

Revelation 4:1-5 God's Throne Restored

PROMISE TO THE LAODICEAN ECCLESIA

Each of the 7 ecclesias are given visions of the Kingdom in **Rev 2-3**. These promises are expounded in **Rev 4-22**. **Revelation 4** is the vision of the Kingdom promised to Laodicea. Because it follows directly from **3:14-22** it is easy to notice the similarities.

Common themes between Laodicea and Revelation 4:

"sit with me in my throne" **3:21** "throne" **4:2,4,5,6,10**
"white raiment" **3:17-18** "clothed in white raiment" **4:4**
"buy gold tried in the fire" **3:18** "crowns of gold" **4:4**
"eyes... eye salve ... see" **3:18** "full of eyes" **4:6,8**

YAHWEH'S THRONE ESTABLISHED IN ZION

Rev 4:8 is a direct quotation from the vision in **Isaiah 6:2-3**. Jesus Christ confirms this is the Kingdom of God when he explains the context of **Isaiah 6** in **John 12:37-41**. Jesus said, "so that the word spoken by the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled... Isaiah said these things because he saw his glory and spoke of him."

Here again is revealed the dominant theme of Revelation, the revealing of Jesus Christ and the Saints in glory. Consider some important clues which identify what this vision is about:

Firstly, there is a throne and a person sitting on it. It must therefore be to do with a Kingdom. There are also 7 lamps with the spirit of God present (v2). So this is a Divine kingdom and a Divine throne. Lightnings and thunderings (v5) show that this kingdom has been set up by warfare. There are also 24 orders of elders (v4). David had 24 orders of priests and 24 orders of Levitical singers in the temple. This throne must be linked with David in some way. In v6-7 we have 4 living creatures in the midst of the throne. These are just like the cherubim about the throne. These are associated with Israel and their encampment. The vision must therefore be linked to the ancient kingdom of Israel established in the wilderness. It must be the fulfilment of Old Testament scriptures. In **Revelation 5:8-10** we read that the 4 living creatures and 24 elders are falling down before the lamb and praising Jesus Christ. These are reigning on the earth as kings and priests. This is David's throne established in Zion.

VISION OF CHRIST AND THE SAINTS IN GLORY

v1 After this I looked: Literally after these things. **Door opened:** Entrance into the Kingdom. See notes on **Rev 3:8,20**. Christ is knocking on the door of our ecclesias: **Song 5:2**. He describes himself as the door in **Jn 10:1,2,7,9**. The heavenly bridegroom is **Heaven:** The political heavens, in this case a future world government. This is only the second time we read of heaven in Revelation. The first is in **3:12** in reference to the New Jerusalem of **21:1-3**, the bride of Christ. This is the "new heavens and new earth" of **Isa 65:17-18**, clearly describing the kingdom of God. Consider **Isa 1:2,10** "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: Hear the word of the LORD, ye rulers of Sodom; give ear unto the law of our God, ye people of Gomorrah." See also **Isa 14:4,12; 34:4-10**. In **Rev 6:1; 12:1,7** the heavens are clearly not literal as the symbology relates to political heavens of the time. Also **Rev 14:17; 19:11,14; 20;11**.

AFTER this I looked, and, behold, 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 shew thee things which must be hereafter."
2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

A throne: The restored throne of David: **2 Sam 7:12-16, Amos 9:11; Zech 12:8; Lk 1:32; Acts 2:30; 15:16**. David's throne had been thrown down: **Psa 89:44; Ezek 21:25-27**. It is a throne of judgment: **Psa 122:5; Ezek 1:26; Dan 7:9**. **Key verse: Jer 3:17** "At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of Yahweh; and all nations shall be gathered unto it." **One sat on the throne:** Yahweh's throne: **Rev 7:10,15; 19:4; 22:1,3**. Represented here by God's son: **Phil 2:9-11; Rev 5:6**. The saints also occupy the throne: **3:21**.

v3 Jasper: A clear blue stone representing Christ's heavenly calling. This stone is used in **Rev 21:11** to symbolise the bride of Christ shining like crystal. Her light is like a stone most precious. The wall of the city is Jasper: **Rev 21:18**. The foundation is a Jasper: **Rev 21:19**. Blue is a divine colour: **Num 15:38; Ex 26:36**.

