

CHRONOLOGICAL BIBLE STUDY
LESSON 591

Revelation
Lesson # 11

Intro

- How does God reveal things to us?
- Jasper → purity of God
- Carnelian (ruby) → Avenging wrath of God
- Emerald → Mercy and justice of God
- John had described the throne room

Intro

- **John spoke of the 24 elders**
- *Described the rainbow encircling the throne*

1. *Where is John?*

- **He was transported to the throne room**

2. *Who is on the throne?*

• **God is on the throne**

3. *What surrounded the throne?*

- **A rainbow**
- **24 elders on 24 thrones**

4. *What came from the throne?*

- **Flashes of lightning**
- **Rumblings of thunder**
- **In our lives – what would this mean?**
- **A storm is coming**
- **The storm is the judgement of God**

5. *What sat before the throne? What did it refer to?*

- 7 lamps – blazing
- These are the 7 spirits of God
- Ezekiel 1. 13-14
 - **“The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it. ¹⁴ The creatures sped back and forth like flashes of lightning.”**

5. *What sat before the throne? What did it refer to?*

- **A sea of glass – clear as crystal**
- **Symbolizes PRECIOUSNESS**
 - **Job 28. 17 – gold and glass = precious things**
- **Symbolizes PURITY**
- **Symbolizes GREAT & IMMENSE DISTANCE**

6. *What sat in the center of the throne?*

- **four living creatures**

Isaiah and Ezekiel gave us similar visions – they mentioned the strange creatures as

- **Ezekiel 1**

- **Isaiah 6**

- **Isaiah called them "seraphim" - Isaiah 6. 1**

- **They are called "cherub" (singular) and "cherubim" (plural) in Ezekiel**

- **Some believe seraphim's and cherubim's are distinct classes of angels and some believe they are both the same creatures as John saw here**

Ezekiel & Isaiah → Sea of Glass – Crystal Clear

- Hebrews 8. 3-6

- **“³ Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴ If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”**

- **The tabernacle built by the Israelites in the desert was a model of what is in heaven**

- **One of the furnishings associated with that tabernacle is a large washbasin - It was a place the priests to wash prior to going into the tabernacle**

- **This basin - called "the bronze laver" in Exodus 30, 39 and 40**

- **The bronze laver represents the of washing our sins**

- **The size is not stated in the bible as to show there is no limit to the sins that can be washed clean**

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- **Revelation 4. 6 – represents the same “basin of water”**
- **Instead of washing in the water - one stands on top of the water!**
- **Why???**
- **There is no sin in heaven - our sins must be cleansed here on earth**
- **In heaven - we are perfectly forgiven of sins**
- **In the original tabernacle - one had to symbolically wash of their sins prior to entering**
- **In heaven - we can approach God directly as our sins were already "washed cleaned" by Christ's blood**
- **We can now stand "on top" of this sea of glass**
- **Verse 6 says it is as "clear as crystal" to represent the purity of being free from sin**
- **It also represents God's holiness – that He is set apart from sin**
- **It represents the perfection of God and the "sinlessness" of God the Father Himself**

Revelation 6 → 4 Living Creatures - Cherubs

- **“In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. ⁷ The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. ⁸ Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty,’ who was, and is, and is to come.”**
- **"four living creatures"**
- **They were all covered with eyes in front and in back**
- **The first one was like a lion - the second like an ox - the third had the face of a man and the fourth was like a flying eagle**
- **Each of these four had six wings and even more eyes under the wings**

The first living creature – Described → Lion

- The first cherub has the face of a lion
- The king of the beasts
- In the OT - Jesus is the "Lion of the tribe of Judah"
- Revelation 5. 5 describes Jesus as the lion of Judah
- God promised the Israelites that their Messiah would come from the tribe of Judah
- The symbol of Judah is a lion Genesis 49. 49
- Of the four Gospels - Matthew emphasizes Jesus "Messiah-ship" more than the others
- The most common phrase of Matthew's Gospel is "as it was written" to show Jesus fulfilled the prophecies about the Messiah
- Matthew's Gospel has Jesus genealogy from the first Jew, Abraham to Jesus, which is also used to prove Jesus' proper genealogy as the promised Messiah to Israel
- What significance does this creature have today?
- What do Revelations 5. 5 & Genesis 49. 49 say about a lion?

