is the kind of praise that is heard in heaven. It is not so much for physical things we have received as it is for His very nature, for the greatness of His heart. **Heaven is filled with the sound of glory, honor, and thanks. Our lives will be filled with a little more heaven if we do the same right here!**

As the elders who are before the throne hear the seraphim declare another aspect of the glory of God, they fall on their faces and worship God for who He is. In our present state, we would imagine that this could get quite old after millionth time. Our lack of being able to relate comes from the fact that we have never heard a seraphim's thundering song or seen with our eyes the glorified Christ. I imagine if we asked John after this revelation if he thought it would get old after a while, that he would laugh at us, or maybe cry for us. The wonder of God is so great that it will take forever. One glimpse of God caused Moses to devote every day of the rest of his life (Exodus 33:23<sup>lii</sup>). The Apostle Paul had the same reaction to the glorified Christ. "Lord, what would you have me do" (Acts 22:10<sup>liii</sup>)? Then he gave himself in a radical, all-out way in service to Jesus until the day he was beheaded.

You might say that we do not have that blessing of seeing Jesus in His glory, and so we just cannot be expected to be so dedicated. But that is why we have the Bible. It is the revelation of the glorified Jesus. John has described Him (1:13-16<sup>liv</sup>). See Him with the eyes of your spirit and catch that passion to know Him more, to get another glimpse of the wonder of who He is so that you might declare from your heart the glory, honor, and thanks that are due Him (Hebrews 12:2<sup>lv</sup>).

<sup>10b</sup> **They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, <sup>11</sup> "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."** Revelation 4:10b,11 Overwhelmed with the wondrous nature of God, the elders grab the one thing of eternal value, what they received as a reward, their crowns of life, and cast them at the feet of Jesus. They give their lives over and over because they know that He alone is worthy. They know their victory was because of His grace and power in their lives. They declare the seraphim to be right in giving God glory and honor and thanks and add that power should and does belong to Him (1 Peter 1:7<sup>lvi</sup>).

I was surprised to hear a secular anthropologist declare that all cultures have an inner desire to give glory. We were created to give God glory and He alone is worthy of eternal glory.



When we are finally home, we will see the top side of the tapestry. As someone has said, now we see the mess of threads underneath and cannot make out the images that are being woven on the other side by the Grand Weaver. Then we will see from above the glorious design of history in all its beautiful detail. We catch an occasional glimpse even now of the incredible orchestration of details and are in awe. I doubt we will be able to speak anything but praise.

Why? It is because everything is created by God and exists by His will and for His purposes (Romans 11:30<sup>lvii</sup>). In the end, everything will bring Him glory. The reason for all things will be manifest, and they will all point to the wonder of our glorious Lord. Every aspect of every life will be revealed for the purpose which God designed it, and the glorious picture in all its fine detail will have us eternally awestruck, forever thankful for His nature, forever enraptured to be the bride of the eternally glorified Lamb (21:2<sup>lviii</sup>).

Why did the churches that received the letter need a vision of the throne room of God? It is the same reason we do. We struggle with life in a fallen world. We are tempted with things that are temporary. To deal with this life and all its problems and temptations, we need a glimpse of the One who is on the throne who will one day bring us safely home.

This is how the Apostle Paul put it. *16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.*

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 When life gets you down, when tomorrow seems too hard to face, remember Revelation 4 and 5. In chapter five there is an expanding multitude of praise coming from all of creation. Open your Bible, and as you read these chapters, visualize the throne room of God. Know that if you are in Christ, one day you will see the emerald rainbow. You will feel the thundering voices of the cherubim and hear the praise of the elders and thousands times ten thousands of angels singing praises to the Lamb upon the throne (5:11,12<sup>lix</sup>). Our problems will not seem so big when we see the greatness and glory of the One who holds us in the palm of His hand. As the song declares, “The things of earth will grow strangely dim in the light of His glory and grace.”

You are invited to come to this throne. Not in a visible way as John did, but in just as real a way. Hebrews 4:16 tells us to confidently draw near to the throne of grace to find help in time of need! It is your invitation to pray and worship His majesty!

Questions:

- 1 Is the future uncertain?
- 2 How do we describe things we've never seen before?
- 3 What should the thunder and lightning remind us of?
- 4 Where else in the Bible do we see these creatures? How do they differ?
- 5 Describe the scene.
- 6 Why are the creatures there?
- 7 What motivated the Bible heroes?
- 8 How do the elders respond?
- 9 Why does anything exist?
- 10 Discuss the tapestry parable.

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**<sup>i</sup> Zechariah 2:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, a man with a measuring line in his hand!

**<sup>ii</sup> Ezekiel 1:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> 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.

**<sup>iii</sup> Revelation 7:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> After this I saw four angels standing at the four corners of the earth, holding back the four winds of the earth, that no wind might blow on earth or sea or against any tree.

**<sup>iv</sup> Revelation 7:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

**<sup>v</sup> Revelation 15:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened,

**<sup>vi</sup> Revelation 18:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory.

**<sup>vii</sup> Revelation 19:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

**<sup>viii</sup> Revelation 11:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Then they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here!" And they went up to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies watched them.

