

Revelation_4

1] ... a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, "Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be hereafter". In the first chapter, verse 10 John was in the Spirit when he heard the voice behind him & he turned to the source. The more we are free from the flesh, the more we are in the Spirit, the more readily we turn to our Lord and the clearer His voice is to us. John fell down to the pierced feet of his glorified Lord & was lifted up. Then John received the messages for the churches – to feed all believers till our Lord's return in glory. John obeyed his Lord and King and delivered the words of truth and salvation. After that John sees the door of Heaven! After John delivered His King's message, there is so much more our Lord is revealing. Each step of the way – as we follow our Lord – we see the Door of Heaven clearer for Christ is the Door. These words remind us of our Savior's great work and the beginning of our hearing His voice first time [as far as our awareness goes]. He came from heaven to reveal to us that He is the door, the way and the life. He began in us His miracle of new life [John 5: 25] and His voice lifted us up from death to life. When we share the abundance of Christ's grace and revelation with the people around us – as His Spirit guides us - our soul receives more and more grace to share among us - the disciples; and to proclaim His Gospel to the world in need of the true salvation. To John this voice sounds like a trumpet from above. I need yet to hear it like that. I must pray for more obedience to my Master that I also receive this great gift of hearing the Word as it really is: the Gospel trumpet. Our Lord is calling us higher also; we need to see what must follow; what God has prepared; His glory and blessings for His people for now & forever. I need to behold our King in glory that I might hear His mighty voice. I must be humble as John was. No enemy can stop God in God's grace and power toward His redeemed souls. No power can deliver from God's judgment; only the Father's mercy; only His redemption in His

Son. God's Word must be fulfilled.

2&3] Instantly John was in the spirit and beheld a throne in Heaven. Somebody was on the throne. He looked like jasper and a sardine stone - bright colored gems. Around God's throne was a rainbow like emerald, a green jewel. This entire sight, so magnificent, so majestic, is only a vision; God's revelation. Even for this vision of our God's universal glory and divine character, John needed to be in the spirit: eyes of flesh and earthly nature are not able to see and comprehend the granger of God Almighty. God's beauty and majesty is beyond description in human language. This great vision is just a spiritual picture. The parables and stories our Lord gives us in the four Gospel books open our understanding of God's purpose, teaching, and character. The book of this Revelation is providing an enormous enrichment to every dimension of our new life in Christ. Learning this testimony prayerfully, we grow in Christ's Spirit. No doubt John was amazed seeing the vision of the Eternal King... I am amazed just looking into the probable significance of only some parts of this vision. In Exodus 28: 20 & 39: 13 we see the breastplate worn by the high priest approaching the Mercy Throne: jasper was the last precious gem-stone in order. Jasper appeared to be brilliant and transparent: in no way obscuring the brightness of the Almighty. Here the Great One is both like jasper and like sardine. Sardine was the first precious stone in the high-priestly breast-plate, apparently of bright red color. Earthly high priest had these symbols of the tribes. Our Heavenly Father reveals His person – His character: He is like jasper and sardine. I think the order is reversed with a purpose: jasper, the last gem in earthly sanctuary, is the first recorded in the heavenly. Sardine was the first down here, but is the last up there as the Lord Jesus said. [Matthew 19: 30 & Luke 13: 30]

I noticed a difference between the list of the twelve tribes in the books of Moses and the list in this book compiling hundred and forty and four thousands in the chapter 7. I imagine that I may think the list in the Revelation lists all the faithful – born of the Spirit. The old books listed all

circumcised in the flesh. The 'doers' are in Christ and the 'lip-worship' is far from the Lord. Around the throne is an emerald rainbow: a bright green gem. The rainbow in Genesis 9: 12-17 is a token of God's post-flood covenant with the humanity. God kept His promise of "no flood" although the new world did turn away from Him.

