

# **Revelation**

The Throne,  
the Scroll,  
the First Six Seals,  
and the White Robes

# Revelation 4

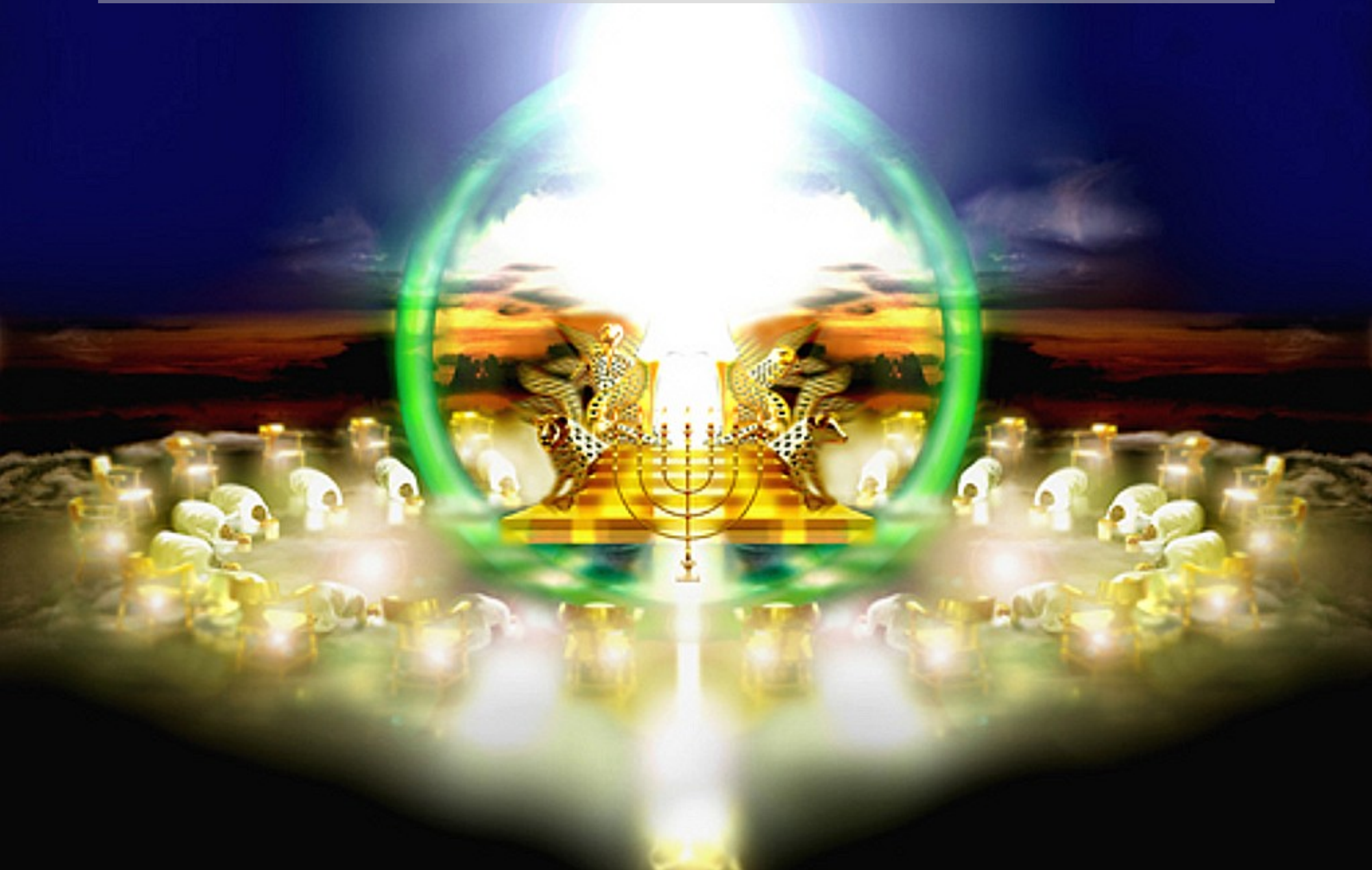
Setting the stage:

# Revelation 4

Setting the stage:

*Rev 4:2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.*

# Revelation 4: The Throne



# Revelation 4

## Old Testament Priests:

- *Heb 8:5 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."*

# Revelation 4

Heavenly throne room, and the Tabernacle

- Lampstand (Rev 4:5)
  - Ex 25:31, Ex 37:17
- Water (Rev 4:6)
  - Ex 38:8
- Altar for sacrifice (Rev 6:9)
  - Ex 27:1

# Revelation 4

Heavenly throne room, and the Tabernacle

- Altar for incense (Rev 8:3)
  - Ex 30:1
- Ark of the covenant (Rev 11:19)
  - Ex 25:21

# Revelation 5

The apocalyptic story begins!

- *Rev 5:1 Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals...*



# Revelation 5: The Scroll and the Lamb



# Revelation 5

## The scroll with seven seals

- Seven seals
  - Message of ultimate importance
  - Only highest authority could open it
  - Who was worthy?

