

CONCERNING THE WAY

June 30, 2009

LESSON 63: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST



Chapter 4

The Scene in Heaven



Revelation 4:1 After these things I looked, and there was a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet said: "Come up here so that I can show you what must happen after these things."

Now the focus of the book turns to the future. There's a big shift here – everything from this point on concerns the future. We know this because of the outline of the book given to us back in chapter one:

Revelation 1:19 Therefore write what you saw, what is, and what will be after these things.

The first chapter was what John saw, and chapters 2 and 3, the letters to the churches were "what is", and now we come to the time "after these things", as you can see in verse 1. "These things" has to be the times of the letters to the churches, so what is to come in the book will happen after that time. Many scholars believe "these things" refers to the entire Church Age, so what's to come in the book will happen after the Church Age is complete. I believe that is the correct interpretation.

In chapters 4 and 5 we see a scene in heaven, in the throne room of God. It's important to note where John's vision is occurring as we go through the chapters – heaven or earth.

John hears a voice like a trumpet again, which we know is Jesus, because He heard His voice back in chapter 1:10-13. This is also the same voice that will call us to heaven in the Rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:16). John is going to be able to see things which the natural eye normally cannot see. Some believe this verse is actually a reference to the Rapture, but that's probably not the case, as John's actual body does not seem to be taken to heaven, he's just being given a vision of the future. So this verse is not a proof text of the Rapture, but I believe it is a type, a hint of the Rapture. I think the Holy Spirit wants us to see that here.

It's easy to miss the word "must" in verse one, but this is important. God is saying here that the things that are about to be shown to John HAVE to happen. God has promised to do certain things and He will keep His promises. We see in the following chapters God orchestrating the events on earth from heaven. So we dare not ignore the things that are written in the book of Revelation. They will definitely happen!

Revelation 4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit, and a throne was standing in heaven with someone seated on it!

"In the Spirit" here means his spirit left his body. His body could not enter heaven because it had not yet been glorified, but his spirit could enter because of the cleansing of his sins through Christ. Some say that this is just a continuation of the vision he had in chapters 1-3, but the word "immediately" seems to say that there is something new taking place here. Physically he was still in Patmos, but spiritually he was taken to the throne room of God, where he will be able to see and hear what is going on.

"Being 'in the Spirit' refers not only to spiritual or physical transport to a new location or vantage point, but to a unique empowerment by the Spirit to receive special revelatory communication from God (Eze. 2:2; 3:12-14; Gal. 1:16; 2:2; Eph. 3:3). Although the text does not explicitly say so, John was probably transported to heaven. The command was for him to 'come up here.' The Spirit transports John to the wilderness (Rev. 17:2) and a great and high mountain (Rev. 21:10) later in the book." Tony Garland

The one seated on the throne has to be the Father, because Jesus comes onto the scene later and takes a scroll from the Father's hand. What John sees is not some immaterial spiritual revelation, but a real place:

"Heaven is a material place. John saw a throne. If the objection is that he was in the Spirit and that it might be a spiritual throne, we would answer that the body of Jesus Christ was raised from the dead and that our Lord said, 'Handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have' (Luke 24:39); and it was that body which ascended into Heaven. There must be a material Heaven or there was no ascension, and if there was no ascension, there was no resurrection, and if there was no resurrection, there is no salvation." Barnhouse

Some scholars say that the sequence of events that John experiences is significant, because he represents the Church as a whole, and this is what the Church will experience. The Church Age was described in chapters 2 and 3, and now we have the Rapture, represented by John going to heaven, and then we have John seeing what will happen on earth during the Tribulation from his viewpoint in heaven, just like the Church will witness what is happening from heaven. It is something to keep in mind, at least, as we go through the text.

Revelation 4:3 And the one seated on it was like jasper and carnelian in appearance, and a rainbow looking like it was made of emerald encircled the throne.

What the jasper (green chalcedony) stone looks like is debated. Today the jasper stone is opaque and not

considered valuable, but it could be argued that the ancient stone called jasper was clear like that of a diamond. It is one of the stones that will be in the foundation of the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:19-20). The carnelian, or sardius stone, is commonly known as the ruby, and is deep red in appearance. Some think these two stones represent God's holiness (the purity of the jasper) and justice and wrath against sin (the blood red of the carnelian).

