

CHRONOLOGY
 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, 2, and 3 (what is, current)
“THINGS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS” – Chapters 4-22 (what will be, future)
meta tauta – *“after these things...”*
THERE IS A CHRONOLOGY TO THIS BOOK!

CHURCH AT LAODICEA ENDED CHURCH AGE...
 And thus ends the “things which are”
 Chapter 3 ended the first part of the book of Revelation. Everything from chapter 4 on is in the future, or “the things which will take place after this.” We are now in part two, the future.
Ch 4/5 – The Throne Room
Ch 6 - 18 – The “Time of Jacob’s Trouble”
 - immediate change in scene and locale



META TAUTA...After WHAT things?
 After the church age.

DOOR – 4 X
 Door of opportunity (3:8)
 Door of fellowship (3:20, 2X)
 Door to heaven (4:1)

“Voice like a trumpet...”
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17
Exodus 19

“Come up here...”
 What does this mean?
 Another open door...with a “trumpet-like” invitation.
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 What is this event?

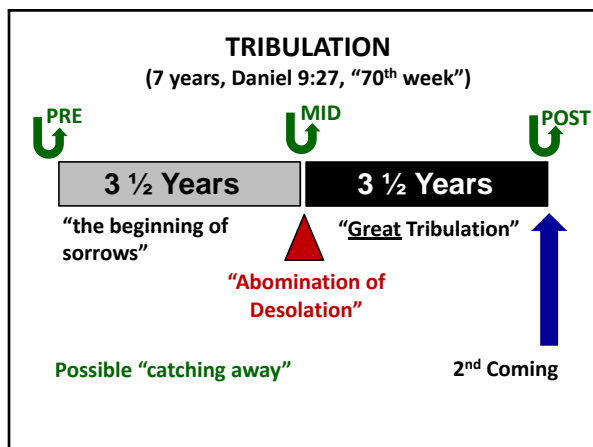
“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.
¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that 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.”

This event is what has come to be called the **“Rapture”** of the Church. Rapture is from the Latin “rapturo.” The original Greek word is *harpazo*, which literally means to **“seize, or snatch away.”** It is the word that our English has translated **“caught up.”**

the “catching up” of true believers...

1. PRE-TRIBULATION
2. MID-TRIBULATION
3. POST TRIBULATION

So, could this invite in verse 4:1 correspond to position one here, the PRE-Tribulation view of the catching away of the “Church?” **Maybe. Many think so.**



PRE REASONS I BELIEVE IN PRE-TRIBULATION CATCHING AWAY (RAPTURE)

1. **DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND CHURCH**
 - Daniel 9:24...”for YOUR people...YOUR holy city...”
 - Tribulation (“time of Jacob’s trouble”) not designed for the Church. Period of refining for Israel (see Zechariah 13:8-9)
 - Gap of time between 69th-70th week
 - Dispensations
2. **CHURCH MISSING IN MOST OF REVELATION**
 - Prominent chs 1-5, and 19-22; missing chs 6-18
 - Israel prominent chs 6-18

3. TRIBULATION IS A “TEST” – ONE THE “BRIDE”

DOES NOT REQUIRE

- Revelation 3:10
- “those who dwell on the earth” (“inhabitants of the earth” – 20X)

4. SCRIPTURAL HOPE OF ESCAPING TRIBULATION

- Luke 21:36
- Zephaniah 2:1-3
- Isaiah 26:19-21

5. NO TEACHING HOW TO LIVE/SURVIVE TRIB

PRE

6. DOCTRINE OF “IMMINENCE”

- Pre-Trib only position matches this
- Imminence keeps us watchful
- Doctrine lost in allegorization

7. DAYS OF NOAH

- Genesis 6, Luke 17:26 (same wicked world, remnant)
- Understanding how God works
- Luke 17:26

8. DAYS OF LOT

- Genesis 18-19, Lot/family “seized, snatched away”
- Luke 17:28-36
- Genesis 19:22..Angels could not bring wrath until Lot and family away

PRE

9. ROLE OF HOLY SPIRIT AND CHURCH


- 2 Thessalonians 2 “restrainer?”
- “Fulness” of evil (Daniel 8:23)

10. PREVAILING AGAINST “TRIBULATION SAINTS”

- Revelation 13:7, Daniel 7:21-25
- “gates of hell with NOT prevail against the Church” (Matthew 16:18)
- Different groups (Israel, Church, Trib Saints)

11. THE 7 LETTERS OF REVELATION

- Ch 2-3, “he who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the CHURCHES...”
- If “anyone has an ear, let him hear.” (Rev 13:9)
- Church missing again



12. BEAST BLASPHEMES “THOSE WHO LIVE IN HEAVEN”

- Revelation 13:6
- Who lives in heaven, who lives on earth?

