

## The Heavenly Throne of ADONAI

<sup>19</sup> Therefore write down what you have seen (glorified Yeshua), what is (church), and what will happen after these things. Revelation 1:19

## The Mashiach and Seventy Weeks

Daniel 9:21-26 <sup>21</sup> yes, while I was praying, Gabriel, the one I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me swiftly about the time of the evening offering. <sup>22</sup> "He instructed me and said to me: 'Daniel, I have come now to give you insight and understanding.' <sup>23</sup> At the beginning of your requests, a message went out, and I have come to declare it to you, for you are greatly esteemed. Therefore consider the message and understand the vision: <sup>24</sup> "Seventy weeks are decreed concerning your people (Israel) and your holy city (Jerusalem), to put an end to transgression to bring sin (God's Law written on their hearts) to an end, to atone for iniquity (Yeshua's sacrifice), to bring in everlasting righteousness (moral living), to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Holy of Holies. <sup>25</sup> So know and understand: From the issuing of the decree to restore and to build Jerusalem (after the destruction caused by Babylon) until the time Mashiach, the Prince, there shall be seven weeks and 62 weeks (69 weeks total). It will be rebuilt, with plaza and moat, but it will be in times of distress. <sup>26</sup> Then after the 62 weeks Mashiach will be cut off (crucified) and have nothing (end of 69<sup>th</sup> week). Then the people of a prince who is to come will destroy the city and the sanctuary (70AD – Romans). But his end will come like a flood. Until the end of the war that is decreed there will be destruction. <sup>27</sup> Then he (Antichrist) will make a firm covenant (allows Israel to build the third temple – false peace treaty) with many for one week (7 years), but in the middle of the week (3.5 years) he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. Matt 24:15, Rev 11:7; 13:1-10

Note: The Antichrist goes into the temple and declares himself to be God. Rev 12:7-9; 12-13 (Last 3.5 years Satan persecutes Israel.

- 69 weeks have passed and been fulfilled:
  - Yeshua's crucifixion, resurrection & ascension.
  - Holy Spirit (Ruach) given on Shavuot / Pentecost, beginning of the "Church Age".
  - The "Restrainer" has been removed – taking the Church with Him (Rapture, 1 Thes 5:9).
- 70<sup>th</sup> week now begins:
  - God's focus is now on Israel and the earth dwellers.
  - There is no mention of the "Church" on earth in chapters 4 through 19:14.
  - The end of the 7 years (the Great Tribulation) will end with Yeshua's second coming to earth and establishing the Millennial Kingdom.

Rev 4:1 <sup>1</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, a door was standing open in heaven. And the first voice, which I had heard speaking with me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."

- ✓ after these things (x2) - meta tauta (grk): indicates a transition from "the things which are" in Chapters 2 & 3. Stated twice in verse 1 for emphasis.
- ✓ a door was standing open in heaven – John is now beginning to record the throne room preparing for the 70<sup>th</sup> week and Yeshua's second coming.
- ✓ the first voice – Yeshua speaks like a trumpet. Rev 1:10.
- ✓ Come up here – a command!

4:1 (continued)

Note: Going back to the original language of the Brit Chadashah / New Testament is the word rapiemur (Latin) of 1 Thes 4:17 in the Vulgate, a translation of the Greek harpagesometha, which is the 1<sup>st</sup> person, plural future tense, passive voice, indicative mood form of the verb harpazo meaning to “snatch, seize, i.e., take suddenly and vehemently, and which denotes “Rescue from a threatening danger. Source: A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament.

Rapture of the “Church”? Remember to use scripture to understand.

4:2 <sup>2</sup> Immediately I was in the Ruach; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One seated on the throne.

✓ One seated on the throne –

- Prior to being given great revelation prophets are often shown the glory of God.
  - John saw the glorified Yeshua in Rev 1
  - Isaiah (Is 6:1)
  - Daniel (Dan 7:9-14)
  - Ezekiel (Eze 1:6, 26-28)
- This is God the Father – Yeshua will come to Him to receive the scroll with 7 seals (Rev 5: 1-7)
- The one whose wrath, along with the Lamb, is going to be poured out on the earth dwellers (Rev 6:16-17)
- Sitting on the Throne emphasizes His ultimate rule and control of all that is to transpire in this book – sovereignty.
- Even the evil that is unleashed on the earth is dependent on His permission being granted.
- He is completely sovereign over all the events and indicates His role as judge.
- The Throne room is a very real place!

4:3 <sup>3</sup> And the One who was seated was like jasper and carnelian in appearance, and a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.