The rainbow of emerald that circles the throne could represent the eternity of God, the fact that He has no beginning and no end. Why a rainbow of green? Green is the color of life, hope, and peace, and it could represent the matchless grace of God.

Most see the references to precious stones here (and in Ezekiel 28) as a description of brilliant colored lights which radiate from God and His throne (Ezekiel 1:26-28).

Keep in mind as we go through the rest of the book that John is describing things that cannot always be described with human words. He does the best he can by using symbols, so pay attention to when John describes something using the word "like". What John saw here was not the actual stones jasper and carnelian, but *like* them, and the rainbow looked *like* emerald.

Revelation 4:4 In a circle around the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on those thrones were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white clothing and had golden crowns on their heads.

Multitudes surround God's throne (1Kings 22:19; Revelation 5:11; 7:11), but in concentric positions. Those closest to God appear to occupy positions of special service, blessing, and favor. The elders occupy a position of prominence near the throne.

The identity of these 24 elders is debated. Some say that these are a special class of angels. However, the term "elder" is never used for an angel, but always for men. Some say that 12 of them represent the 12 tribes of Israel and the other 12 are the 12 disciples. That could be, as these references are also given prominence in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:12,14) These elders appear to co-reign with the Father in some lesser capacity. This reminds me of the promises made to the apostles where they will rule over the twelve tribes in the Kingdom (Matthew 19:28) and the promises made in the previous chapters to the victor (Revelation 2:26-27; 3:21 20:4, 6). However, this promise was that the disciples would sit on 12 thrones judging the 12 tribes of Israel *when Jesus sits on His throne*. That won't happen until the Millennial Kingdom. Also, it seems unlikely that Old Testament saints are included in these elders because Daniel 12:1-2 implies that OT saints won't be resurrected until after the Tribulation and before the Millennial Kingdom starts. The best answer seems to be that these elders represent the Church.

"Identification of the twenty-four elders should not be dogmatically held, but such evidence as there is seems to point to the conclusion that they may represent the church as the Body of Christ."—Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*

"The biblical description seems to point to believers of this present church age. They are already in heaven (Rev. 4-5) before the opening of the seal judgments (Rev. 6). They are sitting on thrones before God (Rev. 4:4). Angels never sit in the presence of God. However, Christ promised church-age believers that they would sit with Him on His throne (Rev. 3:21). God positionally has made all believers today sit together in the heavenly places in Christ (Eph. 2:6). The elders are clothed in white robes (Rev. 4:4). Church-age believers are promised such pure clothing (Rev. 3:5, 18; 19:7-8). The elders have crowns of gold on their heads (Rev. 4:4). . . . Believers in the churches are promised such crowns (Rev. 2:10; 3:11). In the Epistles, believers are also promised crowns for spiritual accomplishments (1Cor. 9:25; 1Th. 2:19; 2Ti. 4:8; Jas. 1:12; 1Pe. 5:4). Holy angels do not wear crowns, but believers can and will wear them. . . . The elders are

set in contrast to angels (Rev. 5:11). The term *presbuteros* (elder) is never used of angels in the Bible. The word denotes maturity and growth. Holy angels could not be designated with this term because they were all created at the same time. . . . The more plausible explanation of the twenty-four elders is that they represent the redeemed of this present church age.”

Robert G. Gromacki

If these are saints from the church age, then that is another proof for a pre-trib Rapture. These people are in heaven before the Tribulation, which begins in chapter 6:

“As John beholds certain subjects of redemption, robed, and crowned, and enthroned, as priests and kings in heaven, we here have (let it be noted) positive demonstration, that, at the time to which this vision relates, a resurrection and a translation have already taken place They occupy these thrones, while yet the closed book, which brings forth the seals and trumpets, lies untouched in the hand of Him that sits upon the throne. They see it there, and they vote the Lamb worthy to open it. They behold Him taking it up, and fall down and worship as He holds it. They are in their places when heaven receives the accession of the multitude which come “out of the great tribulation” (Rev. 7:11-14). They have their own distinct positions when the still later company of the hundred and forty-four thousand gather round the Lamb on Mount Zion. And they are spectators of the judgment of great Babylon, and sing Alleluia in glory as they see her fall (Rev. 19:4).” Seiss, *The Apocalypse: Lectures on the Book of Revelation*

