

THE SCENE IN HEAVEN, PART 1  
(Revelation 4:1-4)

- I. Heard the CALL to “COME UP HERE” (Rev. 4:1)
  - A. Occurred “AFTER these things” (cf. Dan. 2:29, 45)
    - 1. STARTS and ENDS this verse for EMPHASIS
    - 2. Implies events to be described are FUTURE
  - B. Saw a DOOR OPENED in HEAVEN
  - C. Heard the VOICE he had heard before, like a TRUMPET (cf. 1:10)
    - 1. Called him to COME UP
    - 2. Promised to REVEAL events which MUST occur NEXT
      - a. Possibly after time of historical ASIAN churches
      - b. Probably after the CLOSE of the CHURCH AGE
    - 3. May symbolize the RAPTURE of the CHURCH
- II. Saw a THRONE Standing in HEAVEN (Rev. 4:2-3; cf. Dan. 7:9-10)
  - A. Occupied by GOD THE FATHER
  - B. Described in terms of COLORED GEM STONES
    - 1. DIAMOND-clear and RUBY-red
    - 2. Possibly representing PURITY and REDEMPTION
    - 3. Possibly presenting Him as the Sovereign King of ISRAEL (cf. Ex. 28:17-21)
      - a. High priest’s breastplate had a stone for each TRIBE
      - b. Coming events on earth will COMPLETE God’s program for ISRAEL and the NATIONS

- C. Surrounded by an EMERALD-colored “RAINBOW” (cf. Gen. 9:13, 14, 16; Ezek. 1:28; Rev. 10:1)
  - 1. A visual REPRESENTATION of God’s GLORY
  - 2. ASSOCIATED with God’s JUDGMENT
  
- III. Saw Twenty-Four other THRONES (Rev. 4:4)
  - A. SURROUNDED the throne of God
  - B. Occupied by twenty-four ELDERS
    - 1. Possibly ANGELIC BEINGS
      - a. Based on association with the OTHERS PRESENT
      - b. Text does not indicate that they are REPRESENTATIVES
      - c. Allowed by alternate reading of 5:10—“THEM” not “US”
    - 2. Possibly the 12 sons of JACOB with the 12 APOSTLES
      - a. Assumes they represent the SAINTS of all TIME
      - b. Presumes the SIGNIFICANCE of the NUMBERS
    - 3. Probably representatives of the CHURCH
      - a. Based on title “ELDERS”
      - b. Based on parallel of Israel’s 24 PRIESTLY orders with the NT doctrine of the PRIESTHOOD of all believers
      - c. Based on evidence of their possession of REWARDS promised to the CHURCH: VICTORS’ CROWNS and WHITE ROBES
      - d. If correct, argues strongly for the RAPTURE and JUDGMENT SEAT having occurred BETWEEN chapters 3 and 4
        - 1) BOTH are important themes in the EPISTLES
        - 2) NEITHER is mentioned in REVELATION 4 - 22