These three components of God's holiness, beauty and majesty: jasper, sardine and emerald are built in the foundations of the New Jerusalem. Jasper is first on the throne and first in the foundation telling us that God is our Creator, Redeemer and the only worthy Recipient of our adoration in his entire universe. Sardine is joined with jasper on the throne and in the foundation it appears sixth. The same Creator that created humanity in His own likeness is forever on the throne in His eternal might and power; His grace and everlasting love. Emerald is all-around the throne and the fourth in the foundations of the New City. Our Heavenly Father, throned on high forever, appointed His Own Son to be our Everlasting Sabbath and Eternal Jubilee of peace in earth and in Heaven. On the breast-plate in the earthly tabernacle the order of divine attributes was not visible in the same order prompting our mind to continue this royal feasting. Jasper, the first on the throne, the sixth in the foundation of the Eternal City, is the last on the breast-plate in earthly sanctuary. The Omnipotent Creator is forever the Most High and with the same love and grace He created man, He ordered man's salvation, and, all the saved to be the Bride of His beloved Son. Yet that long journey of revealing God's mysterious salvation is unfolding from the foreshadowing signs toward the glorious triumph in eternity. As long as our pilgrimage lasts in this world we are guided by God's Word and His Holy Spirit; to grow in faith and knowledge of Christ and to be built upon that Rock. I should not think that I can exhaust the meaning and significance of this vision, but I hope and pray to encourage the readers, listeners, and genuine disciples to think and consider prayerfully; we know our Lord's Spirit is the Teacher and revealer of the Truth to sincere and earnest seekers [Matthew 7: 7&8].

4] Round about the throne twenty and four elders in white raiment with golden crowns on their heads were sitting on twenty and four seats. From Genesis 8: 22 and John 11:9 we can figure out that ever since the creation time has been comprised of days and nights continually lasting twenty and four hours. All the faithful: patriarchs, prophets, Gospel ministers, and every redeemed soul, all have some common gifts. In the center of their ministry is the throne of God: His holy will and His sacred honor. Their mind is crowned with godliness and their souls adorned in the purity and holiness of God's Son [Isaiah 61: 10]. They do not sit in dust and ashes of human vanity and pride. God has placed them on His seats around His throne on high. He armed them with the whole armor of godliness [Ephesians 6: 11]. None of them can minister to us twenty and four hours – meaning all the time – but they all together help us always. God is watching over His children all the time and He has ordained His faithful witnesses for our needs to keep their help available to us continually. The world is groping in darkness even in bright day light. With our Father's honor in mind and heart, we have Christ as our light day & night [John 11: 10&9].

5] From the throne proceeded lightnings with thunder and voices. Seven lamps were burning with bright flames before the throne: these are God's seven Spirits. When our mind and heart is focused on our Master to do our Father's pleasure, our Savior's voice is to us whisper of grace and thunder of justice. He alone has grace and power to make us His living Gospel testimony to herald the Day of Judgment and to proclaim the Day of Grace; to live the Gospel of salvation in Christ Jesus our blessed Lord. On the day of Pentecost [Acts 2] a flame was above each one in that place and they were filled with true testimony. They all spoke as one voice – by the same Spirit. The seven flames before God's throne indicate God's Spirit as One, omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent – the Holy Spirit of the Father and of the Son. The entire universe testifies of the measureless creative power, holiness, justice and grace of our God. In Matthew 5: 18 we see that not the least part of God's word is unimportant, not even less

significant than the rest, to God. God is thundering some parts of His message since we are ignoring His holiness. Our Lord repeats some words we tend to neglect and forget. Let us remember God's mercy and justice.

6] Before the throne was a sea of glass like unto crystal. In the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four living beings full of eyes before and behind. A molten sea and huge lavers were in God's temple – in Jerusalem. Before the heavenly throne, John beheld the sea of glass like unto crystal. All the redeemed in Christ are looking forward to seeing the glory of God. Our only way into everlasting glory is Christ our Savior and Lord. The priests in the earthly temple washed their bodies with water first to put on priestly garments. Our Great High Priest is washing us [John 13] to put on us His Bride's attire. Our King of kings has prepared the glorious garment of His own holiness and beauty to array His Bride splendidly and to take her into His embrace of eternal love and perfect, everlasting unity. Until He take us into that bliss, He is washing us by His Word; He is our Living Fountain [John 13, Revelation 7: 17 and Zacharias 13]. Many man-made fountains, land-marks of pomp and vanity, are in ruins or wiped from memory and history; the present ones will follow those of old. Our Fountain of Living Water springs forever with life and freshness; for He is God's own Son and our Lord of lords. Our souls will celebrate His love in glory. In the throne, all over and, around it are the four amazing beings with numberless eyes on every side. At times, when the glory of God flashed over me from this book beyond description and explanation, I was unable to distinguish clearly between the Father and Son. See here the brightness of the Highest also. These four beings are so blending together not only among them four, but also with the throne: they are in and around the throne. John is in the spirit and called up higher to see the revelation: so, he can see and know the first, second & on. When we follow God's guidance, we are on the path of His Revelation. The four beings, almost covered with eyes, appear to be full of life and power: they glorify the Lord on & on. Before we let our imagination loose, let us remember: this is a part of the