✓ Jasper – a precious stone



**Jasper** – Translucent stone of various colors, especially that of fire.

- Describes the light of the foundation 1<sup>st</sup> and walls of the New Jerusalem.
- The last of the twelve stones mounted on the High Priest’s breastplate. Ex 28:20 Representing Reuben the 1<sup>st</sup> born. Ex 39:13

**Sardine** - Transparent like a carnelian stone.

- The 6<sup>th</sup> foundation stone of the New Jerusalem Rev 21:20
- 1<sup>st</sup> of the twelve stones mounted on the High Priest’s breastplate. Ex 28:17 Representing Benjamin the youngest.
- The inclusion of the 1<sup>st</sup> stone & last stone denotes all Israel; first & last, beginning & end, Alpha & Omega.

4:3 (continued)

- ✓ Rainbow – around the Throne
  - Given as a sign/covenant (Noah's flood).
  - Ezekiel saw the same rainbow. Ezk 1:28
  - Like a halo around
- ✓ Emerald – Hues of green
  - 3<sup>rd</sup> stone on the High Priest's breastplate. Represents the Tribe of Judah.
  - The 4<sup>th</sup> foundation in the New Jerusalem.

4:4 <sup>4</sup> Around the throne were twenty-four thrones and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders dressed in white clothes with golden crowns on their heads.

- ✓ Around the throne:
  - The One seated – position of authority
  - Multitudes surround God's Throne. 1 Kings 22:19, Rev 5:11, 7:11
  - There is an order to positions
    - Those closest to God appear to be in a position of special service.
    - 24 Elders have a prominent position near the throne with the 4 living creatures.
- ✓ twenty-four thrones - These Elders appear to co-reign with the Father (in a lesser capacity). Rev 2:26-27, 1 Cor 6:2-3, Matt 19:28, Luke 22:30
- ✓ on the thrones were twenty-four elders:
  - Number 24; 12 is God's power & authority, divine administration and perfect foundation; multiple of 12 (x2).
    - Number 2 is number of witnesses in Law of Moses which states that judgements to be made based on 2 witnesses. Num 35:30, Deut 17:6, Matt 18:16, 2 Cor 13:1
    - God who can swear by no other uses the 2 witnesses of "Heaven & Earth". Deut 4:26, 30:19, Pslm 50:4
  - 1 Chronicles 24 – The descendants of Aaron who were priests in Israel were divided into 24 sections to determine the order they would minister in before the Lord.
  - 1 Chronicles 25 – The musicians were divided into 24 sections to serve.
  - Revelation 1: 4-6 The Church is described as a kingdom & priests to serve God. They are told they will reign with Yeshua. Rev 3:21, Eph 2:6

### **Who are the 24 Elders?**

- ✓ The Elders (presbyterous – grk): of rank or position of responsibility, never applied to Angels, refers only to man, human male who is mature and able to rule the Church.
  - Some scholars say they represent the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 Apostles; representing how God bridged the gap between old & new covenant.
  - The 24 Elders are not seen in Ezekiel, Isaiah & Jeremiah's visits to the Throne room in Heaven.
  - Is Israel represented here in Heaven redeemed during the 70<sup>th</sup> week Tribulation?
    - Daniel 12:1-2 implies that Old Testament saints are not resurrected until after this time of Jacob's Trouble. They are in Paradise but it's unlikely they would have received rewards (crown & white clothes) or rule on thrones prior to the Millennial Kingdom.

## Who are the 24 Elders? (continued)

- Is it the Apostles sitting on the Thrones?
  - John himself is an Apostle, the one having the vision. Did he see himself sitting there? He would have mentioned it and the fact one seat was empty. John did recognize the group.
  - They are a separate group of people who have their own distinct position near the Throne as spectators of the judgement to come.
- Elders represent leadership of congregations. 1 Tim 3:1-7, Titus 1:5-9
- Clearly believers in Yeshua and are in Heaven **before** the Lamb opens the first seal – which begins the 70<sup>th</sup> week of Daniel.
- They worship around God's throne. Rev 3:21, 7:11, 11:16, 19:4
  - They fall down before the Lamb (Yeshua). Rev 5:8
  - They throw their crowns down before the throne. Rev 4:10
- They are wearing white clothes. Rev 3:4-5
  - White color speaks of righteousness in Yeshua but also of marriage garments worn by his Bride. Rev 19:7-14, Eph 5:25-27
- Elders will also rule with Yeshua from Jerusalem in the Millennial Kingdom. Isa 24:23
- Crowns of Gold (stephanos – grk): victory crowns
  - Given as a reward
  - The usual crown of exultation for victors of games, achievements in war, and places of honor at feasts.
  - The crowns associated with the reward of the believer are always stephanos. 1 Cor 9:25, 2 Tim 4:8, Rev 2:10, James 1:12

4:5 <sup>5</sup> And out from the throne come flashes of lightning and rumblings and clashes of thunder—and seven torches of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God.

- ✓ lightning and rumblings and clashes of thunder – Judgement from the Throne will soon begin.
  - Used for moments of great significance.
  - The rumblings / voices may be the “7 thunders” John is told **not** to record. Rev 10:3-4
- ✓ seven torches of fire – The 7 Spirits of God (Holy Spirit). Rev 1:4

4:6 <sup>6</sup> And before the throne was something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

In the middle of the throne and around it were four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind.

