

Revelation 4 is a chapter describing YAHWEH and HIS entire organization, both in the heavens and on earth.

Verse 1

"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."

The door being opened in heaven is a symbol that something is about to be revealed or made known to YAHWEH'S people.

The first thing that is heard is a voice likened to a trumpet. Throughout history the trumpet has been used to alert people, to attract their attention. The call of a trumpet allows you to know that something is about to be announced. Possibly someones arrival or instructions that are to be given.

This trumpet signifies a message. And as the end of the verse brings out, this message pertains to the future. That which is hereafter.

Now the voice or the one who is giving this message to John, is Yahshua. Also in Revelation 1:10-13 it is recorded that John hears a great voice as of a trumpet and it goes on to bring out that John turns to see where the voice is coming from. And it is Yahshua that he sees.

Also, we can look to Revelation 5 where it describes a scroll which is sealed with seven seals, this is YAHWEH'S word. And the seven seals indicate that it is completely sealed. The number seven indicates heavenly completeness. It is completely hidden or sealed. And no one can understand these hidden truths until the one who sealed it, which is YAHWEH, gives the authority to remove the seals. And then, the only ones who will understand this message, are those who meet with YAHWEH'S approval.

We see in verse 5 of Revelation 5 that it is the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David that is found is-found worthy to open the seals and to gain the knowledge of YAHWEH'S purpose for mankind. This is Yahshua. And in verse 9 it says...

"and they sang a new song saying, Worthy art thou to take the scroll and to open its seals, for thou wast slain and by thy blood didst ransom men for God from every tribe and tongue and people and nation."

So it's through Yahshua that mankind receives YAHWEH'S truth.

Verse 2

" And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne."

John being in the spirit means that he is receiving a vision. And this vision is concerning the heavens. The throne that John sees, is the throne of YAHWEH. And YAHWEH is seated upon HIS throne.

Verse 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."

The jasper and the sardine are both jems, precious stones. And they're used here to describe how precious YAHWEH is. More precious than our minds can ever imagine.

The rainbow mentioned here represents a covenant or promise. The rainbow was placed in the sky after the flood occurred, during the time of Noah. It was a sign of YAHWEH'S promise that the earth would never be destroyed by flood again.

Genesis 9:12-13 Revised Standard

"And God said, "This is the sign of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: I set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth."

Now we read in Jeremiah 31:31-34, concerning a new covenant.

"Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbor and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquities, and I will remember their sin no more."

When YAHWEH dealt with the Israel of old, they were under a written law, a perfect law. But because they were imperfect, they could not keep to the law. This like many other happenings with the Israel of old, was used as an example of what obedience and disobedience brings about.

The new covenant, which the rainbow in verse 3 refers to, stems from Yahshua. When Yahshua sacrificed his perfect human life, he purchased mankind from the death sentence which was brought about through the sin of Adam. Mankind is no longer under the written law, but we are under the law of mercy or grace.

YAHWEH makes this covenant with the Israel of Promise, and it will bring everlasting blessings to all of obedient mankind. We can now obtain eternal life. Our sins or transgressions are forgiven. And Yahshua, along with the New Jerusalem will guide mankind back to a perfect condition. And all of mankind who desire to do what is right and to obey YAHWEH, they will be granted everlasting life.

At the end of verse 3 it says that the appearance of the rainbow was like an emerald. This is also a precious stone, showing the preciousness of this promise.

Verse 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."

This verse is speaking of the two ruling portions of YAHWEH'S Kingdom. The heavenly portion and the earthly portion.

The number 24 is used here to picture YAHWEH'S ruling organization. 24 is 2 times 12. And the number 12 is associated with the 12 tribes of Israel. When YAHWEH dealt with the Israel under the law, they were made up of 12 tribes. This was the typical nation of Israel.

In Revelation 7, the 144,000 are symbolically referred to as being taken from the 12 tribes of Israel.

And also in Matthew 19:28, Yahshua is speaking to members of the heavenly class when he tells them that they would sit on thrones and judge the 12 tribes of Israel. They would sit as kings and priests and reign with Yahshua. Together, Yahshua and the 144,000 make up Zion. YAHWEH'S capital ruling organization in the heavens. They will rule over the earthly portion of the Kingdom. Or the other 12 tribes. This would be the Israel of Promise on the earth. And they are the Prophets, who are in contact with the heavens, and earthly Israel, who will see that YAHWEH'S will is carried out on the earth. So the earthly portion of the Kingdom takes instructions from the heavens. But earthly Israel is not in the heavens. Their position is that of rulers on earth.

The thrones and the crowns of gold, are pictures of the authority or the rulership which Israel has been given.

And it says that they are clothed in white raiment, this indicates that they have been cleansed or purified. It pictures righteousness. And all of YAHWEH'S servants are devoted to doing what is just and right.

Verse 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."

The lightnings, thunderings and the voices all stem from the throne or from YAHWEH. The lightning symbolizes that something is going to be made clear. Lightning is very bright, it enables you to see. And with seeing comes understanding. And what's being made clear is the truth. This is symbolized by the voices. This is Israel, who are used to preach the message of the Kingdom throughout the earth. They will make YAHWEH'S purpose known to all of mankind. Israel will expose the corruption and all the evil that exists in this system.

This preaching work is mentioned in Matt. 24:14,

"And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

And also Revelation 11 brings out that we will preach for 1260 days.

Now just as man cannot control the lightning and thunder. He will also have no control over the spreading of this message. YAHWEH'S purpose will go forward.

The end of verse 5 says...

" and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven spirits of God."

The lamps of fire are also used as a symbol for the truth. Fire produces light and with light you're able to see or understand.