Revelation, a vision. The omniscience and omnipotence of the Holy Spirit is glowing through the Gospel of salvation in Christ. The mighty Spirit of the Lion-Lamb, our King, is looking at us through the entire recorded Word of God. He is watching over us through [what we named] the circumstances. He is guarding us through that part of our conscience that has been already trained by our genuine understanding of the Gospel teaching. The Lord is continually correcting and encouraging us by His new revelation in understanding His Word clearer, deeper, and wider. He brings additional support through godly concerns of our fellow believers. Our Heavenly Father has numberless eyes to make us aware of His looking at us and watching over us. He, personally, needs none of these eyes to see us: He is omniscient; nobody and nothing can hide from His awareness. God is using all these “eyes” for our understanding of His marvelous Fatherly care for us. All His ways and manners exclaim to our soul, mind and heart: “Holy, Holy, Holy is our Almighty God”. Through the multitude of these “eyes” we grow in the holy awareness that God knows the past - since before the beginning, every detail of the present time & situation; and the future through all of eternity. As soon as we absorb this transformation, our soul joins the shout: Holy, Holy, Holy is Christ, God’s Son! Our Heavenly Father delights in His Son’s resurrection and transformation in our souls; and so do we.

7] The first being was like a lion, the second like a calf, the third had the face as a man, and the fourth was like a flying eagle. Are we facing another dazzling part of the Father’s glory and majesty in His Son? In this book 5: 5 the Lamb is announced as the Lion of Judah; in 1: 5 Christ is the Prince of the kings; in 17: 14 our Savior is Lord of lords and King of kings. How long a time before Judah and David were born God, the Son, was, is, and remains forever and there is none other; the Creator, the Savior, King of kings. In Numbers 7 are listed the offerings of the twelve princes in Israel. The first of all their live sacrifices was a bullock. In Luke 15: 23 the father offered a fatted calf to celebrate his son’s rebirth. I Peter 1: 20 confirms: the

Heavenly Father offered His Son before the foundation of the world: to redeem us – lost. The Offering of the Heavenly Ruler appeared in the due time among us – the only sinless man that ever walked on the face of the earth [I Peter 1: 20&21 and Philippians 2: 5-11]; He had the face, the body, like ours; but sinless; His Spirit is the Spirit of the Only-begotten Son of the Father God Who lives forever. The ever living and life creating Spirit was the same in that human body suffering on Golgotha. His human face was deformed beyond recognition in the deepest agony while the Spirit of the mighty Lamb of God burned in deepest hell on behalf of all the sinners that will ever believe and obey the Son of God. The veil of darkness shrouded the Sufferer and no human eyes could see what we deserved, what He endured to satisfy the divine justice and make us free from condemnation, free in Him and beloved to the Father. Our Father's eyes did see His Son's Spirit beaming from this offering; bringing life to us dead. In the psalm 103: 1-8 David is blessing the Lord for forgiveness, redemption, execution of judgment for the oppressed, and the abundance of mercy. In the verse 5 God's goodness is renewing the youthful vigor to make His people like an eagle. In Isaiah 40: 31 waiting upon the Lord renewed their strength. To all that trust and obey the Master, His Spirit gives this great Eagle's power to walk on His path and not to faint, to run in His race and not get weary, to mount up by the wings of His grace as eagles to His higher revelation where His throne is blissful in His eternal glory. They adore Him in endless gratitude. The part of this vision – in the verses 6 & 7 reveals so much of our Savior's character and His great work of salvation. The Lord makes the vision and its meaning open to our understanding by presenting it in segments and in time delays. The Father and Son have eternal glory and majesty in one another. Eternal King of kings offered Himself before the foundation of the world [I Peter 1: 20] as our only ransom and came to us as one of us. He accomplished the entire redemption never once displeasing His Father. Our Heavenly Father never had any doubts that this Eagle will soar up to His glorious throne.

