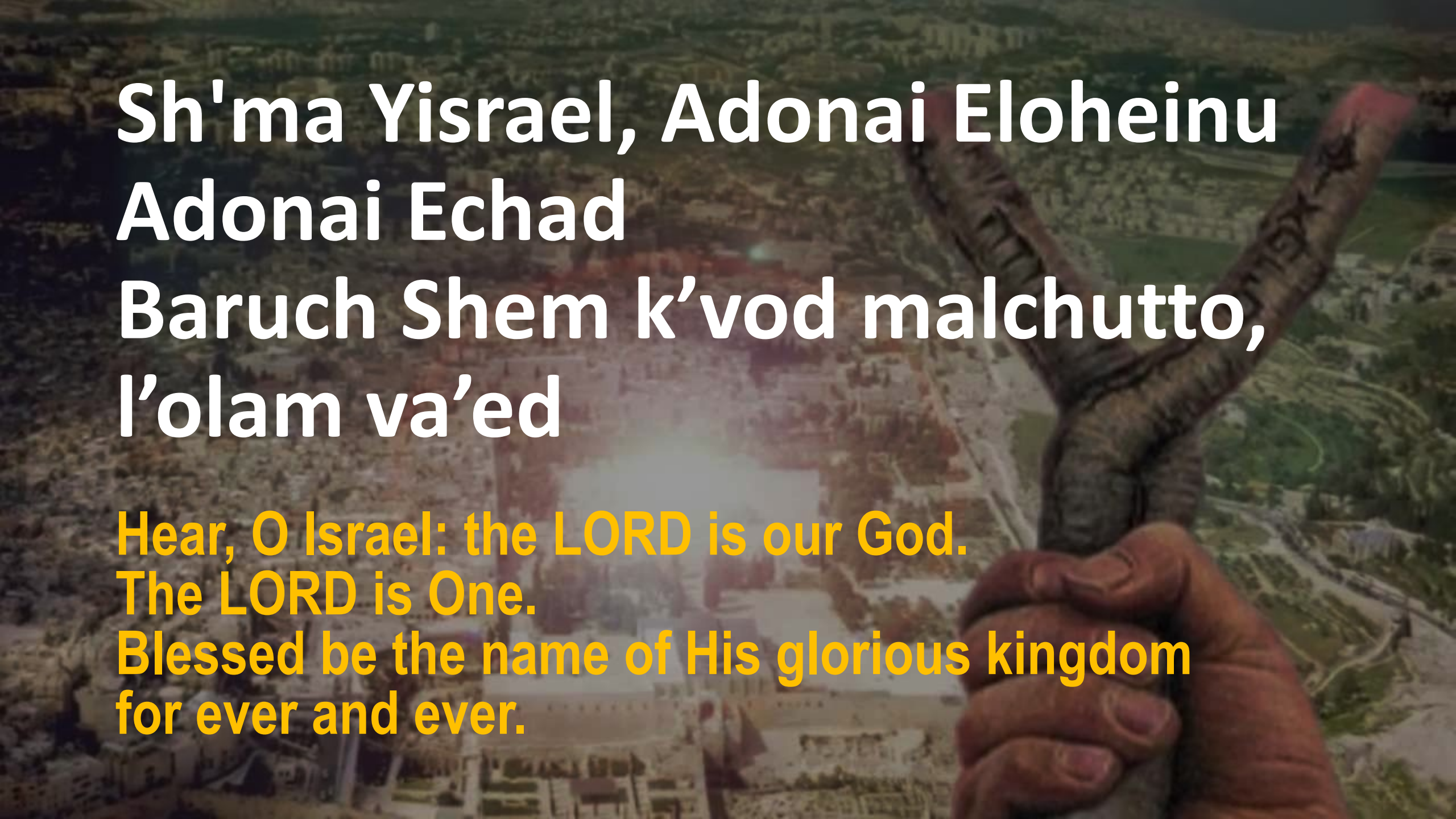


A blue door with a brass handle, slightly ajar, revealing a bright sky with white clouds. The door is made of dark blue wood with a brass handle. The handle is a simple, cylindrical bar. The door is slightly open, showing a bright sky with white clouds. The text "Come up here!" is written in white, sans-serif font across the middle of the door. Below it, the text "Revelation 4:1" is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

“Come up here!”

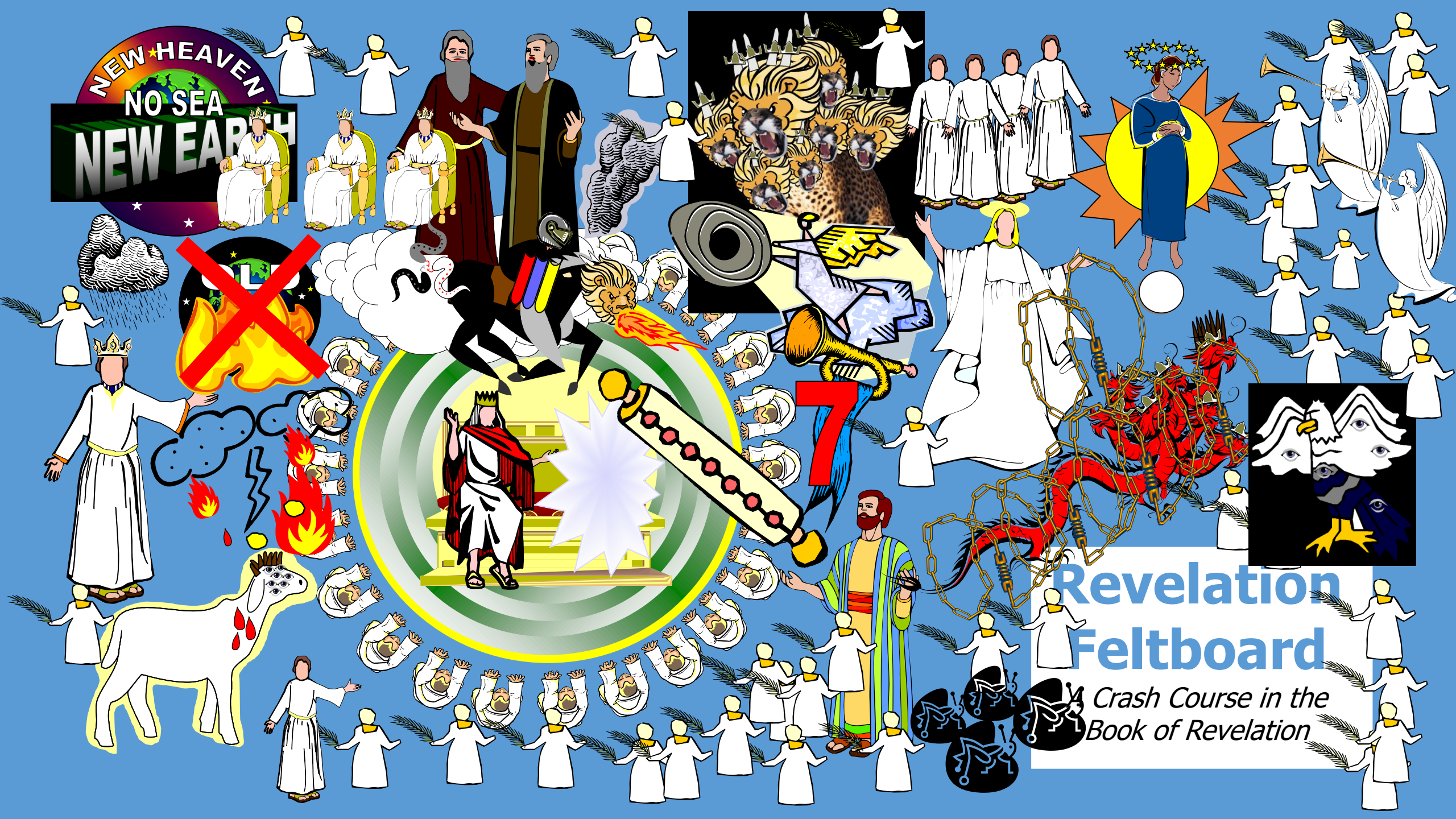
Revelation 4:1

A hand holding a scroll with Hebrew text against a background of a city. The scroll is held in a way that the text is visible. The background shows a city with buildings and a large dome, possibly the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem. The text on the scroll is in Hebrew and matches the text in the image.