The first living creature – Described

- What significance does this creature have today?
- Jesus is who He said He is & the Bible is the Truth
- Jesus is The Son of God & powerful
- What do Revelations 5. 5 & Genesis 49. 9 say about a lion?
- Revelation 5. 5
 - **“Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.”**
- Genesis 49. 9
 - **“Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he couched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up?”**

The second living creature – Described → Ox

- He has the face of an ox
- The ox is the greatest of the domesticated animals
- The emphasis is on servitude
- Mark's Gospel has more miracles than any other gospels, again to emphasize Jesus as the great servant
- There is no genealogy in Mark's Gospel because the genealogy of a servant is irrelevant

The third living creature – Described → Face of a Human

- **Luke's Gospel emphasizes Jesus "humanity"**
- **Luke emphasized how Jesus felt far more than the other three Gospels**
- **Luke's genealogy started with the first human Adam, and worked to Jesus**
- **Jesus is "fully God and fully man" and is the greatest of all humans**

The fourth living creature – Described → Eagle

- The eagle is the greatest of all flying Creatures
- When we pray, we look up to heaven
- The eagle is the greatest of all creatures flying in the heavens
- John's Gospel emphasized Jesus as God
- It has a genealogy, but it is more subtle
- The idea of "In the beginning was the word and the word was with God and the word was God" is John's genealogy of Jesus

The first living creature – Described

- The visual picture of
- the king of the beasts – **lion**
- The greatest servant – **ox**
- The greatest creature - **man**
- The symbolism of God himself - **eagle**
- **The four faces of Jesus**

9. What in these creatures shows that they see all?

- “with eyes all around” vs 8

10. *What were the creatures saying?*

**“Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.”**

➤ **Praises God for His HOLINESS**

➤ **Isaiah 6. 3**

➤ **“And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy,
is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.**

➤ **What is holy is set apart - different**

10. *What were the creatures saying?*

**“‘Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.’”**

➤ **Praises God for His OMNIPOTENCE**

➤ **God is almighty**

➤ **Revelation was written to people that understood Roman rule**

➤ **Always under the threat of others' power**

➤ **God has assured that the victory has already been won**

➤ **We are safe in life and in death**

10. *What were the creatures saying?*

**“‘Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.’”**

➤ **Praises God for His EVERLASTINGNESS**

➤ **Everything else is temporary – it will fade**

➤ **God is forever**

➤ **God will endure thru everything - forever**

The 3 Living Creatures

- "God is in charge of everything
- The most holy name of God in the O T is "Je-hov-ah"
- It literally means "the becoming one"
- An expanded meaning of Jehovah is the God who always was - always is and always will be → to come
- **These creatures are praising God's name and attributes**

11. What did the 24 elders do when the creatures gave glory to God?

“⁹ Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

¹¹ “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by Your will they were created and have their being.”

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- **Throwing their crowns before the throne of God →**
- **It was a sign of complete and total submission**
- **God conquers the souls of men and women**

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- This is a doxology – Praises God
- God is LORD and GOD
- The Roman emperor claimed that he was lord and god
- Christians refused to acknowledge this → persecuted/killed
- God is the CREATOR
- It is only thru God’s work – will & purpose that things and us exist
- Man doesnot have the ability or power to create – we can destroy
- We are not God’s equal

Wrap-Up

- To give glory to God is to reflect love back to God
- To be living witnesses of God's love for us
- To be grateful for our redemption
- To give God the credit for the victories in our lives
- To cast our crowns before God's throne
- Singing praises to God is a form of worship
- Praying is a form of worship
- Reading God's word and thinking about it is a form of worship
- We need to carve time out of our life to show gratitude to God
- God still expects us to be productive members of society
- God still wants us to be witnesses to the world
- We can't be a witness to the world if we are not "in" it
- If you don't enjoy worshipping God now - you'll be bored in heaven