

# The Revelation

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Rev. 4:1-6a

Vss. 1-3

- John sees a door, an opening between Heaven and earth, and from beyond the door, a voice, a call, an invitation to come and see.
  - This is the third door we have seen. In 3:8 we saw the door of opportunity. In 3:20 we saw the door of the human heart. Here now is the door of revelation.
- John is transported through the door into Heaven by the Holy Spirit and he sees the Great Throne and the One who sits on it.
- The One sitting on the throne looked like a “jasper stone”. Rev. 21:11 says that a jasper stone is crystal clear, so perhaps this is what we would call a diamond. The One is also said to look like a “sardius” which is a blood-red stone found near the central Turkish town of Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6). So, the One has the appearance of a blood-red diamond.
- And all of this was surrounded by an emerald rainbow. Clear purity, the blood of the Lamb, and the green of Life – this is the Great Throne and the One who sits on it.

Vs. 4

- 24 elders on thrones: a) they continually worship and praise God (5:11,14; 7:11; 11:16; 14:3; 19:4) b) they bring our prayers to God (5:8) c) one comforts John when he is sad (5:5) d) one acts as an interpreter of the visions John is seeing (7:13-17)
- Isaiah 24:23
- Why 24? In 1 Chron. 24 we find that a) the priests in the Great Temple were divided into 24 teams for service (they brought the prayers of the people before God) b) the Levites were also divided into 24 teams (those who would lead praise). Another idea is that there were 12 Tribes

of Israel and 12 Apostles, so 24 altogether and Rev. 21:10-14 tells us that the foundation stones of the New Jerusalem will have the names of the 12 Patriarchs and the 12 Apostles inscribed on them. Whatever the answer may be, the 24 Elders represent the whole of the Church – Jews and Gentiles.

- Crowns – Rev. 2:10

Vs. 5

- Lightning and thunder are associated with God's presence in Exodus 19:16 and Ezekiel 1:13.
- Seven lamps: we met the seven lamps in 1:4 and 3:1 and saw they represent the seven gifts of the Spirit (Isaiah 11:1-2)

Vs. 6a

- Something LIKE a sea of glass or crystal. There's no real Old Testament equivalent, so this is certainly something he saw. Gen. 1:7 does speak of the waters ABOVE the firmament and Ps. 148:4 speaks of the waters above the heavens and the beams of His upper chambers being laid in the waters, but nothing quite like a sea of crystal.