**Sh'ma Yisrael, Adonai Eloheinu
Adonai Echad
Baruch Shem k'vod malchutto,
l'olam va'ed**

**Hear, O Israel: the LORD is our God.
The LORD is One.
Blessed be the name of His glorious kingdom
for ever and ever.**

NEW HEAVEN
NO SEA
NEW EARTH



Revelation Feltboard

*Crash Course in the
Book of Revelation*



Revelation 4

- **Church age over.** New scene opens.
- 7 local churches, and entire “Church Age,” covered in chapters 2-3.
- Beginning in chapter 4, third section (“*things which will take place after this*”) begins.
- This chapter a sort of **prelude, sets scene, for events of chapter 5.**



Amazing sights
on the horizon...!

¹ After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

⁴ Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. ⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

⁶ Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

*“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,
Who was and is and is to come!”*

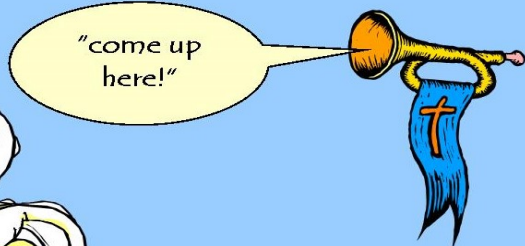
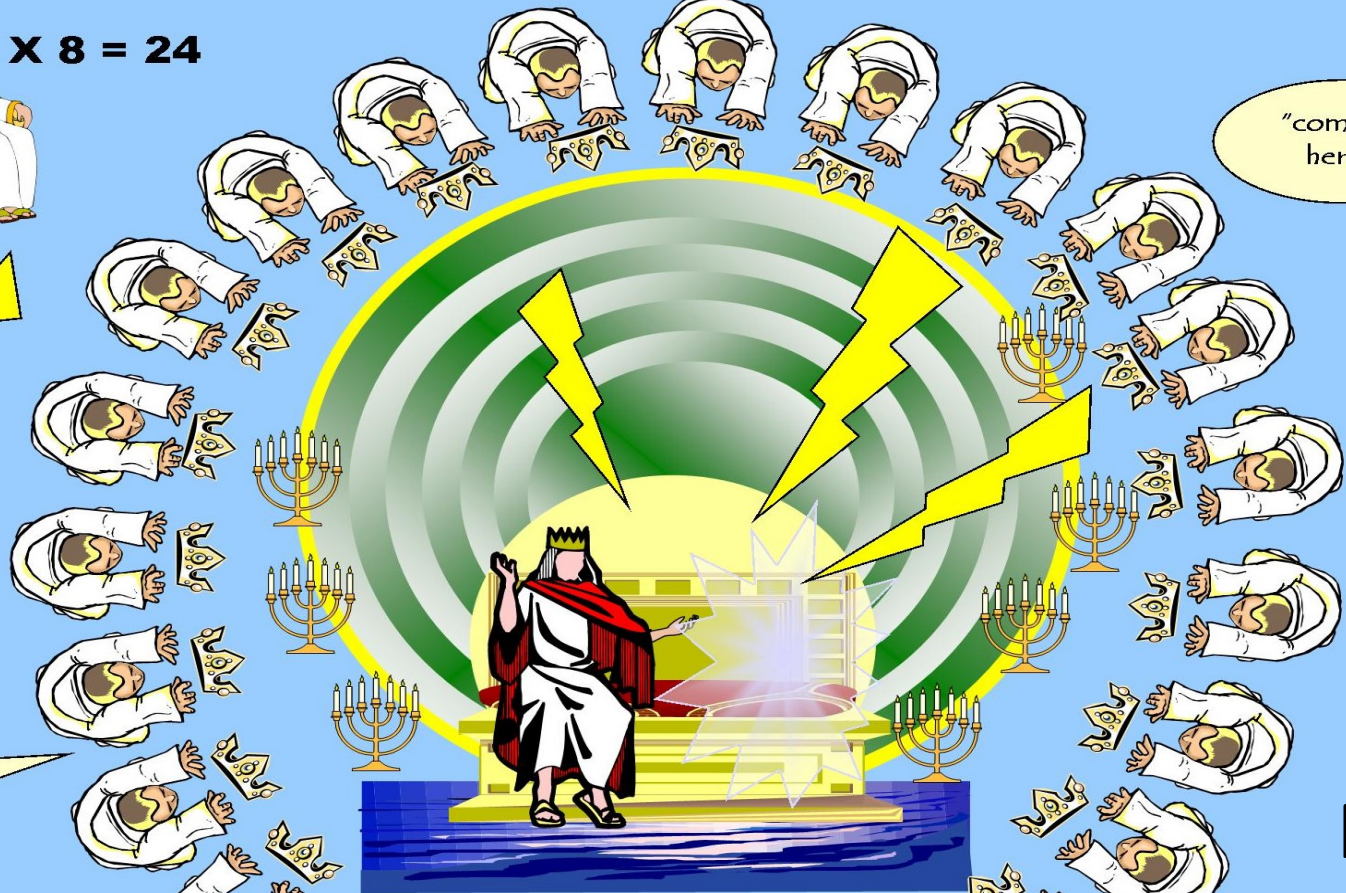
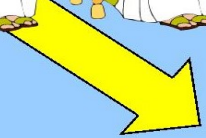
⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ...

¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

¹¹ “You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”



X 8 = 24



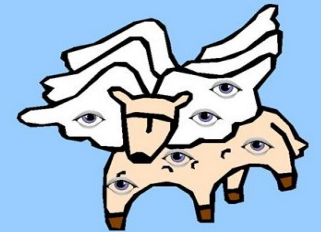
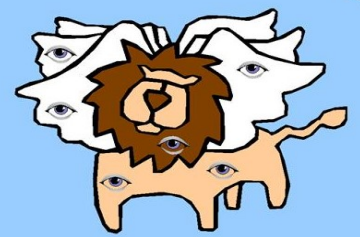
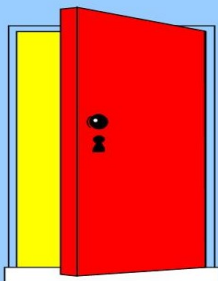
"come up here!"



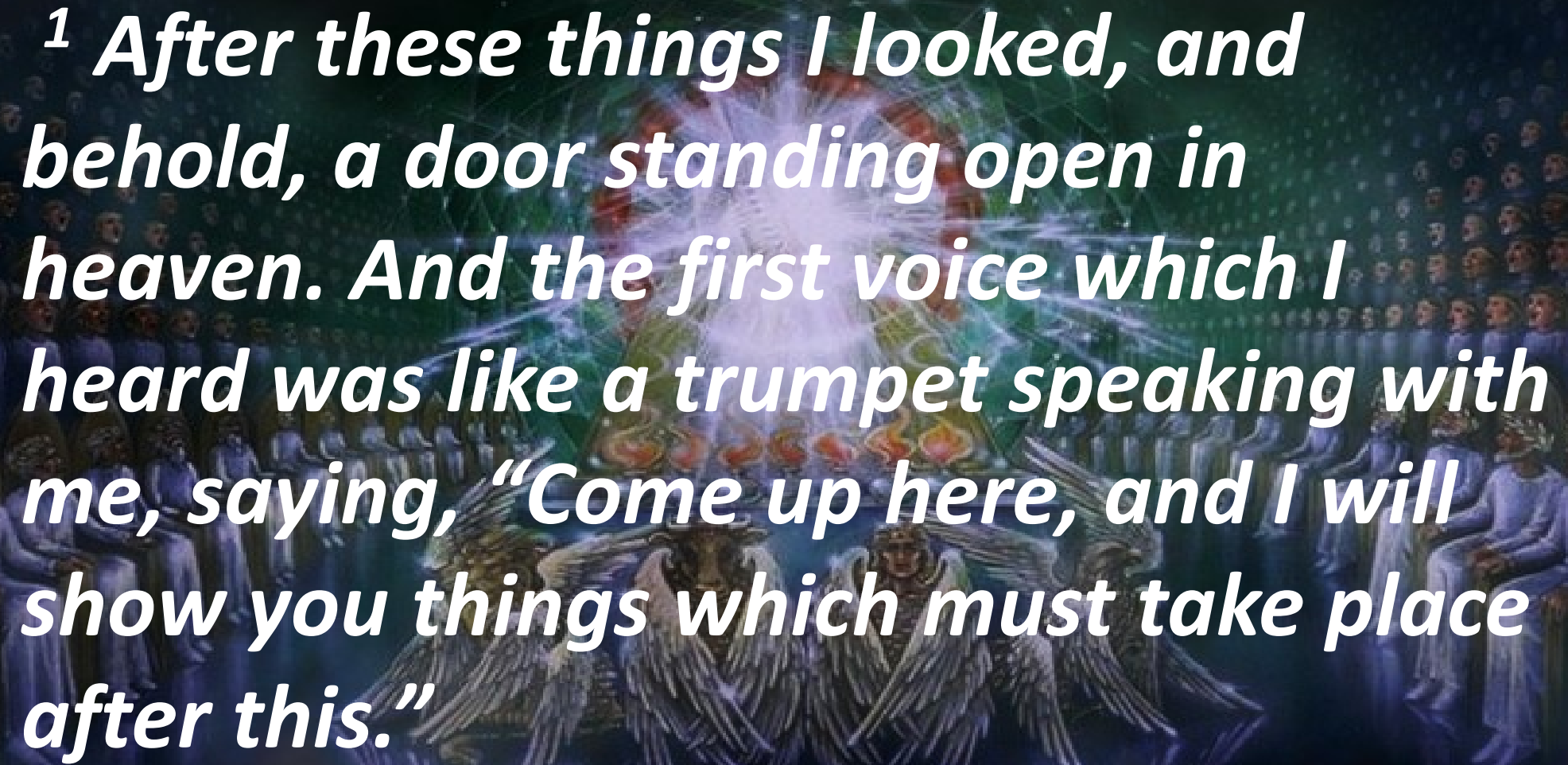
"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come!"