8] The four living beings have six wings each. Their eyes see in every direction. They never need rest from their delightful glorification of God. One exclamation of “Holy” ignites the next one. They reveal God’s eternal character: He is since ever, now as ever and there is much, much more He will manifest. These four beings glorify the One on the throne by the threefold “Holy!” and by His Name “Lord God Almighty”. He is holy Lord, Possessor; Owner of the universe. His ownership is holy – unique. All other lords, including the arch tyrant, Satan, are false owners: they claim ownership over us un-lawfully. They constantly try to enslave us and to keep us in the bondage of sin and death. Our true and holy Lord is the only One giving us true liberty. All the idols of the world are false, lifeless gods. Our God is the ever living and the life-giving One. The idols and the godless rulers have some power men ascribed to them. Even the devil has only as much power as fallen humanity gives him by believing his deception. The true Almighty does not depend on humanity; not even on the heavenly hosts. We all depend on Him and on His might. The subjects of earthly rulers serve to earn their benefits. Our Lord saved us and gave us life. We could never earn the eternal values He granted to us in His grace. We can never pay Him back - even a microscopic part of His grace in Christ - with the greatest success we might dream of; yet, in Christ He gives us grace and privilege of doing His will and delighting in adoration of Him. Our God is truly holy. These four beings glorify God in the past, present, and future time; all at once. When we get into His eternal glory, we shall see Christ as He is and glorify God in all His measureless dimensions. Presently, we behold His glory from the first word in the Holy Scriptures to the last word in this Revelation book. In our personal experience, we can see the work of the Almighty as far as our memory can reach. We can glorify our Creator and Savior for doing all to His Son’s honor and for His redeemed souls’ blessing. Trusting and obeying our Lord, we have greater eye-sight than any of the lost sinners can ever have. As we grow in faith and knowledge of the Son of God, our horizon is expanding and so is our adoration of Him and our delight in Him. The prayer He is teaching us, “Thy kingdom come”, He is

also answering. I heard and read many ideas about who these beings are. The verse 6 gave us some details about them. They are in the midst of and round about the throne. God is on the throne also. These beings are presented in this vision as four individuals, yet all four are together as if they are blending. I perceive that we might be trying to see beyond our limits of perception... God gives more than we can 'take in'. As the Lamb of God is the Lion of Judah and both symbolize the Lord Jesus Christ not telling us that our blessed Redeemer is a physical, material lamb, nor lion or any other creature in the animal world, so the Holy Spirit appeared in the form of a dove, but at the throne in chapter 4 is presented as seven flames. The four beings in and on the throne manifest the character and the mighty deeds of the Almighty and for that purpose are part of the vision given to John to write for us. That is a vision, not what we name a physical reality. The physical reality of Leviticus is only foreshadowing the reality in the Resurrected. The Lord Jesus says in John 6: 63 that His words are spirit and life. In Matthew 26: 26-28 the bread is His body and the cup is His blood. That bread was never the flesh of His body nor was the cup His blood. Are we safe assuming that these beings in the vision are some heavenly lion, ox, a man and an eagle? We can find similar appearances in some visions of Isaiah. In 6: 2 a pair of wings covered their faces, another pair covered their feet and only one pair was used to fly. An amazing message to us – still in our flesh: two parts of the Lord's provisions to keep us from self-will and one part to do our Lord's bidding. The bliss and splendor of God's throne is revealing God's own majesty and beauty to ignite our fervent adoration thus to keep us from idleness, aimlessness and idolatry. Satan has no power over Christ's zealous worshippers. Living in Christ is a continuous delightful adoration even in persecution & suffering.

9-11] When the four beings give glory, honor and thanks to the Eternal God on His throne, the twenty four elders bow down to worship the Almighty; they lay down their crowns at His throne - to honor Him. They say: "Thou art worthy, o Lord, to receive glory, honor and power: Thou art the Creator

of the whole universe; all is created and exists for Thy pleasure. Our God's pleasure and glory is to bless us in His Son. In Luke 15: 28-30 we see that the evil spirit would eagerly trap us into self centered greed and envy. In 19: 16 Christ's Spirit speaks from the heart of the faithful: Lord, Thy gift – Thy gain. [I Corinthians 15: 10].

The twenty and four elders did not clutch to their crowns. They did not sit stiff on their seats expecting the Supreme to “elevate me higher than the rest”. The crowns the King gave them they lay down at His throne thus confessing: every good gift and blessing came from Him; and they are filled with gratitude. I have heard some opinions concerning their number – 24. Since the Lord named first 12 apostles and they elected one to replace the traitor, some students studying this book were inclined to conclude that the remaining twelve were from the “Old Testament” times. We all might be wrong or, a little childish. We remember our Savior's answer to James and John in Matthew 20: 23-28: the Father knows the best. If the Father's will is, one of the twelve may be Abel, the first martyr, and another one the little maid in II Kings 5. Let the Lord reveal all of His marvelous work to us when we get there. Eternity is all exciting. Perhaps the number 24 is signifying constancy: continuous adoration; and let it be an encouragement to us: worship our Creator and Savior day and night! The four voices shouting threefold “Holy!” bring to my mind our Lord's words in Matthew 28:19 to teach the whole world the Message of salvation and truth. The entire portrait of the throne of God is amazingly symbolic. There are no details about the throne. The four beings are part of the throne. When gifted Gospel ministers join their talents to glorify Christ with one voice – voice of united zeal for the Lord, they prove that they see the Almighty on the throne. If I have any good gift or ability to honor my Master, to bless my brethren, and, to reach out to the souls in bondage, I have nothing but what the Lord has given me in His measureless grace to serve Him and in His love and mercy experience lasting blessedness – greater than anything the dark world can ever offer. The four voices are thrilled in their