The crowns would seem to suggest that we’re looking into heaven after the Rapture and the Judgment seat of Christ has occurred, when all believers have been glorified and brought to heaven, and those whose works survive the fire at the Judgment Seat have received their rewards (crowns). So, at this point we could reasonably assume that the Church is in heaven and these 24 have been chosen to represent the Body of Christ. Is the number 24 literal? I believe it is, because I think we must treat all numbers in the Bible as literal unless we have a very good reason not to do so. If John didn’t mean 24, he would have said hundreds or thousands or whatever to represent a vague number of people.

Revelation 4:5 From the throne came out flashes of lightning and roaring and crashes of thunder. Seven flaming torches, which are the seven spirits of God, were burning in front of the throne

Just as when we hear thunder and see lightning we know a storm is coming, that seems to be what is happening here. God’s patience with those on earth is coming to an end, and His wrath is about to be poured out on mankind, on the earth, and on Satan.

The seven spirits of God we talked about in our study of chapter one. Some think these refer to angels, but it makes more sense to interpret this as the seven-fold nature of the Holy Spirit of God, as referenced in Isaiah 11:1-2. These verses list seven characteristics of the Spirit of God that will also be present with the Messiah.

Revelation 4:6 and in front of the throne was something like a sea of glass, like crystal. In the middle of the throne and around the throne were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

Moses, the sons of Aaron, and the elders of Israel saw something similar when they met with God on Mount Sinai in Exodus 24:9-10. Here again John is trying to describe things he can’t understand. He sees something like a sea of glass or crystal in front of the throne. There are many speculations about what this might represent. And he sees four strange looking creatures around the throne.

Revelation 4:7-9 The first living creature was like a lion, the second creature like an ox, the third creature had a face like a man's, and the fourth creature looked like an eagle flying. (8) Each one of the four living creatures had six wings and was full of eyes all around and inside. They never rest day or night, saying: "Holy Holy Holy is the Lord God, the All-Powerful, Who was and who is, and who is still to come!" (9) And whenever the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to the one who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

These creatures are some type of angelic beings, most likely seraphim, as they seem to be mentioned in Isaiah 6:

Isaiah 6:1-3 In the year of King Uzziah's death, I saw the sovereign master seated on a high, elevated throne. The hem of his robe filled the temple. (2) Seraphs stood over him; each one had six wings. With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and they used the remaining two to fly. (3) They called out to one another, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord who commands armies! His majestic splendor fills the entire earth!"

They also seem to be similar to the description of the Cherubim in Ezekiel 1 and 10, although there are significant differences. These four creatures are referred to seventeen times in Revelation, more than any other type of angel. Their many eyes indicate that they can see everything that is happening in every direction, and indicate great intelligence. They never sleep and they never stop praising God, giving Him glory and honor.

John describes each creature differently, as looking like an animal that we are familiar with. These could be symbolic of a characteristic of the angel, and/or a characteristic of God. There are many attempts to attach some symbolic significance here, but the following seems to be the best:

Creature	Nature	Aspect of Jesus
Lion	King of Beasts	King (Matthew)
Ox	Beast of Burden	Servant (Mark)
Man	Human	Man (Luke)
Eagle	Rules the Sky	God (John)

Notice that the angel with the face like a man doesn't say what the rest of its body looks like, just the face. When they say Holy, Holy, Holy, that may be in reference to the three persons of the Trinity. But when they praise God, something else happens:

Revelation 4:10-11 the twenty-four elders throw themselves to the ground before the one who sits on the throne and worship the one who lives forever and ever, and they offer their crowns before his throne, saying: (11) "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, since you created all things, and because of your will they existed and were created!"

The 24 elders follow the lead of the 4 angels. They acknowledge that God created humans for His own good pleasure. This response should be our response as we recognize the sovereignty of God over our lives.