Revelation 4

"You are worthy, O Lord; to receive glory and honor and power; For you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created!"



¹ After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."



- “*After these things*” – meta tauta.... **There IS a chronology to Revelation!** Another *meta tauta*...
- **1:19** – “*Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”*
- “**THINGS WHICH ARE**” – Chapters 1-3 (what is)
- “**THINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS**” – Chapters 4-22 (what will be, future)

- **CHURCH AT LAODICEA ENDS CHURCH AGE...**and thus ends *“things which are,”* first part of book.
- Chapter 4 + is future, *“the things which will take place after this.”*
- **Now in Part Two, the future.**
- Ch 4/5 Throne Room
- Ch 6-18 “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”
- Ch 19/20 Return and Millennium
- Ch 21/22 Eternity

- Now immediate change in scene and locale
- “*a door [standing] open in heaven*”
4X in Revelation. Door of opportunity (3:8), fellowship (3:20, 2X) access to heaven (here, 4:1)
- “*voice like a trumpet*”
(1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, Exodus 19)
- “*come up here*” (reality of heaven) Invitation?
Calling of true believers? Some see this as removal (*rapture*, “*great snatch*”) of Church.



“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.

¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- church at Laodicea ends church age. Tribulation and apostate church follows (Ch 6-18).
- Before that time, removal of ekklesia *may* occur. **Church does not appear again until *after the Tribulation*.** (Is not found in ch 6-18)
- Invitation to John *may be* one of many references to **pre-Tribulational removal of church.**
- Open to much debate!

- original Greek = *harpazo*, literally to “seize, or snatch away.” English translated “caught up.”
- “catching up” of true believers...

1. PRE-TRIBULATION

2. MID-TRIBULATION

3. POST TRIBULATION

- Could 4:1 correspond to PRE-Trib view of catching away of “Church?”
- Maybe. Many think so.

TRIBULATION

(7 years, Daniel 9:27, "70th week")

PRE


3 1/2 Years

"beginning of sorrows"

MID


3 1/2 Years

"Great Tribulation"

"Abomination of Desolation"

POST




Possible "catching away"

2nd Coming

- We are introduced to 24 elders in Chapter 4. We will see these elders represent all believers saved through this time (*including ekklesia*).
- **The “multitude” in Chapter 7 is not the Church!**

“Multitude” in Ch 7 NOT the Church. Church = Elders in Ch 4-5

THE MULTITUDE CH. 7	ELDERS CH. 4-5
STAND before the Throne	SIT on thrones
Wear white robes (<i>stole</i>), outer robe	Wear white raiment (<i>himation</i>) ALL clothing
Hold palm branches	Wear laurel crowns (<i>stephanos</i>) of victory
Cry out in a loud voice	Sing a new song
Come “out of Great Tribulation”	Already in heaven, before Tribulation
Serve God day and night in Temple	Rule and reign with Yeshua
He wipes away their tears, consoles	Rejoice
In chapters 6-18	NOT in chapters 6-18

The Trumpet Judgments in Chapters 8 and 9 are not the trumpet call of the Church!

LAST TRUMP	REVELATION TRUMPETS
For rapture, trump of <i>God</i>	Blown by angels
“call to assembly” to rise and meet Jesus in the air	Announce and send God’s judgments onto a rebellious world
Call to worship at God’s throne	cause people to harden their hearts and they do not repent-- Revelation 9:20-21.
For believers	For unbelievers
Act of God’s grace	Act of God’s wrath (although His grace is seen in those who come to Him – also a grace period to force people who will come and “not perish”)
Told to “comfort one another” with these words	“the nations will be angry”
Jesus not in heaven (meet him in the air)	Jesus in heaven (no mention of him being elsewhere)

**The “Catching Away” of
the ekklesia is not the
Second Coming!**

"Catching Up" (rapture)		Second Coming	
Characteristic	Scripture	Characteristic	Scripture
Relates to the Church	Philippians 3:20-21, Hebrews 12:22-24	Relates to Israel	
Messiah comes <u>for</u> His Bride (the Church)	John 14:3, 2 Thessalonians 2:1	Messiah comes <u>with</u> His Bride	Jude 1:14-15. Revelation 19:14. Zechariah 14:5
opens the door for the "man of sin" to rise to power	2 Thess 2:6-8	dooms the "man of sin"	Revelation 19:20
Imminent, can happen at any time	Matt 24:38-39, Matt 25:13, Luke 17:26-30, 1 Thess 5:1-11, Heb 10:24-25	Preceded by many days, signs and events	

“Catching Up” (rapture)		Second Coming	
Church will proceed to the judgment seat (the bema) of Christ to receive rewards	2 Corinthians 5:10. 1 Corinthians 9:24-27. 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20	a judgment of the sheep and goats	Matthew 24:31-46
About God’s mercy and grace		Pertains to God’s wrath	
Yeshua is the morning star	2 Peter 1:19, Revelation 2:28, Revelation 22:16	He is the Sun of righteousness	Malachi 4:1-2
The hope of the Church	2 Peter 1:19, Revelation 22:16	The hope of Israel	Malachi 4:1-2
Meet in the air	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	Messiah sets foot at Mount of Olives	Zechariah 14:4
World sinks deeper into sin		World is judged for sin (Armageddon), sheep and goats, etc.	

“Catching Up” (rapture)		Second Coming	
Gathering done by Jesus Himself	1 Thess 4:13-17	Gathering done by angels	Revelation 14:18-20
Followed by judgment seat of Christ, wedding ceremony of Bride		Followed by judgment of sheep and goats (<i>post trib would not allow for bema seat and wedding ceremony</i>)	
<p>Bodies changed when we meet him in the air</p> <p><i>(Note: If believers were translated [raptured] at second coming [post-Trib], and unbelievers were destroyed by final tribulation judgment, there would be no one left in their flesh to populate the world in the millennium.)</i></p>	1 Thess 4:13-18	<p>judgment of Gentile nations follows second coming –</p> <p><i>scripture seems to indicate both saved and lost are in natural bodies (which would be impossible if there were a translation, or rapture, at the second coming) [post-trib]... surviving tribulation saints are not translated (into immortal bodies) at 2nd coming of Christ, but carry on into Millennium with ordinary activities, like farming, construction, and giving birth.</i></p>	<p>Matthew 25:31-46</p> <p>Isaiah 65:20-25</p>