13. “COME UP HERE!” (Revelation 4:1)


- “little” sign
- Commanded to come up
- Meta tauta, chronology of Revelation

14. THE 24 ELDERS

- Revelation 4 and 5 (Throne Room, heaven)
- Not tribulation saints

15. “GREAT MULTITUDE” NOT THE CHURCH

- Revelation 7:9-10 (after Trib begins)
- Tribulation Saints



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

16. REVELATION 15 GROUP IS NOT THE CHURCH


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

17. “GATHERING OF ELECT” NOT THE RAPTURE

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

18. TRUMPET JUDGMENTS DO NOT INCLUDE “LAST” TRUMP


- Bring in more wrath, do not signal Rapture



LAST TRUMP	REVELATION TRUMPETS
For rapture, trump of God	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)

19. DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RAPTURE AND 2ND 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 for His Bride (the Church)	John 14:3, 2 Thessalonians 2:1	Messiah comes with 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 (post trib would not allow for bema seat and wedding ceremony)	
Bodies changed when we meet him in the air	1 Thess 4:13-18	judgment of Gentile nations follows second coming –	Matthew 25:31-46 Isaiah 65:20-25
<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>		<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>	

20. HEBREW WEDDING TRADITIONS

- Betrothal
- Separation
- Reunion
- Seclusion
- Feast
- **Jesus (the Husband and the Church (the Bride) – our relationship fulfills this entire "model"**



Revelation 19:7-8

PRE



“Immediately I was in the Spirit... Perhaps similar to “in the twinkling of an eye?” Place of unique fellowship with God.

Now in the **“Throne Room”** of heaven Word “throne” appears 45X. God’s throne center of all activity – everywhere.

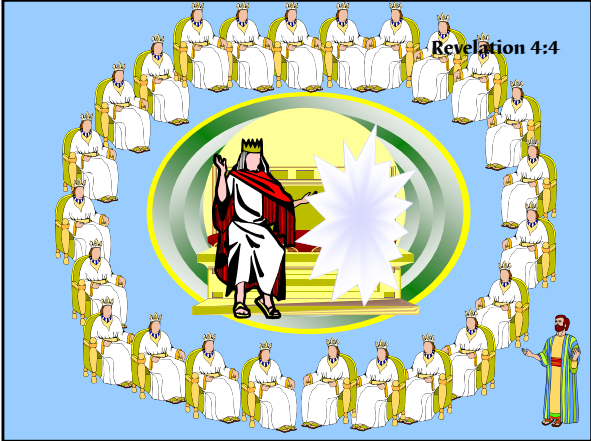
“A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.” (Jeremiah 17:12)

Jasper – probably diamond – PURITY
Last stone in High Priest’s breastplate (Exodus 28:20)

Sardius – Red – BLOOD OF THE LAMB

Rainbow – Gr. Iris, can also be halo
ONE on the throne beyond description.
John doesn’t even try.

Introduced to various aspects of the throne room....one at a time.



24 elders – “Elders” (*presbuteros*) meant the most mature (not necessarily the oldest) of believers in the church - *Paul’s letters to Titus and Timothy addressed qualifications.*

White robes – spotless robes of righteousness, given by Jesus

Crowns of gold – (*Stephanos*)
crown of victory
(not diadema,
crown of authority, kingship)



Crown of life (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10)
Crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8)
Crown of glory (1 Peter 5:4)
Crown incorruptible (1 Corinthians 9:25)
Crown of rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19)
Crown of gold (Revelation 4:4)

ANGELS DO NOT WEAR CROWNS! Never promised to them.

QUESTION: WHO ARE THESE "ELDERS?"

Angels? NO!

CLUES...

1. King David: organized 24 courses of priests, when all assembled, represented entire priesthood.
2. Believers called "priests" (Rev. 1:6)
3. Singing "song of the redeemed" (ch. 5:9)
4. 12 Tribes of Israel + 12 Disciples = 24
5. Elders – mature believers

QUESTION: WHO ARE THESE "ELDERS?"