# Revelation 5

Who could open the seals?

- Lion of the tribe of Judah
- Root of David
- Lamb who had been slain
- Seven horns = seven spirits of God
  - possessed Spirit without limit - John 3:34

Obviously, Jesus Christ the Son of God!

# Revelation 5

## Time frame clues

- Jesus had already been crucified
- Jesus had already been raised from the dead
- Jesus had already made the saints to be a Kingdom of priests
- Kingdom already in operation
- People already in it!

# Revelation 6: First Four Seals

The opening of the seals begins!

- *Rev 6:1 I watched as the Lamb opened the first of the seven seals. Then I heard one of the four living creatures say in a voice like thunder, "Come!"*

# Revelation 6: First Four Seals

Four horsemen:

- A white horse!
- A red horse!
- A black horse!
- A pale horse!

# Revelation 6: The Four Horsemen?



# Revelation 6: The Four Horsemen?





# Revelation 6: The Four Horsemen?



# Revelation 6: First Four Seals

## The Four Horsemen

- Not Notre Dame football players!
- Not characters in World of Warcraft!
- Not Wyatt Earp and his gang!
- But who were they?

# Revelation 6: The Four Horsemen



# Revelation 6: First Four Seals

## The Four Horsemen: the facts

- Sent out from the throne room of God
- Commanded by an angel of God
- Agents of God
- Given power to bring mayhem

# Revelation 6: First Four Seals

- White horse - bow
  - To conquer
- Red horse - sword
  - To bring conflict and war
- Black horse – scales, high prices
  - To bring economic hardship
- Pale horse – Death and Hades
  - Kill by sword, famine, plague, beasts

# Revelation 6: First Four Seals

Message of the Four Horsemen:

- Four aspects of God's judgment
- A day of reckoning
  - for the enemies of God!
  - for the enemies of the church!

# Revelation 6: First Four Seals

Message of the Four Horsemen:

- God was about to act
- Bringing judgment on the enemy
  - Roman Empire!

# Revelation 6: Fifth Seal

Opening the fifth seal:

- *Rev 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained.*



# Revelation 6: Fifth Seal

Who were these souls?

- Slain because of their testimony
- Time frame: Some Christians had already been martyred
  - Under Nero AD 60's
  - Under Domitian AD 90's
  - Revelation written around AD 95
  - There would be more to come...

# Revelation 6: Fifth Seal

Avenge our blood...”How long?”

- “Wait a little longer”
- More would be martyred first
  - Trajan (AD 108-111) (letter from Pliny)
  - Marcus Arelius Antoninus (AD 162)
  - Severus, Maximus, Decius, Valerian, Aurelian... (see Fox's Book of Martyrs)

# Revelation 6: Sixth Seal

Rev 6:12-17

Uses familiar Old Testament images of judgment

- People flee to caves in rocks
  - Isa 2:19-21 Judgment on Judah, Jerusalem
- Stars, sun and moon darkened
  - Isa 13:9-10 Judgment on Babylon
- Sky rolled up like a scroll
  - Isa 34:4 Judgment on Edom

# Revelation 6: Sixth Seal

Uses familiar Old Testament images of judgment

- Mountains and hills “fall on us!”
  - Hosea 10:8 Judgment on Samaria
- Sun darkened, moon turned to blood
  - Joel 2:30-31 Fulfilled at the time of the cross, Acts 2:16

# Revelation 6: Sixth Seal

Uses familiar Old Testament images of judgment

- These OT events were not literal but figurative
- Similarly for Revelation's sixth seal
- A vivid picture of the severity of the coming judgment!

# Revelation 7: Seal the Servants of God

Pause before the seventh seal

- First must seal the servants of God
- Protect them from the judgment to come
- Rome would be destroyed
- Church would endure forever!

# Revelation 7: Seal the Servants of God

144,000 to be sealed

- Those who were currently on the earth
  - Where judgment was coming to Rome
  - The church would endure forever!

# Revelation 7: Seal the Servants of God

144,000 to be sealed

- 12,000 from each tribe of Israel
  - The church is the spiritual Israel
    - Rom 2:28-29, Gal 3:29, Gal 6:16 etc
  - 12 → completeness
  - 12 x 12000
    - Ultimate completeness!
    - Not missing even one!
- The church would be completely protected



# Revelation 7: The Multitude in White Robes

Glimpse of heaven

- Multitude in white robes
  - Where the martyrs had been
    - And were given white robes
  - Worshipping God
  - Came out of great tribulation
  - No more hunger, thirst.. wipe tears...
- Great comfort and hope!
  - A reason to be faithful unto death!

# Revelation: Still to come

Still to come:

- 7th seal
- 7 trumpets
- 7 bowls of wrath
- 2 witnesses
- A dragon
- Two beasts
- The prostitute
- Armageddon
- The fall of Babylon
- The thousand years
- Rider on a white horse
- Armies of heaven
- Final Victory!