“REAPING OF EARTH’S HARVEST” (CH 14) NOT RAPTURE

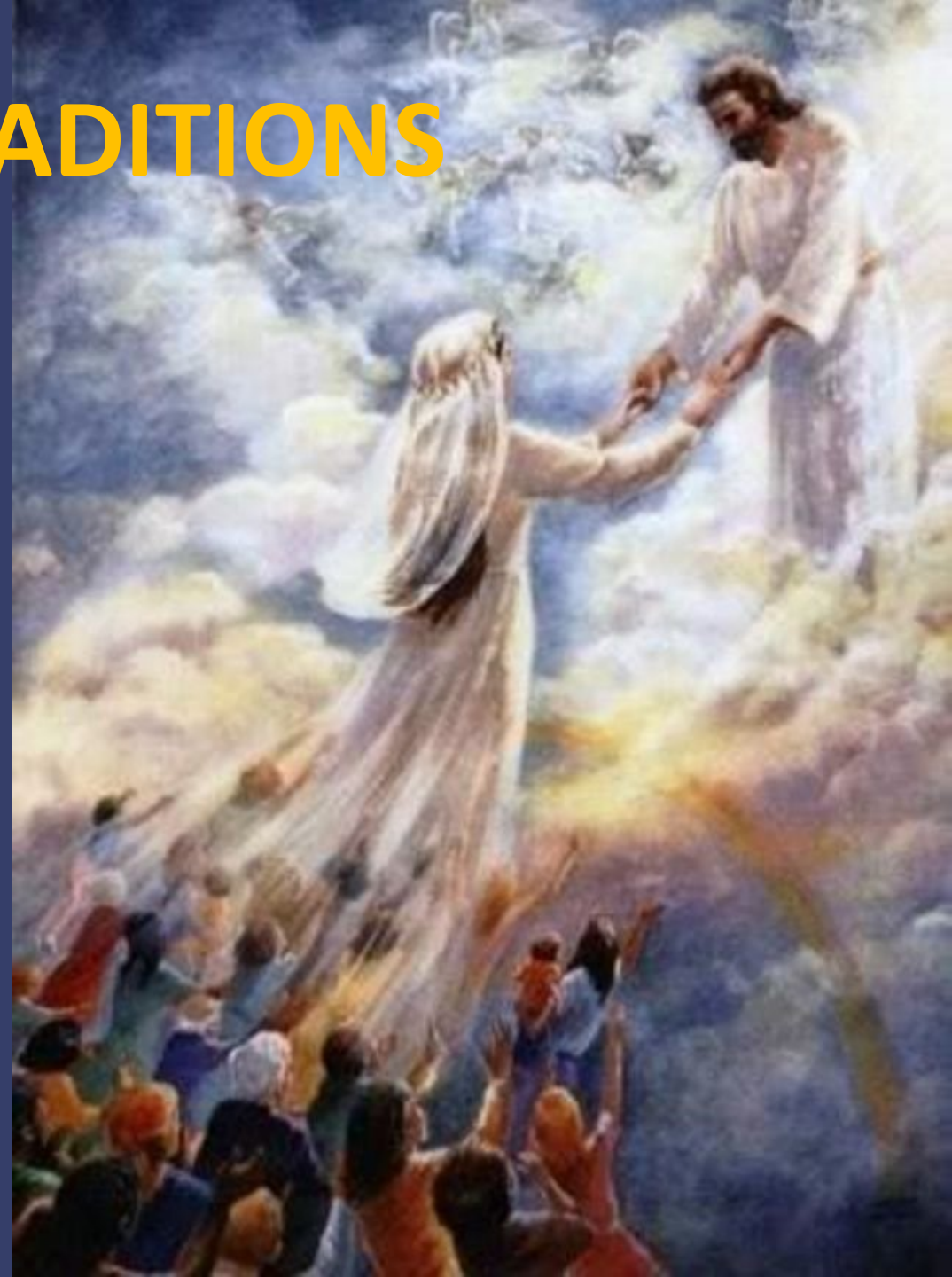
- Matthew 24:31
- Jesus Himself gathers Church, angels gather these
- Post Trib believing survivors

REVELATION 15 GROUP NOT THE CHURCH

- Stand on sea of glass/fire
- Fire biblical symbol of judgment
- Elders sea of glass, no fire, “like crystal”
- Tribulation saints

HEBREW MARRIAGE TRADITIONS

- Betrothal
- Separation
- Reunion
- Seclusion
- Feast
- Jesus (Husband [Bridegroom] and Church ([Bride]) –relationship fulfills entire “model” – *including rapture*

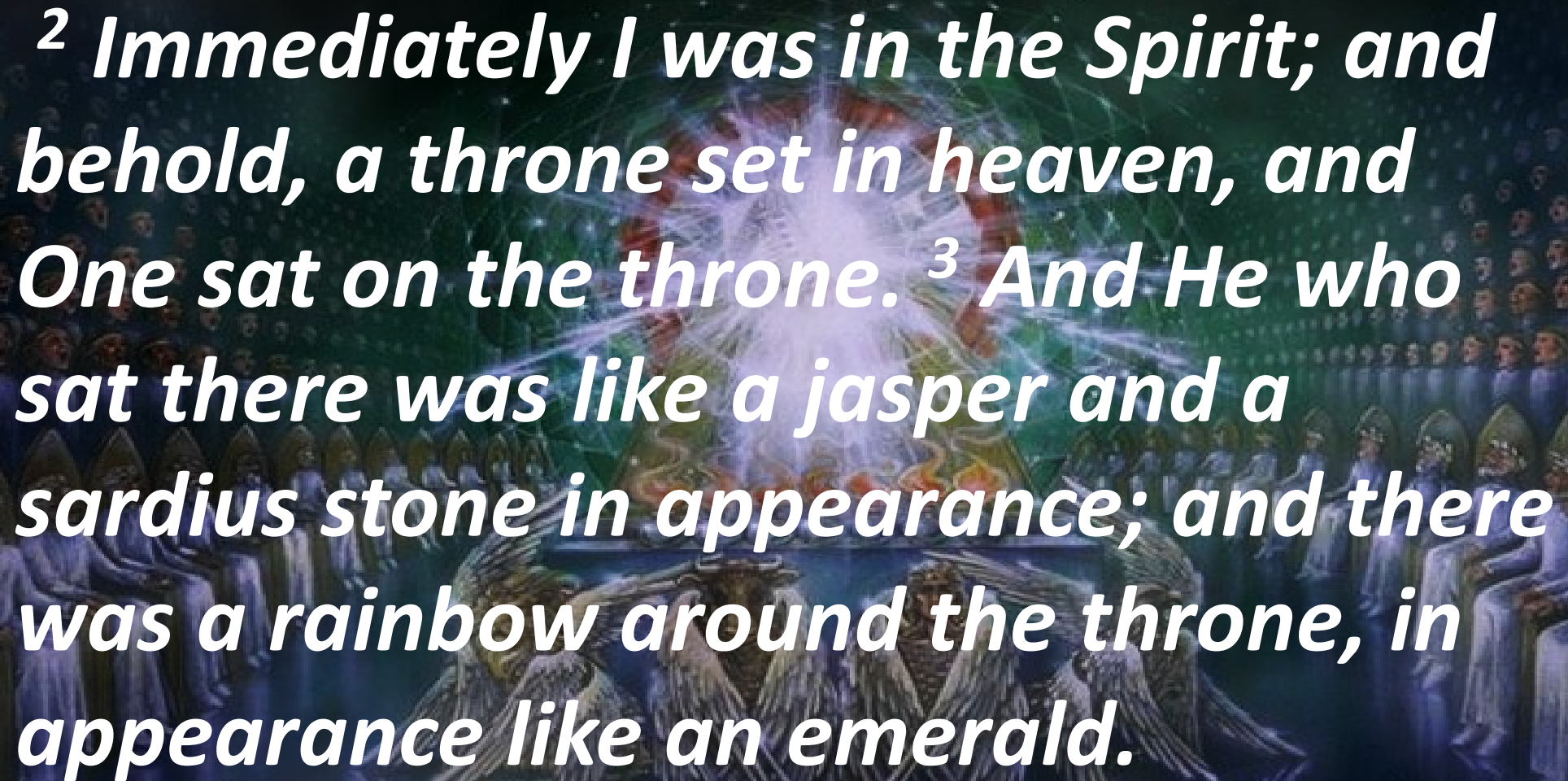


REVELATION FELTBOARD: Chapter 4



Come up here!

² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. ³ And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

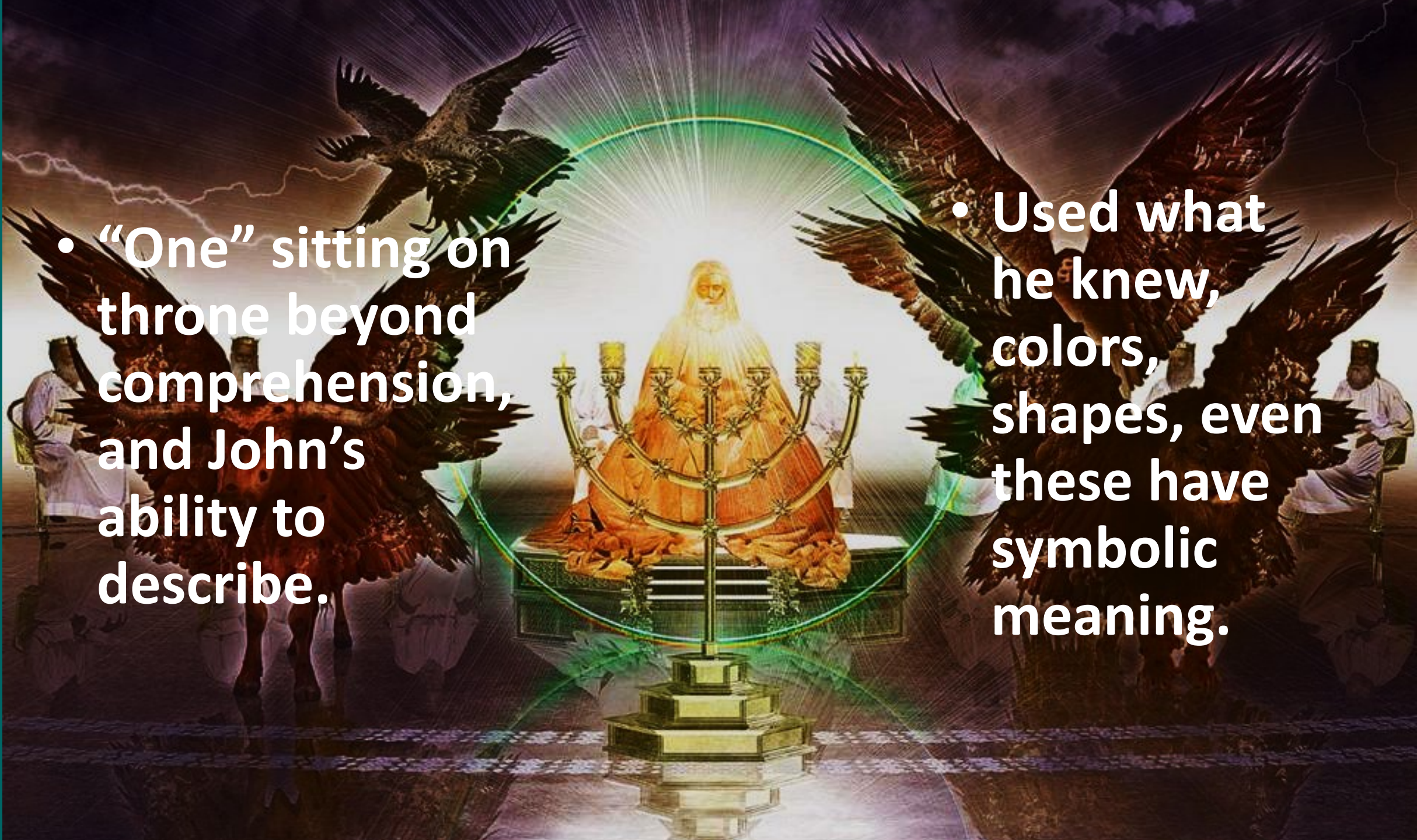


- *“Immediately”* –interesting word here. Paul would have used phrase *“in the twinkling of an eye.”*
- *“In the Spirit”* –place of unique fellowship with God, transcends physical plane. John describing a vision. Not physically in this place.
- *“Throne”* –word 45X in Revelation, and every chapter except 2, 8 and 9. **God’s Throne is center of all activity.** *“A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.”*
(Jeremiah 17:12)

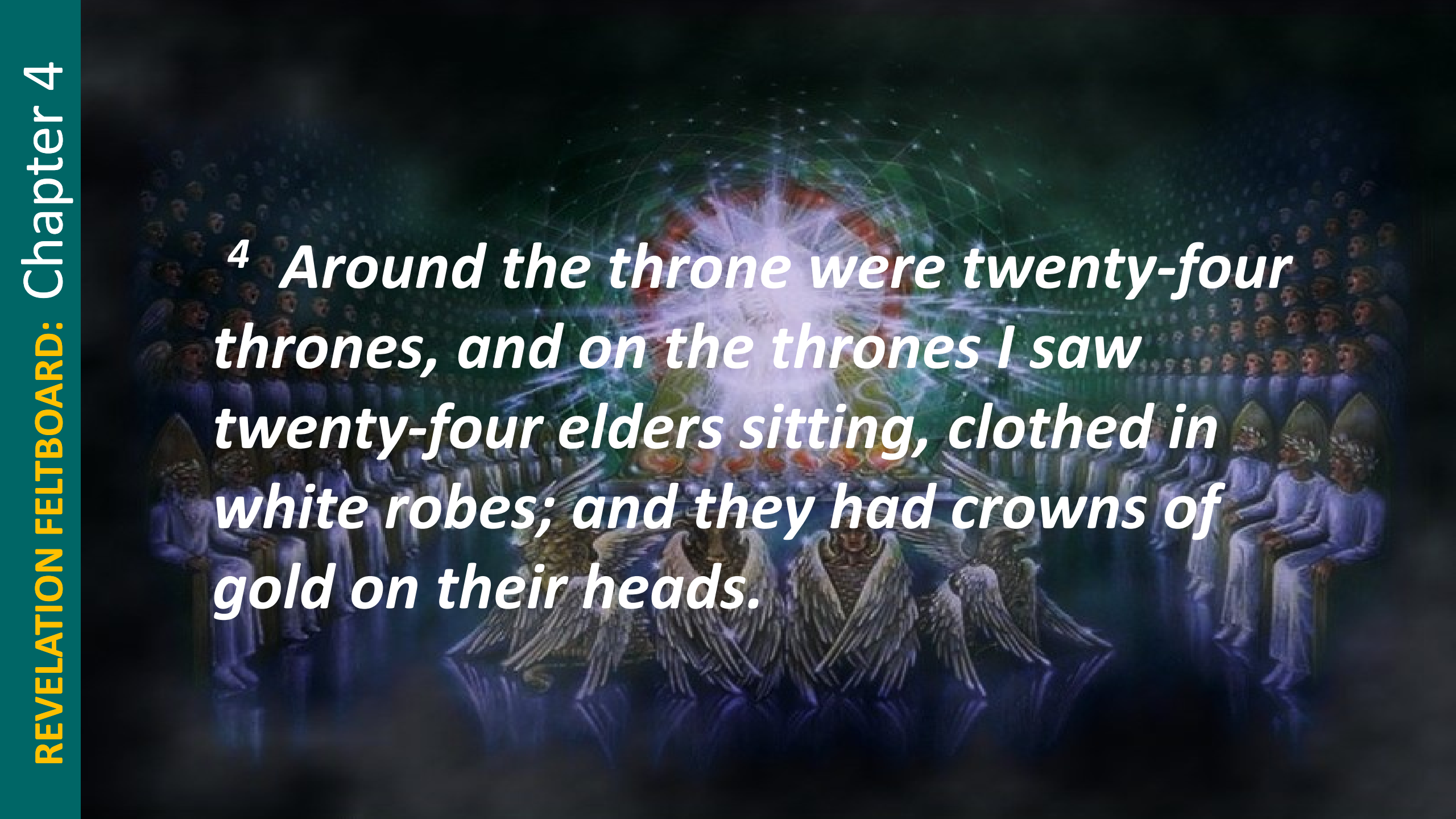
- **Jasper** – different today. Jasper likely clear, diamond-like. Last stone in breastplate of high priest. (Exodus 28:20)
- **Sardius** blood (fiery) red. Both seen in wall and foundation of New Jerusalem (Revelation 21).
- **Emerald green** rainbow (Greek = *iris*, halo, full circle)
- **WHITE** = purity, absolute holiness
- **RED** = Blood of the Lamb
- **GREEN** = Life abundant, *God giver and taker of life*

- “One” sitting on throne beyond comprehension, and John’s ability to describe.

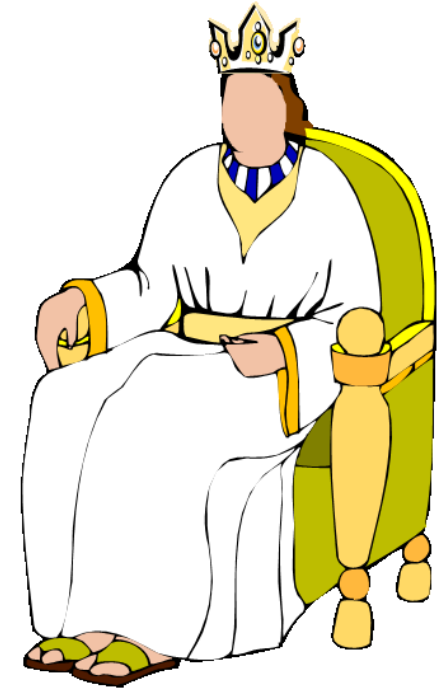
- Used what he knew, colors, shapes, even these have symbolic meaning.