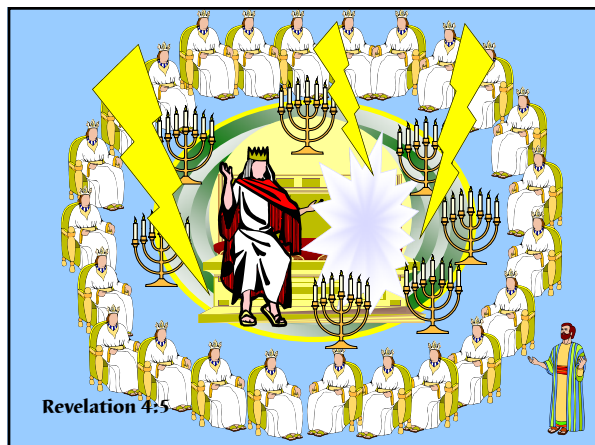
THE ENTIRE MATURE, REDEEMED BELIEVERS ("CHURCH") TRANSLATED AND IN HEAVEN WITH GOD ALREADY!

Already have crowns...

So much discussion over identity of these elders. It's really very simple when you keep the cardinal rule of interpretation:

CARDINAL RULE...

Always rely on scripture to interpret scripture!



Lightnings, thunderings, voices –

Consider His power, majesty, awesome nature!

Exodus 19:16: Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled.

Exodus 20:18: Now all the people witnessed the thunderings, the lightning flashes, the sound of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw *it*, they trembled and stood afar off.

2 Samuel 22:15: He sent out arrows and scattered them; Lightning bolts, and He vanquished them.

Job 36:32: He covers *His* hands with lightning, And commands it to strike.

Job 37:2: Hear attentively the thunder of His voice, And the rumbling that comes from His mouth.

Lightnings, thunderings, voices –

Consider His power, majesty, awesome nature!

Job 37:3: He sends it forth under the whole heaven, His lightning to the ends of the earth.

Job 38:35: Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, And say to you, 'Here we *are*'?

Job 39:19: "Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder?"

Job 40:9: Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Psalm 18:14: He sent out His arrows and scattered the foe, Lightnings in abundance, and He vanquished them.

Psalm 77:18: The voice of Your thunder was in the whirlwind; The lightnings lit up the world; The earth trembled and shook.

Psalm 78:48: He also gave up their cattle to the hail, And their flocks to fiery lightning.

Lightnings, thunderings, voices –

Consider His power, majesty, awesome nature!

Psalm 81:7: You called in trouble, and I delivered you; I answered you in the secret place of thunder; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. Selah

Psalm 97:4: His lightnings light the world; The earth sees and trembles.

Psalm 104:7: At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away.

Psalm 135:7: He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightning for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasuries.

Psalm 144:6: Flash forth lightning and scatter them; Shoot out Your arrows and destroy them.

Lightnings, thunderings, voices –**Consider His power, majesty, awesome nature!**

Isaiah 29:6: You will be punished by the Lord of hosts With thunder and earthquake and great noise, With storm and tempest And the flame of devouring fire.

Jeremiah 10:13 When He utters His voice, *There is* a multitude of waters in the heavens: “And He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth. He makes lightning for the rain, He brings the wind out of His treasures.”

Jeremiah 51:16: When He utters *His* voice— *There is* a multitude of waters in the heavens: “He causes the vapors to ascend from the ends of the earth; He makes lightnings for the rain; He brings the wind out of His treasures.”

Ezekiel 1:13: As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning.

Lightnings, thunderings, voices –**Consider His power, majesty, awesome nature!**

Ezekiel 1:14: And the living creatures ran back and forth, in appearance like a flash of lightning.

Daniel 10:6: His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

Zechariah 9:14 Then the Lord will be seen over them, And His arrow will go forth like lightning. The Lord God will blow the trumpet, And go with whirlwinds from the south.

Matthew 24:27: For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.

Matthew 28:3 His countenance was like lightning, and his clothing as white as snow.

Lightnings, thunderings, voices –**Consider His power, majesty, awesome nature!**

Luke 17:24: For as the lightning that flashes out of one *part* under heaven shines to the other *part* under heaven, so also the Son of Man will be in His day.

Revelation 4:5: 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.

Revelation 6:1: Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals; and I heard one of the four living creatures saying with a voice like thunder, “Come and see.”

Revelation 8:5: Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw *it* to the earth. And there were noises, thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.

Lightnings, thunderings, voices –**Consider His power, majesty, awesome nature!**

Revelation 11:19: Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.

