

Insights In Prophecy

Unlock The Ancient Mysteries Of Daniel & Revelation

BIBLE DISCOVERY SERIES

12

LESSON

Lesson 12

BEYOND THE OPENED DOOR: HEAVEN'S SANCTUARY

Read Revelation 4 & 5

- **Probe The Activities Within Heaven's Sanctuary**
- **Examine Who Is Involved In The Judgment**

John the Revelator was taken in vision beyond a door which opened into the Sanctuary. Chapters 4 and 5 describe the heavenly participants in events which John was privileged to experience firsthand. John saw a scroll having seven seals which locked away its top secrets. Only the Lamb was found worthy to unloose the seals. Once the seals were broken, terrifying events began to commence upon earth. The activities of Heaven's Sanctuary affect Planet Earth, and the impact is felt in the visible realm. The end of the age will be marked by profoundly troubling times. There will also be major disturbances and convulsions in the heavenly realms made visible in the skies above and upon the earth, as the transformation towards the



Kingdom of God begins to dawn upon civilization. The breaking of the seals begins the process of reunification between the seen and unseen worlds and is climaxed in the abolishing of evil throughout God's universe. The trumpet and bowl judgments continue this cleansing process until the eternal righteous Kingdom is ushered in and Messiah reigns supreme. Evil will and must cease to exist. Darkness will be banished when the Light of the World rises with healing in His wings.

Daniel's scroll, written five hundred years before the book of Revelation, was sealed by Messiah as noted in Daniel 12:4. Only He who had sealed the book centuries earlier was found worthy to open its contents. In so doing, John saw mirrored images of Daniel; and, in this lesson we will explore these places, persons and events. Only Messiah can choose the men, methods and timing through which His prophetic words will be unsealed in their fullest revelation to the last generation of believers at the time of the end, as He promised long ago in Daniel 12, verses 4 and 9. The book of Revelation is the key to unsealing Daniel, which together paints a detailed layout of end-time events and the appointed times counting periods.

Heaven's Temple & The Father On The Throne

Revelation 4 begins to relay events in Heaven, as John is taken upward in vision to the Temple and to events to unfold at the end of time. John saw a throne set in the Sanctuary, and the One who sat on the throne (Psalms 11:4)—the reigning Father. God looks like brilliant colorful stones of jasper and carnelian (Exodus 28:17-21). A rainbow of peace encircles the throne (Ezekiel 1:25-28). Before the throne is the sea of glass (Revelation 4:6) on which the redeemed of all nations, who have gotten the victory over the Beast, his idol, his mark and number of his name, will one day stand (Revelation 15:2) in triumphant glory.

In Revelation 4:1 the door was opened into a visionary scene, so John could see the proceedings in Heaven, and the prophet hears a loud voice; "And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

1. What three names/titles are shown to be associated with a trumpet or similar loud sound (Daniel 10:6, 21; Revelation 1:13-15; Revelation 10:3, 7)? _____

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In the book of Daniel the Archangel "Michael"—Daniel's Prince, and in Revelation "Son of Man" and the Mighty "Seventh Angel"; all three are identified as having loud voices like thunder, and all three represent Yeshua our Messiah.

2. Compare the following passages (Revelation 4:2-3; Revelation 5:6, 11-12; Daniel 7:9-10, 13-14). How are they similar? _____

All depict a throne room in Heaven—God the Father sitting in power along with Christ who is standing and moving within the Temple ready to open the books of end-time judgment, accompanied by many angels—too many to number.

Twenty-Four Elders

While Daniel refers to most of the participants in the heavenly proceedings, Revelation 4:4, 10 and 5:8-10 introduces twenty-four elders dressed in white with crowns on their heads, sitting on twenty-four thrones surrounding God. They cast their crowns before Almighty in adoration and worship. The King James Version translates their new song of praise in adoration of the Lamb who had "redeemed us... out of every kindred, and tongue, and people and nation."

3. Who might these twenty-four be, and when did they arrive in Heaven (Matthew 27:51-53; Ephesians 4:8)? _____

At Yeshua's ascension, He led a multitude of captives to Heaven, raised to life in a special resurrection. These likely include prophets and leaders from Israel's past, and possibly Gentile converts to faith in the Sovereign LORD. The twenty-four elders are no doubt from this group of redeemed saints.

Some suggest these twenty-four represent the twelve patriarchs of the Old Covenant and the twelve disciples of the New Covenant, gathered from the nations from which they were scattered. On the other hand, they praise God in song because He has redeemed them from among a diverse group ("every tribe, language, people and nation"—K.J.V.), which would indicate a blend of both Jews and Gentiles.



Another less acceptable option is that the book of Revelation often depicts events in advance of their fulfillment as though already completed. In this light, this group of twenty-four may be a selected group from among the "great multitude" of "every nation, tribe, people and language standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb" having been taken out of the great tribulation at the end of time (Revelation 7:9). However, the twenty-four are intimately involved in the courtroom drama that occurs during the appointed time of the end, indicating their positions are current and active.

These twenty-four priestly elders are said to hold "golden bowls full of incense," (Revelation 5:8). As the priest for the people of God, Aaron was instructed to burn incense (Exodus 30:7-8). Psalms 141:2 says prayer is like incense before God, and Revelation 8:3-4 depicts a future moment when the censor of fiery incense along with the prayers of the persecuted will be thrown down to the earth, depicting the end of the judgment when all destinies will be sealed and judgment is to commence. The thrown censor portrays fiery retribution against the wicked in response to the prayers of the persecuted believers. The

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proclamation will be heard, *"Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy"* (Revelation 22:11-12), and Messiah will come quickly without delay to give every person according what they have done with their lives.