**<sup>ix</sup> Revelation 1:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet

**<sup>x</sup> Revelation (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

**<sup>xi</sup> 1 Kings 22:19 (ESV)**

<sup>19</sup> And Micaiah said, "Therefore hear the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing beside him on his right hand and on his left;

**<sup>xii</sup> Isaiah 6:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> 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.

**<sup>xiii</sup> Ezekiel 1:26 (ESV)**

<sup>26</sup> 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.

**<sup>xiv</sup> Ezekiel 3:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> The Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness in the heat of my spirit, the hand of the LORD being strong upon me.

**<sup>xv</sup> Revelation 1:17 (ESV)**

<sup>17</sup> 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,

**<sup>xvi</sup> 2 Corinthians 12:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows.

**<sup>xvii</sup> Colossians 1:15 (ESV)**

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

**<sup>xviii</sup> John 10:30 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> I and the Father are one."

**<sup>xix</sup> Psalm 110:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD says to my Lord: "Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool."

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<sup>xx</sup> **John 4:24 (ESV)**

<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”

<sup>xxi</sup> **Revelation 21:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> having the glory of God, its radiance like a most rare jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.

<sup>xxii</sup> **Acts 2:3 (ESV)**

<sup>3</sup> And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them.

<sup>xxiii</sup> **Daniel 7:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.

<sup>xxiv</sup> **Ephesians 2:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility

<sup>xxv</sup> **Revelation 21:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> It had a great, high wall, with twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and on the gates the names of the twelve tribes of the sons of Israel were inscribed—

<sup>xxvi</sup> **Revelation 21:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the twelve names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

<sup>xxvii</sup> **Matthew 20:22 (ESV)**

<sup>22</sup> Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am to drink?” They said to him, “We are able.”

<sup>xxviii</sup> **Revelation 3:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> The one who conquers will be clothed thus in white garments, and I will never blot his name out of the book of life. I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels.

<sup>xxix</sup> **Romans 13:14 (ESV)**

<sup>14</sup> But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

<sup>xxx</sup> **Revelation 2:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.

<sup>xxxi</sup> **James 1:12 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him.

<sup>xxxii</sup> **Revelation 20:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and they will reign with him for a thousand years.

<sup>xxxiii</sup> **Revelation 5:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”

<sup>xxxiv</sup> **Exodus 19:16 (ESV)**

<sup>16</sup> On the morning of the third day there were thunders and lightnings and a thick cloud on the mountain and a very loud trumpet blast, so that all the people in the camp trembled.

<sup>xxxv</sup> **Ezekiel 1:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> 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.

<sup>xxxvi</sup> **Revelation 8:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> Then the angel took the censer and filled it with fire from the altar and threw it on the earth, and there were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake.

<sup>xxxvii</sup> **Revelation 1:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

<sup>xxxviii</sup> **Revelation 5:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

<sup>xxxix</sup> **Isaiah 11:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And 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 the fear of the LORD.



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<sup>xl</sup> **Isaiah 6:2-3 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> And one called to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy is the LORD of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory!”

<sup>xlii</sup> **Ezekiel 1:5-6 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> And from the midst of it came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance: they had a human likeness,

<sup>6</sup> but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.

<sup>xliii</sup> **Ezekiel 1:6 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> but each had four faces, and each of them had four wings.

<sup>xliiii</sup> Leon Morris, *Revelation: An Introduction and Commentary*, vol. 20, Tyndale New Testament Commentaries (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987), 92.

<sup>xliv</sup> **Isaiah 6:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>xlvi</sup> **Isaiah 6:4 (ESV)**

<sup>4</sup> And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke.

<sup>xlvii</sup> **1 Samuel 2:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> “There is none holy like the LORD: for there is none besides you; there is no rock like our God.

<sup>xlviii</sup> **John 14:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’?”

<sup>xlix</sup> **Philippians 2:9 (ESV)**

<sup>9</sup> Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

<sup>l</sup> **Psalms 103:11 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

<sup>li</sup> **Psalms 115:1 (ESV)**

<sup>1</sup> Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to your name give glory, for the sake of your steadfast love and your faithfulness!

<sup>lii</sup> **Psalms 92:5 (ESV)**

<sup>5</sup> How great are your works, O LORD! Your thoughts are very deep!

<sup>liii</sup> **Exodus 33:23 (ESV)**

<sup>23</sup> Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

<sup>liiii</sup> **Acts 22:10 (ESV)**

<sup>10</sup> And I said, ‘What shall I do, Lord?’ And the Lord said to me, ‘Rise, and go into Damascus, and there you will be told all that is appointed for you to do.’

<sup>liv</sup> **Revelation 1:13-16 (ESV)**

<sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire,

<sup>15</sup> his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength.

<sup>lv</sup> **Hebrews 12:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

<sup>lvi</sup> **1 Peter 1:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

<sup>lvii</sup> **Romans 11:30 (ESV)**

<sup>30</sup> For just as you were at one time disobedient to God but now have received mercy because of their disobedience,

<sup>lviii</sup> **Revelation 21:2 (ESV)**

<sup>2</sup> And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

<sup>lix</sup> **Revelation 5:11-12 (ESV)**

<sup>11</sup> Then I looked, and I heard around the throne and the living creatures and the elders the voice of many angels,

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numbering myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, <sup>12</sup> saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”