The number 7 is a number denoting heavenly completeness. The seven spirits of God are indicating the complete understanding and wisdom which stems from the heavens. When YAHWEH starts pouring HIS spirit upon mankind, those with a righteous heart will respond to it in a favorable way.

Verse 6

"And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind."

This sea of glass is before the throne meaning that it is seen by the heavens.

The sea represents the masses of humanity. And at the present time this system is not like a sea of glass, which would be very smooth, having no waves or tossing motion. But rather this system is like a churning sea as brought out in Isaiah 57:20...

"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt."

This is the condition of the world today. There are major catastrophes everyday. The people are not at ease or at peace. They're troubled and oppressed.

With the establishment of YAHWEH'S Kingdom here on the earth, these conditions will no longer exist. And this is when the masses of humanity are pictured as a sea of glass like unto crystal. Crystal is clear or transparent. And this is showing that there will be no disturbances or worries.

Isaiah 14:7 mentions this, "The whole earth is at rest, and quite; they break forth into singing." This is the result of YAHWEH ruling HIS people.

To continue in verse 6 in the Revised Standard Translation it says...

"And round about the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind."

The Revised says, four living creatures, not beasts, as brought out in the Authorized translation. And this would be correct. Because it's YAHWEH'S attributes which are going to be described here. And the term beast usually represents a creature without reason or intelligence. So as I read, I'm going to say four living creatures instead of beast.

They are in the midst of the throne, they stem from YAHWEH. Anything that YAHWEH does, HE employs these attributes.

Being full of eyes before and behind shows the wisdom which these creatures possess. Nothing is hidden from them, they are full of YAHWEH'S wisdom.

Verse 7 goes on to describe in symbols, the appearance of YAHWEH'S four attributes.

Revised Standard Translation

"The first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like a flying eagle."

The first living creature mentioned is the lion. The lion is used as a symbol for justice. It is known as the king of beast. A king is one who employs justice. He uses his authority to see that everyone is treated fairly and equally.

Now in this system, man is corrupt, and he has no form of true justice. The system of justice that is employed, is often swayed and bent by the wealthy or by those who are in positions of authority.

But with YAHWEH, true justice is employed with all that HE does.

The second living creature is an ox. The Authorized uses the word calf which is incorrect because the attribute that is being described here is the almighty power of YAHWEH.

Throughout the ages the ox has been known as a very powerful animal. A beast of burden, it is used in farming, to plow fields and to pull heavy loads. So it's used here to picture the attribute of power.

The third living creature has the face of a man. Out of all the creatures that YAHWEH has created, man is the only one who has the ability to show love. To be unselfish and sympathetic. Able to understand and share the emotions of another person. So this creature having the face of a man pictures the attribute of love.

And the last attribute to be described is wisdom. And YAHWEH uses a flying eagle to picture it. The eagle is known for it's excellent vision. You're probably familiar with wildlife films showing an eagle circling far above a field and all of a sudden it will swoop down and capture a small rodent that it spotted from a great distance away. With this great ability to see, comes understanding, to understand is to have knowledge. And with knowledge comes wisdom.

Love, justice, wisdom, and power are YAHWEH'S attributes. HE uses these attributes in everything that HE does. They are employed to establish the Kingdom, to destroy all wickedness, and to guide mankind throughout eternity. These attributes work in complete harmony together. And these attributes are instilled in each of us also. Although we don't always use them properly at this time. When the Kingdom is fully established and mankind has reached the condition of perfection, we will use these attributes in complete harmony to bring honor and glory to YAHWEH.

Verse 8

(living creatures)

"And the four beast had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: And they rest not day and night, saying, Holy holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

The living creatures having six wings is a symbol pertaining to the third heavens. This is the highest realm of authority in the heavens. It is symbolically where YAHWEH dwells. In Isaiah 6:2 Isaiah is given a vision where he sees YAHWEH on HIS throne and he also sees creatures called seraphims, there and they have six wings or three pairs of wings.

YAHWEH is in authority above all creation. There is nothing or no one who is greater or mighty than YAHWEH. So HE is pictured as being in the third heavens. Beneath HIM is Zion, YAHWEH'S capital ruling organization which again is made up of Yahshua, the King of Israel and the 144,000 kings and priests. This would be the second heavens.

And the first heavens or the next level of authority is that of the angels. They are YAHWEH'S messengers. They are in direct contact with the Prophets on earth. Bringing them the instructions from the heavens.

This is YAHWEH'S chain of command. The four living creatures being in the third heavens shows that they stem from YAHWEH. They are pictured as being full of eyes showing that they are full of YAHWEH'S wisdom.

The verse goes on to say that they rest not day or night, but that they praise YAHWEH constantly, showing that they are in complete harmony with HIM and HIS purpose.

YAHWEH is the Almighty Creator, HE is from everlasting to everlasting and all that YAHWEH does is completely just and holy.

Verses 9-11

"And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

- The 24 elders, as brought out in verse 4 are referring to both the heavenly and earthly ruling portion of YAHWEH'S Kingdom. Falling down before the throne or before YAHWEH is showing that they are in complete harmony and agreement with all that YAHWEH does. There is no doubt or questions. They are devoted to HIM entirely. They realize that everything that exists would not be, if not for YAHWEH. HE is the Creator. All blessings and life come from YAHWEH. And all glory and honor should go to HIM, and in the near future this will be the case.

And again as brought out in Isaiah 31:33-34 which say that YAHWEH will write HIS law in our hearts, and that HE will be our God and we will be HIS people, and it goes on to say that all will know YAHWEH from the least of them to the greatest of them. And also in Isaiah 11:9 brings out that the entire earth shall be full of the knowledge of YAHWEH as the waters cover the sea.

YAHWEH will no longer be the unknown God.