- ✓ sea of glass – (Hualinos – grk): brilliant, transparent, like crystal.
  - The purity and Holiness of all that pertains to the authority and judicial dealings of God. Crystal and mingled with fire.
  - Moses, Aaron, the Sons of Aaron and the 70 Elders of Israel saw something similar when they met with God on Mt. Sinai. Exo 24:9-10
  - Ezekiel also saw this sea. Ezk 1:22-26
  - “Like” – John found it hard to describe. Qualities of sea & glass.
- ✓ four living creatures – (zoe – grk): life, zoo, zoology
  - The number 4 represents the entire world; the earth; worldwide effects; global.

## Who and What are the 4 living creatures?

- ✓ Full of eyes: signifying great intelligence, never resting.
- ✓ Resemble Ezekiel's living creatures, Ezk 1:10, 10:14
  - Differences between Ezekiel's & John's vision of the Living Creatures:
    - Ezekiel's have 4 wings & John's have 6 wings.
    - Ezekiel's each had 4 faces & John's each have one face (ox, man, lion & eagle).
    - Ezekiel's have no mention of eyes on the creature, with their wheels were full of eyes. John's are full of eyes on the creature.
    - Although similar it is possible that John's could be a different order of Living Creature, more like the Isaiah's Seraphim. Isaiah 6:2, 6
    - John's vision is of God's stationary throne and Ezekiel's is God's chariot throne. Ps 18:11, Ezk 10:19-20, 11:22
  - The 4 Living Creatures have Harps and Golden bowls full of incense.
    - Harps are associated with worship in the Old Testament, as well as prophecy. 2 Kings 3:15, 1 Chr 25:1
    - Incense represents the prayers of the Saints. Together the 4 Living Creatures and the 24 Elders hold in their hands all the prophets ever prophesied and believers ever prayed for all about to come to pass.
    - Their purpose has to do with declaring the Holiness of God and leading in worship & adoration of God. They are involved in some way with God's justice, for when he opens the 1<sup>st</sup> four seals and sends out the 4 horseman their powerful voices, like thunder, command "come". Rev 6:1-8 The 4 horsemen respond, indicating they are powerful. Rev 15:7

4.7 <sup>7</sup>The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature was like an ox, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

- In the wilderness the camp of Israel was divided into 4 (entire world) separate camps around the Tabernacle. Each camp had a different symbol upon the standard. Jewish tradition says the 4 standards under which Israel camped were:
  - To the East Judah (Lion): majesty & strength, royalty, noble.
  - To the North Dan (Eagle): to blow as of the wind, great power, majesty.
  - To the West Ephraim (Ox): power & strength.
  - To the South Reuben (man): human being, powerful or strong, image of God, Intelligence.

4.8 <sup>8</sup>The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes all around and within. They do not rest day or night, chanting, "Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh ADONAI Elohei-Tzva'ot, asher haya v'hoveh v'yavo! Holy, holy, holy is the LORD God of Hosts, who was and who is and who is to come!"

- ✓ Kadosh, kadosh, kadosh – Holy: set apart, devoted, pure.
  - The number 3: completeness, resurrection, Trinity
  - 3 is found throughout Revelation.
  - Isaiah 6:3

4.9-10 <sup>9</sup>And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to the One seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup>the twenty-four elders fall down before the One seated on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever. And they throw their crowns down before the throne, chanting,

- ✓ fall down – pesountal (grk): future tense middle voice; repetitive and voluntary worship. Throw the crown before him chanting.

4.11 <sup>11</sup>"Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, For You created all things, and because of Your will they existed and were created!"

- ✓ Worthy to receive:
  - Glory – a good opinion
  - Honor – esteem reverence
  - Power – ability to perform anything.
  - To be continually receiving
- ✓ You created all things – Father – Son – Holy Spirit. Gen 1:1
  - Group of three – symbolically indicating fullness of testimony or manifestation as in the Trinity; life.
- ✓ Your will they existed – Col 1:17, Rom 11:36
- ✓ were created – ektisas (grk): past tense. God finished creation in 6 days and then rested on the 7<sup>th</sup> day. Gen 2:2-3, Ex 20:11, 31:17

Note: The chapter break between 4 & 5 destroys the flow of the text. There is an intimate connection between the words of the living creatures and the Elders concerning creation. The events of Chapter 5 where the Lamb takes the scroll with the 7 seals. In this next chapter is about redemption of the entire created order, (Rom 8:18-22) which has been the subject to Satan since the "Fall". The judgements are about to begin; resulting in the removal of the curse (Gen 3:14-19) and ending creation's groaning & travail. Think of the scroll as the title deed to the earth. **The Lamb is worthy! He is the Kinsman Redeemer.**