

# AN OVERVIEW OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## Chapters 4-5

### Keys In Chapter Four:

1. A dramatic change in perspective from an earthly to a heavenly one is brought about from beleaguered, small congregations, we now see the power available to the churches. **(4:1)**.
2. God's Throne Room, the place of true power and authority—God reigns **(4:2; cf. I Cor. 15:24-28; Dan. 5:21)**!
3. Jasper and sardius are most likely quartz and carnelian which were the last and first stones in the high priest's breastplate (these stones are translated by different words in different translations). The earthly religious expressions of the Jews were patterned after heavenly things **(4:3; Heb. 8:4-5; cf. Ezek. 1:4-28)**.
4. The twenty-four elders (4:10; 5:6; 8:14) may represent the idea of religious completeness expressed in twelve tribes plus twelve Apostles (cf. Rev. 21:12-14; I Chron. 24:4-5; 25:9-13). The thought being that the things of heaven represent the perfect standard to which all earthly things must aspire **(4:4)**.
5. Lightning and thunder are associated with the heavenly temple imagery and with various important events (Rev. 8:5; 11:19; 16:18). They convey the idea of power and might. The seven Spirits of God are thought by most to represent the Holy Spirit **(4:5)**.
6. The sea of glass comes to be associated with God acting to bring salvation or victory, the Red Sea imagery given its heavenly perfection. God's people can come across in victory, but no one else may pass **(4:6; Rev. 15:2-3; cf. Ezek. 1:22, 26)**.
7. The four living creatures are like those in Ezekiel 1:5-14 who have brought God's throne to earth in a war chariot to battle the foes of His people. The Most Holy Place has God enthroned above the cherubim, Ezekiel calls the four-faced beings of his vision by that name (10:1-15), and they bear striking resemblance to the seraphim of Isaiah 6:2 **(4:6b-8)**.
8. Their faces are generally considered to represent the courage and fierceness of a lion (Ps. 103:20), the dependability and service of an Ox (Heb. 1:14), the swiftness of an eagle (Dan. 9:21), and the intelligence of a man (Lk. 15:10).
9. The throne room of God is a place where it is easy to see that God is in control and that He has no true rivals **(4:9-11)**.
10. Domitian Caesar was addressed with the words "Worthy are you our lord and our god," but he was not worthy, or Lord, or God.
11. Of all the host of heaven, only God can be truly acknowledged as "worthy."

### Keys In Chapter Five:

1. There is a seven-sealed-scroll written on front and back (indicating a very important message), that no one in all creation was found worthy to open (**5:1-3**).
2. The message was one the churches needed to hear, but the inability to open it only brought sadness (**5:4**).
3. The Lion who was a Lamb had overcome as a man (representing the creation He could undo the consequences that the creation had placed on itself by sinning) and could open the scroll (**5:5-7**).
4. Jesus was the Lion from the tribe of Judah who became the Lamb of God. (Gen. 49:10; Jn. 1:29).
5. Worthy is the Lamb (**5:8-14**)!
6. The Lamb: was slain, did purchase for God with His blood men from all the earth, and made those purchased into a kingdom of priests.
7. What was true of the Father as being worthy over all the creation was also true of the Lamb.
8. The sealed scroll can now be opened!