4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.



- “*24 thrones and 24 elders*” – elders highest officials in church, **represented entire church when assembled** (Titus 1:5, Acts 15:6, 20:28, 1 Peter 2:5 and 9)




WHO ARE THESE “ELDERS?”

- **ELDER** = (*presbuteros*) most mature (*not necessarily oldest*) of believers in church. Paul’s letters to Titus/Timothy give qualifications.
- **White robes** – spotless robes of righteousness, given by Jesus; **Crowns of gold** – (*Stephanos*) crown of victory (*not diadema, crown of authority, kingship*)

- Angels, but do angels wear crowns of victory?
- Priests, were 24 courses of priests established by King David (1 Chronicles 24:5).
- Revelation 5 singing “song of the redeemed.” Who are the redeemed? The entire Church.
- “*sit on thrones...*” indicate ruling with Messiah. Only Church does this. (*not angels*)
- *Best interpretation* = **entire redeemed church**, represented by 12 tribes (Israel) and the 12 disciples (Church). (*we are a “kingdom of priests”*)

COMMENTARY: *Some people believe these twenty-four elders represent Israel, but at the time of this vision, Israel as a whole nation had not yet been redeemed. The elders cannot represent tribulation saints for the same reason—not all had yet been converted at the time of John’s vision. The most likely option is that the elders represent the raptured Church which sings songs of redemption (Revelation 5:8-10). They wear the crowns of victory and have gone to the place prepared for them by their Redeemer (John 14:1-4).*

Several crowns (*stephanos*) in scripture (*never promised to angels*):

- crown of **life** for those who have suffered for Him (James 1:12, Rev 2:10);
 - crown of **righteousness** for those who loved His appearing (2 Timothy 4:8);
 - crown of **glory** for those who fed the lambs, sheep, flock (1 Peter 5:4),
 - crown **incorruptible** for those who press on steadfastly (1 Corinthians 9:25);
 - crown of **rejoicing** for those who win souls (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
- 

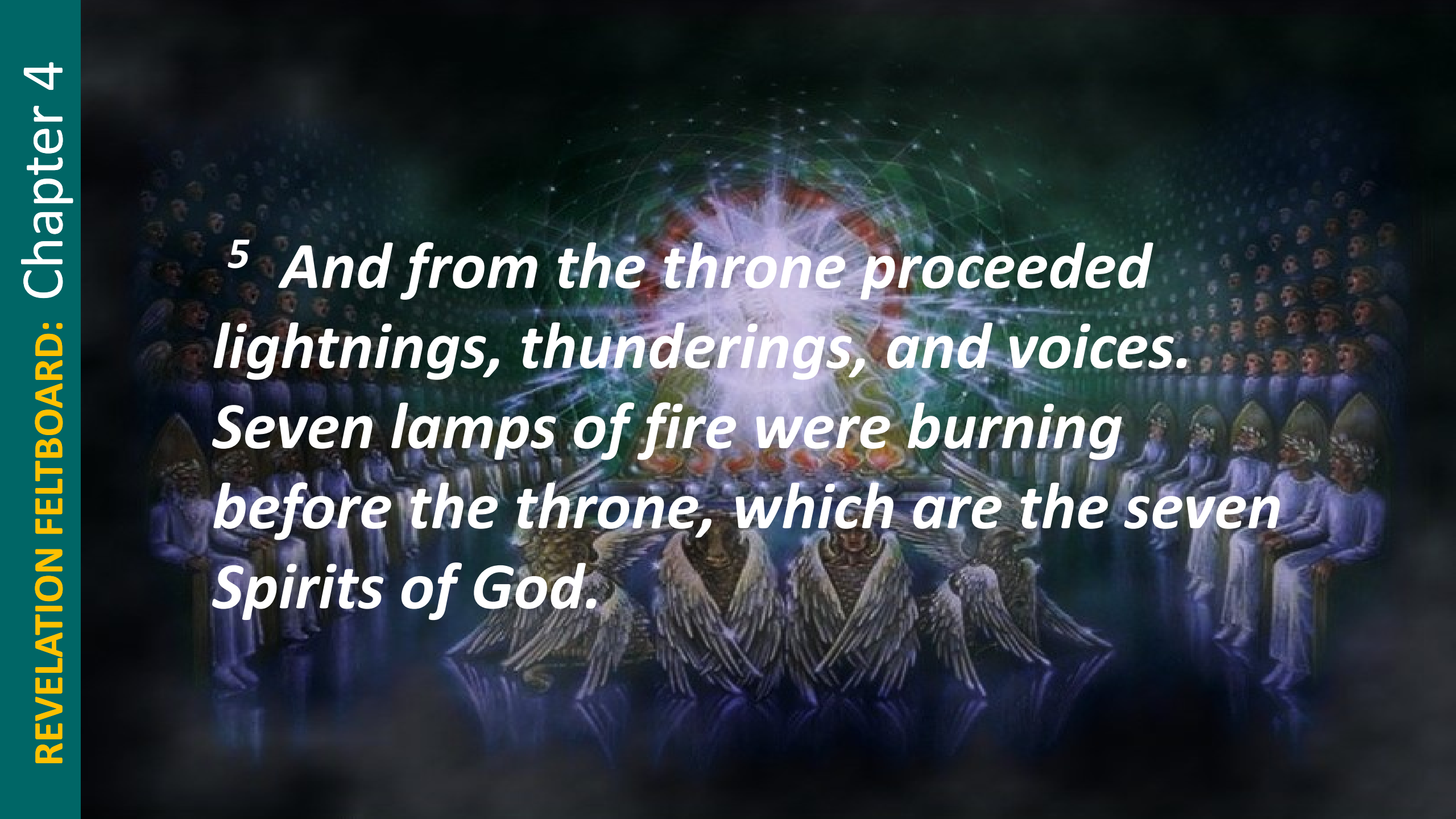
- **And just to set the record straight...** nowhere in scripture does it say we will receive jewels in our crowns!
- Only scripture close found in OT, Zechariah 9:16...



*The LORD their God will save them in that day,
As the flock of His people.*

For they [*shall be like*] **the jewels of a crown,**
Lifted like a banner over His land—

- Referencing God's people in His land, Millennium



⁵ And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

- *“lightnings and thunderings and voices”* 4X in Revelation, once at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19:16).
- Evidence of mighty presence of God, total power and majesty.
- Voices of heaven’s host!
- *“Seven lamps”* previously in chapter 1 as churches, now in heaven around throne, but are identified as the seven Spirits of God.
- *What or who? A few options...*



What are the
seven spirits of God?

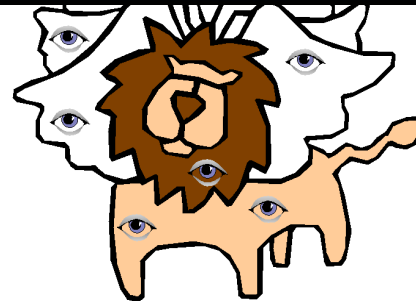
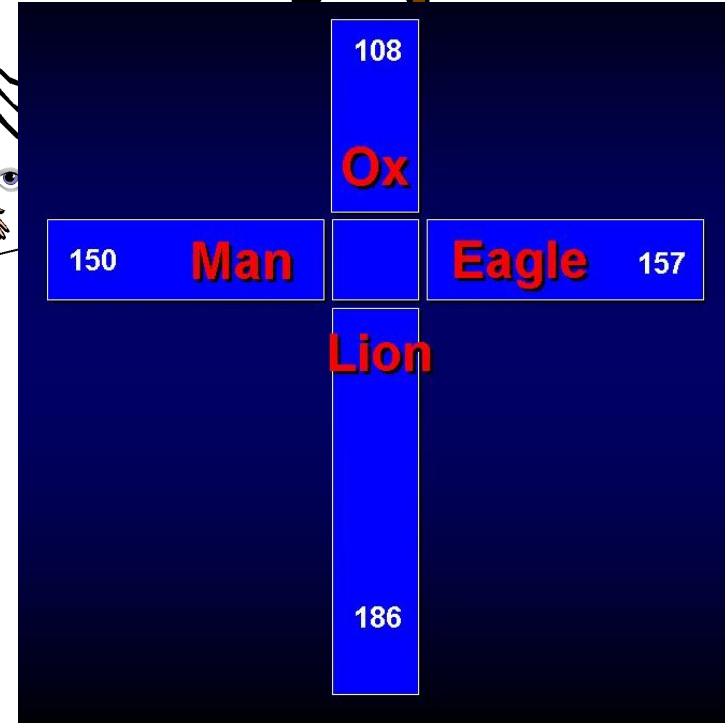
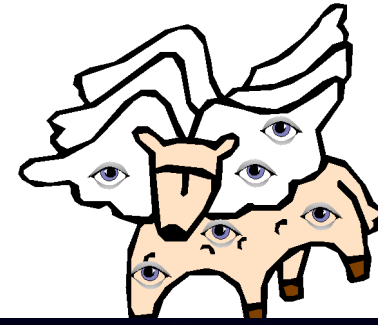
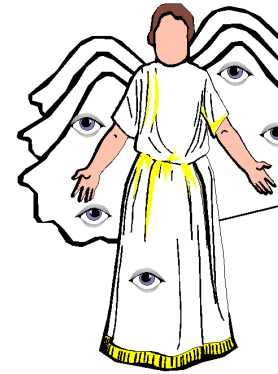
⁶ Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. ⁸ The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