"When they fall down before Him they give recognition to His authority and position. It is a lesson to all believers; we need to submit to His authority as a daily principle in our lives. That's why it is a good thing to

kneel when we pray to indicate our submission to the Lord.” David Hocking

“They recognized the supreme worthiness of the One on the throne. Their own crowns are entirely dependent upon His grace and bestowal. “What are these crowns? . . . they are the symbols of reward. They are the prizes, which have come from God’s heart of grace, given unto those who, at the best, were unprofitable servants. When we shall see the worship of the mighty cherubim, we shall realize therefore, that no crown belongs to us rightfully and we shall cast them down before the presence of Him who lives forever.” Barnhouse, Revelation

The universe was created because God wanted it to exist, and it continues to exist because it is His will.

Chapter 5

The Opening of the Scroll

Chapter five is a continuation of chapter four; there really shouldn’t be a chapter break here. But before we go right into chapter five, we need to give you some background so you can understand what’s happening in this chapter. Remember that Revelation contains many symbols, but God didn’t write it that way to make it difficult to understand, but to make it easier to understand. That means God expects us to interpret the symbols correctly. In this case we need to go back to the book of Jeremiah to get the interpretation. Jeremiah 32 explains the law for redemption of land. It was designed to help those in Israel who fell behind in their debts and lost their land. They still had the right to buy their land back in the future. Even if they didn’t, someone in their family could buy it, so it could remain in the family.

In Jeremiah 32 Jeremiah’s cousin had fallen into debt, lost his land, and been sent to prison. Jeremiah bought the land to keep it in the family. When his cousin lost the land, two scrolls (contracts) were drafted containing the terms for redeeming the land. One scroll became public record and was displayed unsealed for all to read. The other was rolled up and sealed with seven seals and put in storage at the temple. It was brought out only when someone showed proof of their right to redeem (buy) the land.

When the potential redeemer presented the proof of ownership, the temple priest would remove the sealed scroll from storage, unseal it and read it. If everything was in order, the redeemer would receive full ownership of the land.

When God created everything, he gave earth to mankind, but Adam sinned and lost the dominion over it, the rights, to Satan. But, because Jesus is not only God but also fully human and related to Adam, he has the right to buy back (redeem) the earth and mankind. Jesus is our “kinsman redeemer” (Isaiah 63:16, Romans 3:23-24, 1 Peter 1:18-19, Ephesians 1:7, 1 John 2:2).

“Sealing a scroll was a common and important practice in biblical times. The wills of both Emperor Vespasian and Caesar Augustus, for example, were secured with seven seals. For such a document, a scribe would procure a long roll of parchment and begin writing. After a period of writing he would stop, roll the parchment enough to cover his words, and seal the scroll at that point with wax. Then he would resume writing, stop again, roll the scroll, and add another seal. By the time he was finished, he would have sealed the scroll seven times. The scroll would be read a section at a time, after each scroll was opened.” Hal Lindsay

Revelation 5:1-2 Then I saw in the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne a scroll written on the front and back and sealed with seven seals. (2) And I saw a powerful angel proclaiming in a loud voice: "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to

break its seals?"

This scroll is thought to be the title deed to the earth, and God the Father is holding it waiting for someone who is worthy to come and open it. We don't know for sure who this powerful angel is, but some believe it is Gabriel, because the name Gabriel means "strength of God".

The one that would be worthy to open the scroll must have:

1. **Perfect Judgment** - A combination of perfect justice and perfect compassion. One who extends perfect mercy while not flinching from administering perfect justice (Deuteronomy 7:16; 13:8; 19:13, 21; 25:12; Isaiah 11:4; John 7:24)
2. **Relationship to Mankind** - Dominion of the earth was given to Adam, but it was lost to Satan because of sin. Satan has been controlling the world against God ever since. Satan had the authority to offer Jesus all the power and glory of the kingdoms of the world (Luke 4:5-6); Satan declared that it had been delivered to him by someone else (Adam, Luke 4:6); Jesus called Satan 'the prince of this world' (John 12:31; 14:30; 16:11); and Paul called him 'the god of this age' (2 Corinthians 4:4). Dominion is to be restored by a man. Not just any man, but the perfect man (2 Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews. 4:14; 1Peter 2:22; 1 John 3:5).
3. **Right of Possession** - to get back what was lost requires the payment of a redemption price. The price to redeem a world lost to sin was the shedding of truly innocent blood (Revelation 5:6,9)
4. **Ability to Possess** - the right to possess means nothing without the ability to possess. It has to be someone with the strength to keep it once they've got it.