proclamation of God's glory. The twenty and four elders in ecstasy of rapture cast themselves before the throne overwhelmed with this eternal truth: Thou art worthy! This joyful shout: 'Holy! Holy! Holy!' seems to stop for just a short moment to give the elders an opportunity. That moment they bow to the ground and adore the Worthy One. We remember the creation: God blessed the new world with the joy of living and multiplying. By their joy in His blessings they adored Him. He rejoiced in their joy. That is the character of our Creator. We remember God's Lamb on Calvary. Only eternal love can suffer so much to open the Heaven to us, to bless us with the everlasting life in His mighty but gentle embrace. How much He rejoices in our rejoicing in Him. Truly He is worthy to have all glory, all honor, and, to keep His authority over the entire universe. Nobody can rule with love as Christ. The victims of Satan's deceit accuse God of tyranny and cruelty. A perfect god of their design would be one that lets them revel in evil while he is constantly helping them to sin more and more. They may not pursue their line of thinking further; lest they face the fact: if allowed to sin unchecked, they destroy all. The wrath of God and His awful judgments are only His holding back His grace from those that refused to receive it all their time on earth. Of all condemned there will not be a single soul that received God's grace. And among all the redeemed souls there will not be one deserving His great, marvelous salvation. Some groups and a number of individuals used this book, as also some other parts of the Holy Scripture, to create or to confirm their existing doctrines and convictions. May I suggest that the doctrines written for us in the Bible are universally correct: in the right place, proper application, address and precision. Attempts of elevating and accelerating some teachings or commandments above the level and position these points already have, resulted in isms, sects, occults, and gradual or rapid departure from our God's Word. Framing some parts of the Gospel as "the more or most important" 'makes' the rest 'secondary'. Our Creator and Savior has no part of His teaching "less important". Rightly dividing the Word [II Timothy 2: 15], we might understand as "the more important" Bible teaching the part we neglect or

intentionally ignore: to correct our walk before the Lord is more important for us than for anyone else. I observed some opinions making prophecies “based on some verses” obviously not intended to unveil the future. Even the clear and well established prophecies about the Messiah’s coming and ministry, were not understood by the majority of religious Jews but only by the few faithful ones [Luke 2: 25-38]. I perceive God’s glory in our seeing His foreknowledge after we see the fulfillment of His predictions and revelations. Like the entire Bible, this book also is very usable and applicable in our daily walk and for our learning our Father’s guidance and, reaping the abundance of His blessings in our hearty obedience. God’s glory and majesty, the splendor of His throne, and the ecstatic glorification by all present, is His all the time. The entire universe is full of Christ! The last book of the Bible is revealing this colossal truth to us. If we have not seen His glory before we studied the Revelation, can we see Christ’s divine glory now? If we cannot see His glory and grace in this last book, we need to realize this significant fact: our serious need is to start learning the Word all over again: from the first word in the first book, to this one we just approached; more importantly: we must amend our ways before the Lord [Jeremiah 7] to see His way. If our experience with this book is just the opposite, if we beheld God’s glory in Christ and in all of His work through the entire history, if the testimony presented to us in the Revelation widened our horizon and deepened our insight, if this book flared up our zeal for the Lord, we might obtain a similar opinion. We might feel a desire to go through this book very prayerfully that we might rush to the beginning of the Holy Scripture and start all over, a new feast of the Bread of Life through the entire Gospel of salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. In the new life He gives amazing sights in His creation and, salvation. The threefold “Holy!” can echo in our hearts and be manifested in our daily walk. Every encouragement from His Word we receive in gratitude and lay down at His feet in our adoration. We realize that He has created us to rejoice in glorifying Him and we find in Him greater joy than anything the world can offer. He heals our infirmities for He is our Tree of Life

[Revelation 22: 2]. He turns our stumbling blocks into stepping stones by the three pairs of wings: mercy, grace and faithfulness. With one pair our sins are covered, with the other our shortcomings are covered, and with one pair we fly to please & adore Him.