Revelation 14:2: And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

Revelation 16:18: And there were noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

Revelation 19:6: And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!”



"Sea of glass..."

- Difficult to picture.
- OT reference to the Laver in courtyard of Tabernacle/Temple, place for priests to ritually purify themselves
- **WATCH FOR THE WORD "LIKE"**
John 1st century man trying to describe things in the future, or things he has never seen before. Word "like" keeps us from being too literal.
- **STRANGE "LIVING CREATURES"**
4 of them, number represents creation, human government (4 ordinal directions, etc.)



A little "side trip" into the Old Testament...

The book of Revelation ties all the pieces together.

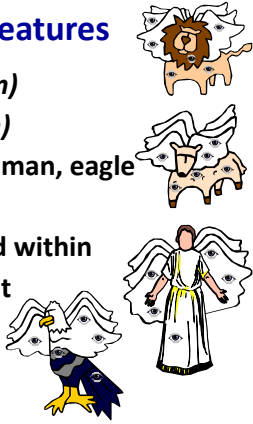
"So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life." (*keroob, ?*) (Genesis 3:24) 91X – 66 verses

"Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew." (*saraph, "fiery"*) (Isaiah 6:2) 7X – 7verses

Ezekiel Chs 1 and 10 – "living creatures"

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



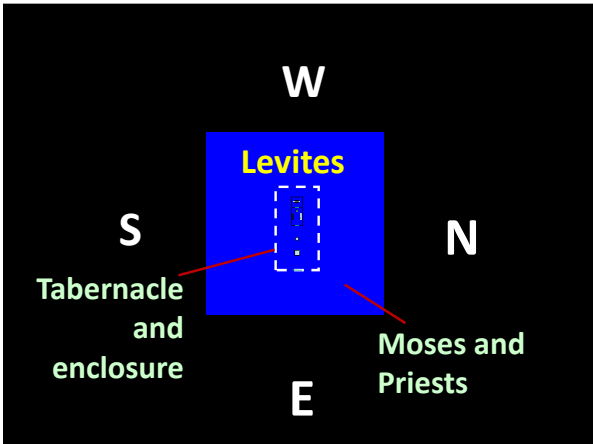
The Camp of Israel Numbers 2

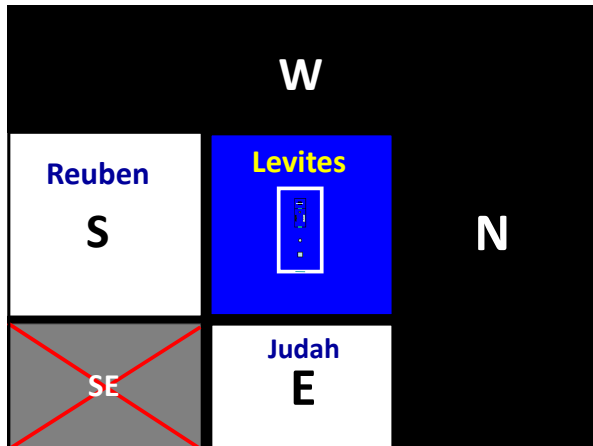
- Every detail by *design!*
- What is hidden behind the details of the Camp of Israel?
- "The volume of the Book is written of Me"