Revelation 5:3-5 **But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or look into it. (4) So I began weeping bitterly because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. (5) Then one of the elders said to me, "Stop weeping! Look, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the root of David, has conquered; thus he can open the scroll and its seven seals."**

John really wants to see what's in that scroll! I think He may have understood what would happen if no one was worthy to redeem the world - mankind would remain lost forever with no hope. All humans, except one, are "born of Adam" and are lost in sin, and so are unqualified to redeem the earth.

"Throughout history there have been many pretenders to earth's throne who have sought to conquer and rule the world. The first and most powerful and notorious usurper was Satan. After his rebellion against God was crushed, he and his angelic followers were thrown out of heaven (Luke 10:18; Rev. 12:3-4), and he became the "god of this world" (2Cor. 4:4). He inspired a host of humans to try their hand at conquest, men such as Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, Alexander the Great, the emperors of Rome, Attila the Hun, Genghis Khan, Napoleon, Lenin, Stalin, and Hitler. In the future will come the most powerful Satan-possessed human conqueror of all, the final Antichrist. All of those men, and a host of lesser lights, have one thing in common: they failed. Only one individual has the right, the power, and the authority to rule the earth: the Lord Jesus Christ" John MacArthur

Who is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah? God promised that the Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah (Genesis 49:9), whose symbol is a lion, and that he would be a descendant of David (Isaiah 11:1). Jesus fulfills both prophecies, and by His death and resurrection He conquered sin and death and redeemed the earth and mankind.

When we get to heaven, it won't be because we are worthy, but because we have been redeemed (bought back) by the grace of God through the victory of the only one who is worthy.

"Christ defeated Satan and his forces when He paid the redemption price of His shed blood. Through the payment of that price, Christ defeated Satan and his forces in the sense that He gained the right to take tenant possession of the earth away from them and rule the earth as the last Adam. This truth sheds light on the meaning of Christ's statement just before He went to the cross, "the prince of this world is judged" (John 16:11). Christ's death sealed Satan's doom. At the proper time, determined sovereignly by God, Christ will exercise the right he gained at the cross to throw out the usurper." Renald Showers

Having paid the ultimate price of redemption, being made sin for us (Isaiah 53:6, 2 Corinthians 5:21), the Lamb has earned the right to open the seals, bringing judgment on those who continue to reject His offer of redemption (John 3:35-36). As each seal is opened, more judgment comes upon the earth, as we will see in chapters 6-16.

Revelation 5:6 Then I saw standing in the middle of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the middle of the elders, a Lamb that appeared to have been killed. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

He had been sitting at the right hand of the Father for millennia, ever since His ascension, but now Jesus stands up. A "Lamb" is how Jesus is referred to more than any other title in the book of Revelation; this is the first of 28 times. It recalls how John the Baptist referred to Jesus when He first began His ministry on earth:

John 1:29 On the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

Jesus is our sacrificial lamb. At His first coming the Lamb of God was a sacrifice for the sins of the world. Now He is seen as a lamb with power (seven horns) and wisdom (seven eyes). Jesus, in Revelation 5:6, looks like he had been killed, but he was not lying down in bed or a coffin. He was standing in the center of the throne!

And He has the seven attributes of the Holy Spirit, which was promised in Isaiah 11:1-2.

Revelation 5:7 Then he came and took the scroll from the right hand of the one who was seated on the throne,

This will be a great day. Paul mentioned it in his famous sermon he preached at Athens:

Acts 17:31 he has set a day on which he is going to judge the world in righteousness, by a man whom he designated, having provided proof to everyone by raising him from the dead."

All of creation has waited six thousand years for this moment; it is next only to the crucifixion and resurrection in importance. Adam lost the title deed to earth for all mankind, but Jesus has proven Himself a worthy redeemer and has bought back the earth with His blood. Now He takes what has been His since His resurrection.