Sardine stone: A reddish colour, symbolising flesh. In the Hebrew, "sardine" and "Adam" have the same consonants and therefore identical appearance. These 2 stones are in the high priest's breast plate: **Ex 28:17-20**. Sardius is the first stone and Jasper is the last stone. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and the Omega: **Rev 1:8**. He partook of human nature, to become our high priest **Heb 2:14; 4:15**.

Jesus Christ is the stone cut out without hands: **Dan 2:34; 8:25; 11:45**. He has God as his Father: **Isa 11:1; 59:16; Lk 1:35**. God is often described as a Rock: **Deut 32:3-4,18; Psa 18:2,31,46; 94:22**. Also as a Stone: **Gen 49:24; Isa 8:14**. In Hebrew, the word for stone means to build and is used of building families. In **Gen 16:2** it is translated "obtain children". Jesus Christ is the head of a family.

Paul saw a vision of the third heaven, beyond the millennium: **2 Cor 12:2**. A direct quote from **Hag 2:6** in **Heb 12:26** refers to heavens as the ruling powers. **Joel 2:31-32** is directly quoted in **Acts 2:19-21** in reference to the impending judgments of AD70 on the Jewish state. See also **Isa 13:9-11; Mt 24:29-31**.

Trumpet: Firstly at the resurrection, then Israel's salvation: **Isa 27:12-13; Zech 9:13-14; 1 Cor 15:52; 1 Thess 4:16**. The first trumpet voice heralded the "things which are." This second trumpet heralds the future. **Hereafter:** After the time of the 7 ecclesias. See notes on **1:19**. **Rev 2-3** are "the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are" (at time of writing).

v2 In the spirit: A vision of the Kingdom as in **1:10**. Divinely inspired: **2 Pet 1:21**.



He is the chief cornerstone: **Psa 118:22; Isa 28:16; Mt 21:42; Acts 4:11; Rom 9:32-33; Eph 2:20; 1 Pet 2:7-8**. Men polish stones. Like a stone, Jesus was not especially noted for outward beauty: **Isa 53:2**. But inside, he is full of character: **Heb 1:3**. The altar was made of unhewn stone. Consider **Mk 14:57-58** "without hands"; **2 Cor 5:1; Col 2:11; Heb 9:11,24** "not made with hands". Jesus Christ is unique: **Isa 41:28; 63:5; Rev 22:16**.

Rainbow round about the throne: Only 4x in Scripture: **Gen 9:13-16; Ezek 1:28; Rev 4:3; Rev 10:1**. One at the beginning and end of the Bible. To have a rainbow, the sun must be shining and rain falling. The rainbow cannot appear until the Sun of Righteousness is enthroned "in the heavens" and when light and glory radiates from him. **Ezek 1:28** is important, given the many similarities with **Rev 4**. See notes on **Rev 1:7**.

Emerald: Green, symbolising immortality and eternal life. This was on the High Priest's breastplate: **Ex 28:18**. It represented the tribe of Reuben, meaning "See a Son" **Gen 29:32** (mgn). This is Christ. **Rev 21:19** aligns the emerald with Asher, now the fourth stone, meaning blessed: **Gen 30:13**. If we are willing to see God's Son, we will receive the blessing: **Jn 12:20-21**. If you take red (the sardine colour) out of the 7 colours, you have a blue, yellow and green rainbow. The appearance is green!

v4 I saw 24 elders sitting: Symbolic of a royal priesthood, as in **Rev 5:8-10; 14:3; 19:4-8**. David divided priests and Levites into a series of 24 orders: **1 Chron 24:4,18; 25:1,31**. They served others and played music. This is typical of the future. **Clothed in white raiment:** See notes on **1:13; 3:4,18**. **Crowns of gold:** Gk. *stephanos*, a victory crown. See notes on **2:10**.

v5 Lightnings and thunderings: Judgment on the nations: **Psa 18:10-15; 144:5-7; Zech 9:12-15**. From clouds, the saints: **Lk 17:24; Rev 1:7; 11:19; 16:18**. In **Rev 10:3** the Rainbowed Angel cries and "7 thunders uttered their voices." **Voices:** There are 7 thunder voices in **Psalms 29** which may represent 7 campaigns following the type of David conquering the land. Thunder and voices are interchangeable terms in Hebrew. **Seven lamps of fire:** We must shine as lights: **Phil 2:15-16**. Ecclesias are lampstands. See notes on **Rev 1:12**. **Seven Spirits of God:** The perfect character of Christ. See notes on **Rev 1:4**.

Colour code: Blue (God and Jesus Christ); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation). Prepared for Rathmines Bible School Teenagers.