Psalm 40:7; Hebrews 10:7

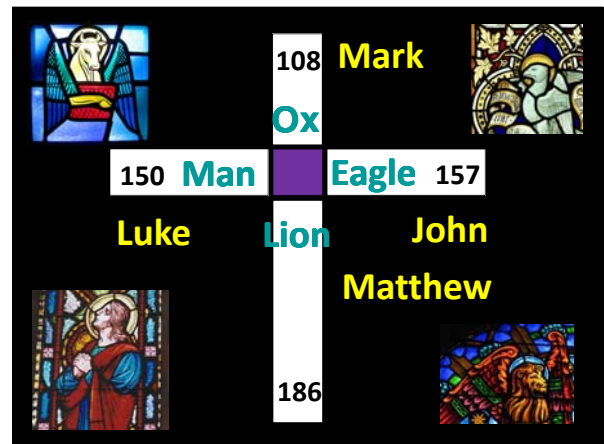
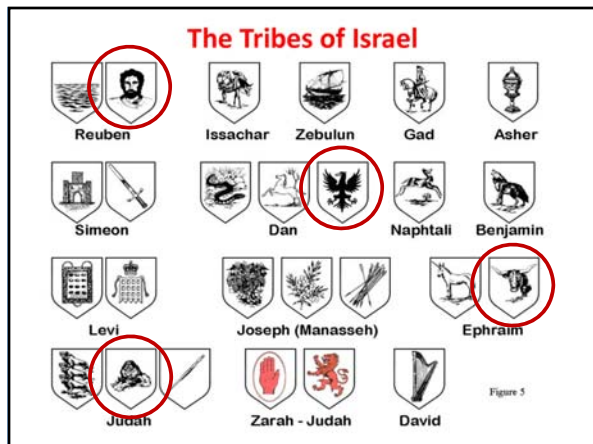
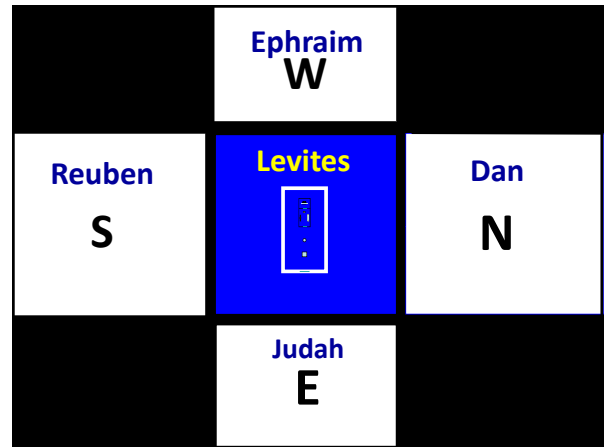
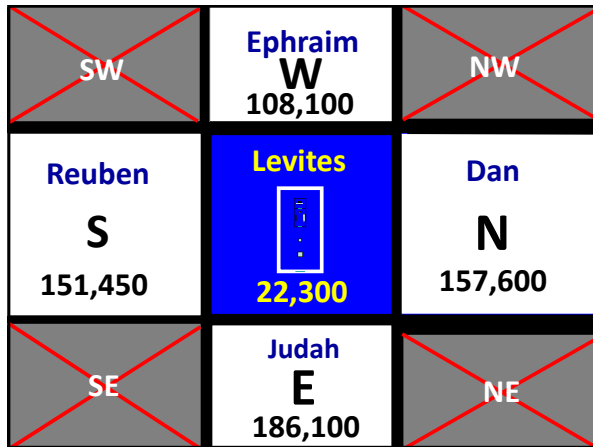
The Camp of Israel Numbers 2

Judah	74,600	Ephraim	40,500
Issachar	54,400	Manasseh	32,200
Zebulun	<u>57,400</u>	Benjamin	<u>35,400</u>
	186,400		108,100
Reuben	46,500	Dan	62,700
Simeon	59,300	Asher	41,500
Gad	<u>45,650</u>	Naphtali	<u>53,400</u>
	151,450		157,600





- ### Rabbinical Precision
- The Camp of Judah: **East** of Levites
 - The Camp of Reuben: **South**
 - The Camp of Ephraim: **West**
 - The Camp of Dan: **North**
 - Strict obedience **denies all areas not strictly "cardinal directions"** – North, East, South, West
 - Only width of Levite's camp allowed
 - Length proportional to population





- Living creatures give glory, honor, thanks
- 24 elders cast their crowns (throw, intense)
- Everything, everyone praising
- "You are worthy..."
- "...to receive glory, honor, power..."

- "glory" – *doxa*, lit. honor resulting from a good opinion (something very apparent) – good report, fame, reputation (Hebrew, *kavod* [kabod]), "weighty" (honor, respect? – the highest?)
- "Honor" – *time*, lit. value, highest esteem
- "thanks" – *eucharistia*, grateful language to God, to receive something as an expression of grace, as if not deserved
- "power" – *dunamis*, inherent power, authority, force
- "worship" – *proskuneo*, prostrated adoration

- "For you created all things, and by Your will they exist and were created." (4:11)
- THE ANSWER TO THE 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
 - **What purpose? To:**
 - ✓ Glorify – reveal Him
 - ✓ Magnify – praise Him
 - ✓ Worship – adore Him

TO GLORIFY...

- to think, suppose, be of opinion
- to praise, extol, magnify, celebrate
- to honor, do honor to, hold in honor
- to make glorious, adorn with luster, clothe with splendor
- to impart glory to something, render it excellent
- to make renowned, render illustrious
- to cause the dignity and worth of some person or thing to become manifest and acknowledged (to reveal God!)