"He who moved at first to create, now moves to restore. . . . The Lamb Becomes a Lion . . . in the scene before us Christ is not on the Father's throne; the age of His intercession has come to a close. We shall see

Him acting in an entirely new character. . . . The age of the Church is over. This is now prophecy of the future.” Donald Grey Barnhouse

“After age-upon-age of death, murder, disease, and sin—while countless bones piled upon the earth below—God has waited in patience so that all that would come to Him would respond (2Peter 3:9). Even since the cross, where the cost of sin was paid in full, justice has slept due to grace. With the Lamb’s taking of the scroll, the events of history take a turn toward the impending redemption of all that is God’s from the dominion of Satan and sin. Once the Lamb rises from the right hand of the Father to take the scroll, the die is cast and the program leading to the redemption of the created order moves now in rapid succession. The Son of God has begun to take the nations for His inheritance (Ps. 2:8; 82:8). He is now about to take possession of that which has been His since the cross, an everlasting dominion which shall not pass away—the one kingdom which shall not be destroyed (Dan. 7:14, 27). This is no gradual conversion of the world to Christ, but the initiation of a dramatic, cataclysmic intervention into His history to reject Satan and unrepentant earth dwellers.” Tony Garland

Revelation 5:8 and when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders threw themselves to the ground before the Lamb. Each of them had a harp and golden bowls full of incense (which are the prayers of the saints).

Evidently the harps will be used to praise God with music. They are associated in the Bible with joy and gladness (1 Chronicles 25:1, 6, 2 Chronicles 29:25, Psalms 71:22, 92:3, 149:3)

The golden bowls are a beautiful picture of how precious our prayers are to God. When on our knees we are adding to the contents of these bowls. In the Bible incense is often associated with prayer. What are the prayers? Well, we’ll be praying for our loved ones on earth who are being persecuted, for the defeat of Satan, and for the 2nd coming and reign of Christ on earth.

Why are harps and bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:8), connected with the Lamb’s taking the book of the inheritance? Did the prayers of the saints bring about this scene? Would our Lord have commanded His disciples to pray “Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth,” if (a) God had not meant to bring this to pass, and (b) if the prayers of the saints were not a vital factor in bringing about this glorious result? William R. Newell

Revelation 5:9-10 They were singing a new song: "You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals because you were killed, and at the cost of your own blood you have purchased for God persons from every tribe, language, people, and nation. (10) You have appointed them as a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."

This has to be a new song because this had never happened before, it is a momentous event and no existing song will be sufficient to sing at that time. The promise to reign on the earth is the same promise made earlier to the overcomer in Thyatira and Laodicea. The saints will be given power over the nations and will co-rule with Christ (Revelation 2:26-27).

Revelation 5:11-12 Then I looked and heard the voice of many angels in a circle around the throne, as well as the living creatures and the elders. Their number was ten thousand times ten thousand – thousands times thousands – (12) all of whom were singing in a loud voice: "Worthy is the lamb who was killed to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and praise!"

Now here is an example of John using non-specific numbers. He saw it was a vast number of angels, so he used a figure of speech to describe an uncountable number. But, just for fun, what is ten thousand times ten thousand? It's one hundred million, but I think we can assume that this isn't all the angels, just the ones present for this event.

Jesus will receive:

1. Power – the authority to do whatever He wants (forgive sins, command angels, give eternal life, etc.)
2. Riches – the wealth of God (everything belongs to Him)
3. Wisdom – the natural wisdom of God (his counsel, his understanding, and the ability to create, govern, uphold, judge, and redeem)
4. Strength – the physical strength to do anything (perform miracles, conquer, create, destroy)
5. Honor – rewards (the rewards of God and His people)
6. Glory – the image of God (His splendor, the royal dignity and majesty)
7. Blessing – worship, acknowledgment, commendation

Revelation 5:13-14 Then I heard every creature – in heaven, on earth, under the earth, in the sea, and all that is in them – singing: "To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be praise, honor, glory, and ruling power forever and ever!" (14) And the four living creatures were saying "Amen," and the elders threw themselves to the ground and worshiped.

Wow, it says EVERY creature, everywhere, alive or dead will praise the Father and the Son! How is that possible? I don't know, but we will find out, and we will all join in that praise! This is the last of three songs that are sung in this chapter.

"True worship always is directed toward God and extols His character and accomplishments and promises over our character, our accomplishments, and our promises. Colossians 2:18 and 2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 make it clear that there is such a thing as false worship as well, so Christians need to be discerning in this regard." Mal Couch

Next lesson - The Lamb opens the seals