- “*Sea of glass*” like crystal, OT reference in laver, (referenced as “molten sea.”) (*at peace*)
- Laver where priests washed before entering Tabernacle. Solomon expanded laver into huge piece very prominent in courtyard before entrance to Temple.
- Later in Revelation 15 sea is “*mingled with fire*” and the “tribulation saints” are standing on it.
- Implies they have been persecuted and come out of judgment (refined) into God’s presence.

- “**like...**” – notice how often John uses this word. Trying to describe what he sees, but he has little to compare it to. Visions unlike anything he has ever seen before.
- Be **careful** to notice when word “**like**” is used. John is making a comparison to help us understand what he sees. **NOT to be taken literally.** For example, sea was not literal glass or crystal, it was (seemed) “like” that.

- “**living creatures**” –very unique beings! Literal translation = “living creature” *not beast*.
- **FOUR** number = creation, earth (4 ordinal directions, etc.). Similar beings Genesis 3:24, identified as **Cherubim**, rank of angels created by God, and also in Ezekiel 1.
- Isaiah 6 similar description, but with differences, of something called “**seraphim.**”
- These are *different in appearance and function* to those at garden of Eden, or in Ezekiel’s vision.

- Living creatures here not given name or title, *just description*.
- Four faces (*lion, calf, man, eagle*) same as 4 standards of tribes of Israel that camped in desert around Tabernacle. (Numbers 2)



REVELATION FELTBOARD: Chapter 4



Revelation 4:7

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Revelation 4:7

Revelation 4:7

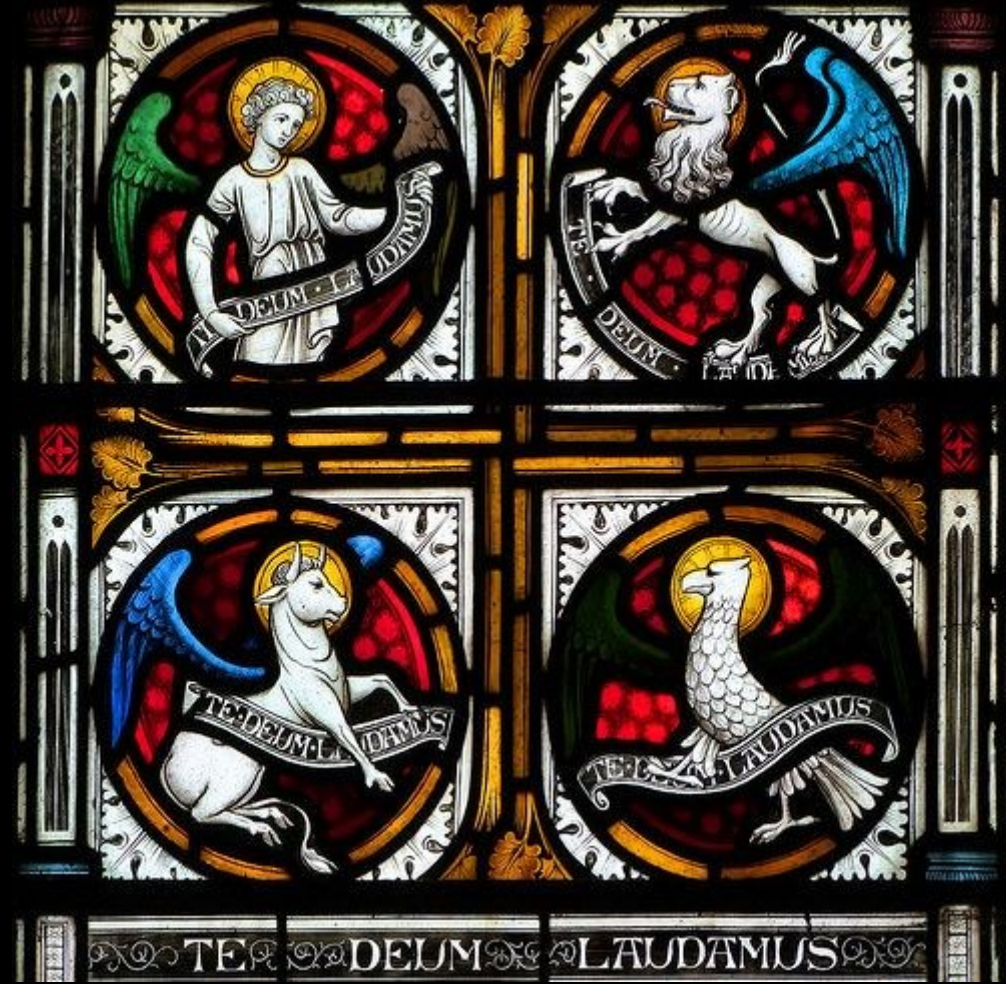


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Revelation 4:7



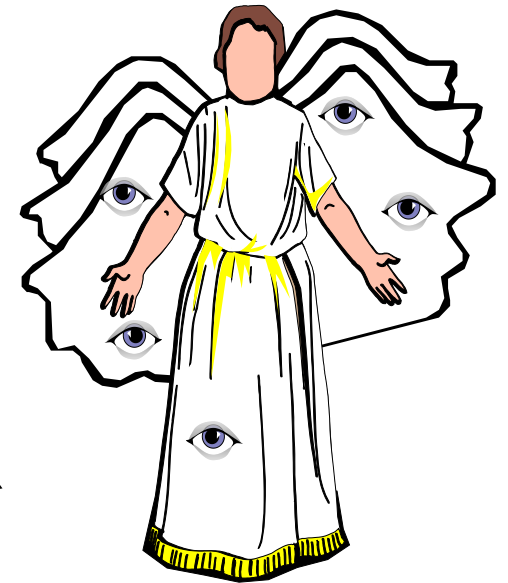
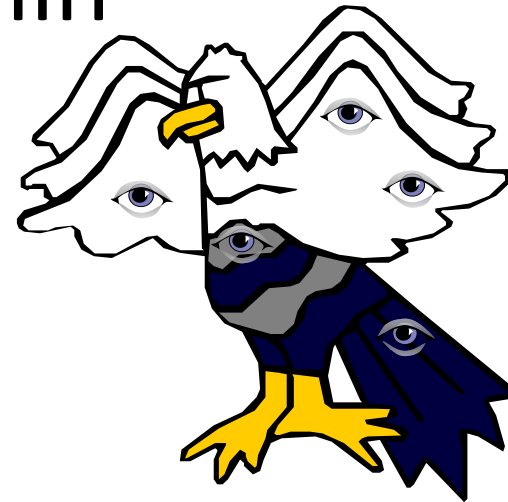
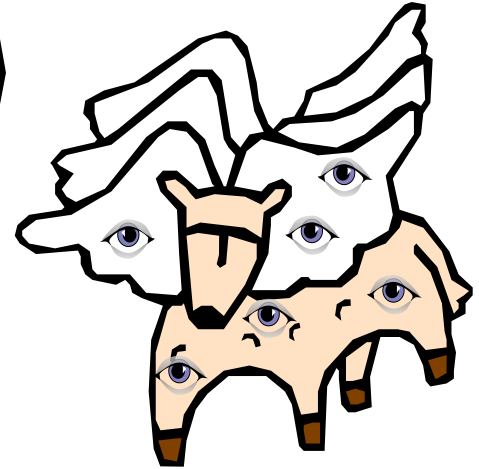
- Also represented in stained glass as 4 gospels
- **Matthew = lion**, for Lion of the Tribe of Judah;
- **Mark = Ox**, depicts Jesus as servant,
- **Luke = Man**, captures humanity of Jesus
- **John = Eagle**, symbol of God's divinity/provision



- ***Be careful with “like” again.*** NOT a lion, man, ox, or eagle, but LIKE them. Each has 6 wings and “full of eyes.”
- Difficult to imagine these creatures. Also difficult to understand what or who they are.
- Symbolically represent creation, all created beings, because of number 4? Actual angelic creatures? We just don’t know.
- But we DO know what they do: **they praise God 24/7.**

Revelation “Living Creatures”

- “living creatures” (*zoon*)
– not “beasts” (*therion*)
- “Like” a Lion, calf (ox), man, eagle
- 6 wings
- Full of eyes around and within
- Do not rest day or night
- Praising 24/7



*“And they do not rest day or night,
saying: holy, holy, holy, Lord God
Almighty, Who was and is and is to
come!”*

Purpose of all created beings, whether
earthly or heavenly, to praise God.

Are you living your purpose???

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: ¹¹ “ You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.”

- Living creatures aren't only ones constantly praising.
- **24 elders also fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns** (*sign of complete submission, know they are not worthy, only ONE who is worthy*)
- *“and by Your will”* (*literally for His pleasure, what God WANTED to do*)
- *“they exist and were created.”* Answer to question of the ages!

- “glory” – *doxa*, lit. honor resulting from a good opinion (*something very apparent*) – fame, reputation (*Hebrew, kavod [kabod]*), “weighty”
- **TO GLORIFY...TO**
 - think, suppose, be of opinion
 - praise, extol, magnify, celebrate
 - honor, do honor to, hold in honor
 - make glorious, clothe with splendor
 - impart glory to something, render it excellent
 - make renowned, render illustrious
- FROM ROOT WORD DOKEO, **TO REVEAL!** to cause dignity and worth of person or thing to become **KNOWN** and acknowledged (**to reveal God!**)

**Powerful
words!**

- “Honor” – *time*, lit. value, highest esteem
- “thanks” – *eucharistia*, grateful language to God, to receive something as expression of grace, as if not deserved
- “power” – *dunamis*, inherent power, authority, force
- “worship” – *proskuneo*, prostrated adoration

To understand the rich messages of scripture we must also understand the original words and their meanings.

“For you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created.” (4:11)

ANSWER TO AGE OLD QUESTIONS:

- Why was I created?
- Why am I here?
- What is my purpose?
- **We were created by his desire, pleasure, will**
- **No mistakes, no accidents, always with purpose**

- ✓ **Glorify – reveal Him**
- ✓ **Magnify – praise Him**
- ✓ **Worship – adore Him**

Your **PURPOSE?** To **GLORIFY**
(reveal), **MAGNIFY** (praise)
and **WORSHIP** (adore) God!

It's really very simple.

Makes life so much easier.



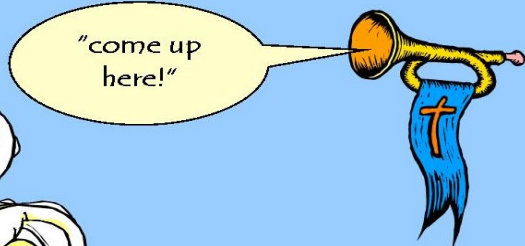
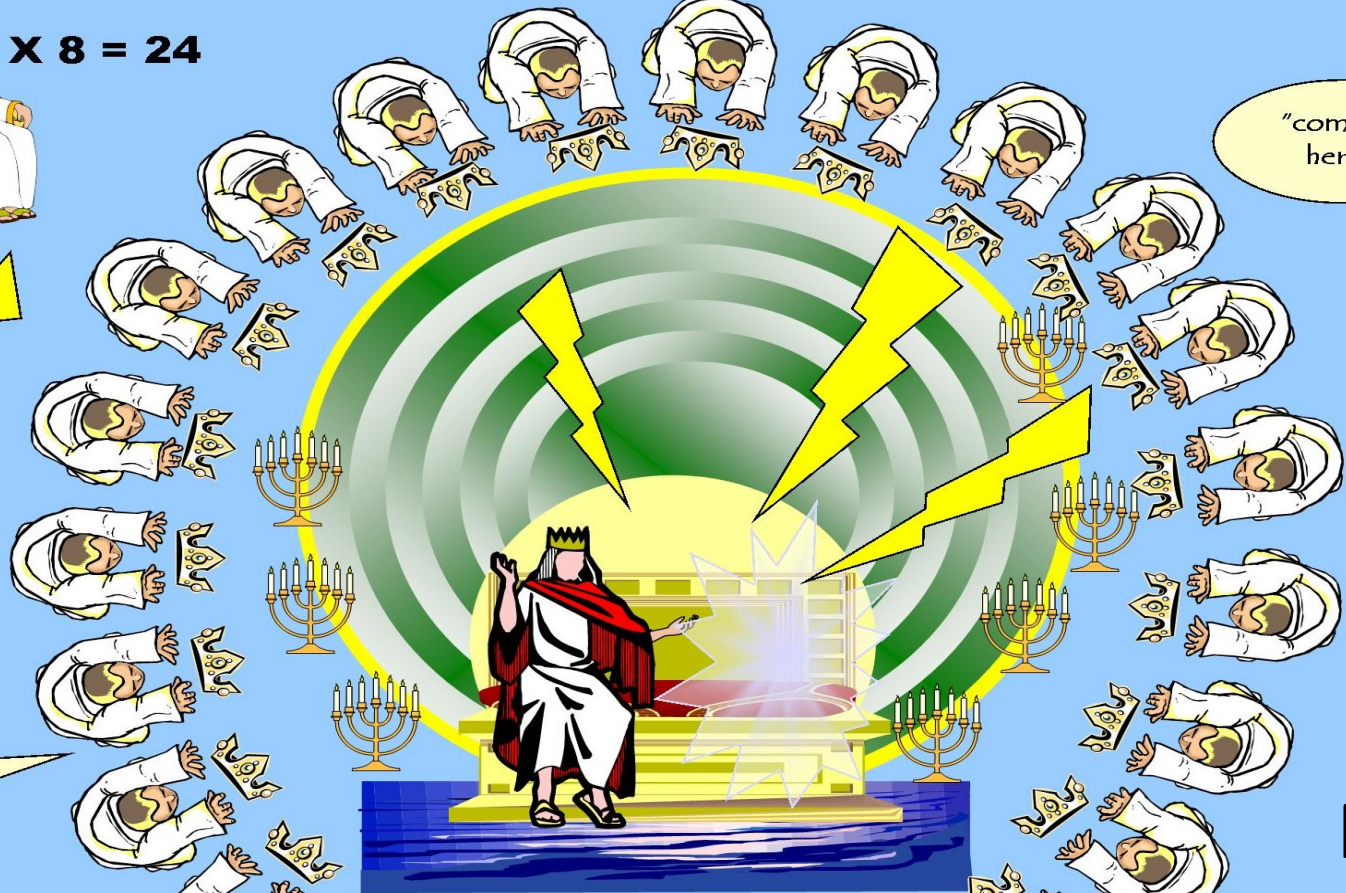
Phew!

- Chapter *may not* be literal picture of heaven's throne room (***but it may also!***), but it places heaven and God in perspective to the creation.
He is the ruling center.
- Stage set for **entrance of hero**, superstar of drama. All heaven rejoices and praises.
- **Soon a crisis will appear, yet so will the solution.**





X 8 = 24



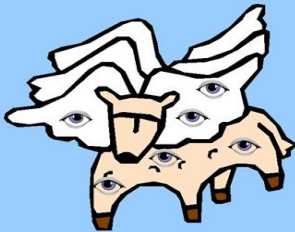
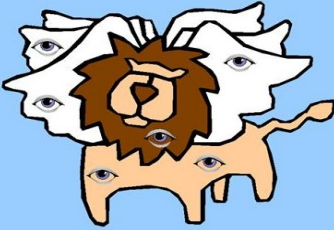
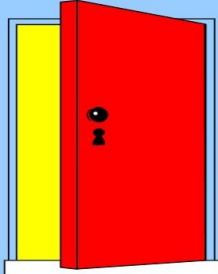
"come up here!"



"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come!"

Revelation 4

"You are worthy, O Lord; to receive glory and honor and power; For you created all things, and by your will they exist and were created!"



Yevarekh-kha Adonai veyishmerekha

May the LORD bless you and keep you

***Ya'er Adonai panav elekha
viḥunneka***

May the LORD make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you

***Yissa Adonai panav elekha viyasem
lekha shalom.***

May the LORD lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.