Three Portents & The Seventh Angel

Revelation 4:5 reveals the three awesome wonders—the "lightning, rumblings [voices-KJV] and peals of thunder," associated with God, His throne and His Son. We will discover additional Revelation references involving these three warning signs several times in the book.

4. Look up the following verses, and determine who is associated with the loud voice and stormy display of lightning (Revelation 10:1-3, 7; Revelation 11:15, 19; Revelation 16:17-18)? _____

Many times in the ancient Hebrew Scriptures, Messiah was represented as "the Angel of the LORD"; compare Genesis 22:15-18 with Hebrews 6:13. Biblical evidence points to the fact that the Seventh Angel in Revelation represents (or is another name for) Michael of Daniel, and both represent Messiah, the Son of Man.

An angel, in the Hebrew Scriptures מַלְאָךְ, "*malach*" means "messenger". Jews hold that Michael is an archangel and one of the seven angels who surround God's throne. They believe Michael is the "Angel of the Presence" of God (Isaiah 63:9), and He intercedes in Israel's behalf before God. Unknown to our Jewish friends who have held Michael in such high esteem, they have been giving honor to Messiah, the Son of God, all these centuries.

Although a distortion by some religions, Michael is *not* a "created being." Yeshua, the Word, has been with the Father from the beginning (John 1:1-5), and He is our Creator. Just like our first names and business titles, they do not determine *who* we are; they only help describe us and set us apart from others. Jesus is also called a "Lion" and "Lamb" in Revelation 5:5-6, but these titles do not diminish His character, or cause us to believe Jesus is an animal. The use of the name Michael, the Archangel, the Lion and Lamb are employed to illustrate His multifaceted work and to teach His fulfillment of the Hebrew predictions (Daniel 12:1; Genesis 49:8-9; Isaiah 53:7).

Many scholars agree the title "Angel of the LORD" was often employed to represent Christ in the Hebrew Scriptures. Michael means "who is like God?" Why should we be surprised to find the "Seventh Angel" is another of Revelation's descriptive titles that represents the work of God's Son, since seven represents the "perfect" Messenger to mankind? This Messenger to our lost world was intimately and personally involved with the people of Israel, and now in these last days for the sake of all mankind to bring an end to the work of Satan and to offer redemption for all who trust in Him.

The book's return to the use of *Michael* and the *Seventh Angel* in Revelation is Heaven's attempt to show Messiah's identity, especially to Jewish readers who study the book of Revelation. When both disastrous and miraculous events come to pass in these last days, many individuals will dig into the prophecies and look to the Scriptures for understanding. Jews will discover the mysterious Archangel—Michael, whom they have held in high esteem, is none other than Yeshua—the very Messiah they have longed for all these centuries.

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Four Living Creatures

Revelation 4:6-11 depicts four unusual creatures that surround the throne of God. The Word illustrates their cleverness, strength, intelligence and swiftness by using descriptions like lion, ox, man and flying eagle. The prophet Ezekiel also saw these four living creatures (Ezekiel 1:5-24), as did Isaiah (6:2-3). John saw that each have six wings, which is one of their identifying characteristics in the Scriptures. These four creatures also introduce the four colored horses that emerge riding onto the world scene in the last days.

5. What do the prophets call these four other-world creatures (Ezekiel 1:5; 10:1-2; Isaiah 6:2; Revelation 7:1; Zechariah 4:2-5)? _____

Daniel saw the four winds of Heaven (four living creatures) stirring up the four governmental powers of the end of time: Lion With Eagle's Wings, Bear, Leopard and Terrible Beast. The four angels represent Heaven's control over earth's powers (Daniel 2:21).

The Lion, The Lamb & Sealed Scroll

Revelation 5:1-10 explain events in Heaven involving the scroll in the hand of God sealed with seven seals. Whatever contents were within, they represented the mysteries of God. John heard the question asked "who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" Its secret messages must be revealed. Like the scroll in Ezekiel 2:9-10, this scroll also contained "lament and mourning and woe," reflecting the catastrophic earth-shaking content in the book of Revelation. Unsealed messages do not mean the masses will read and heed the warnings; for, we are told, many are blinded because they honor God with their lips, but their hearts are far from Him (Isaiah 29:10-15). Still others do not care what the Word of God offers, although peace and hope in the comforting Savior are found within its ancient pages.



6. What scroll was sealed, having to do with final events of this world and the appointed time of the end (Daniel 12:4)? _____

Michael sealed the book centuries before, now Messiah is to break the seals and reveal the contents to John and to the world from the Book of Truth.

7. When was the scroll to be unsealed, and its contents understood? _____

John the Revelator wrote down the visionary events he witnessed about final troubles in symbolic characters and unusual descriptions around 90 A.D.; however, only at the end of time would his apocalyptic book be better understood. This would be accomplished through the blending of Daniel's predictions with those of Revelation, and Messiah's releasing of its sealed mysteries.

8. Why did John get so upset to the point of weeping (Revelation 5:2-4)? _____

At first it looked as though no one in Heaven or on earth was found worthy to open the scroll, and John wept because he wanted to look inside—to view its contents.

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One of the twenty-four elders spoke up, "do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David (Isaiah 11:10), has triumphed." He was worthy to open the scroll of seven seals. However, John did not see a magnificent Lion emerge in a display of power, but instead a meek Lamb, looking as though it had been slain. Jesus, the martyred sacrifice of God given as a Lamb to the slaughter, was found worthy to step up to the Father sitting on the throne and take the scroll from His right hand, for the Lamb had left His throne of power long ago and in humility arrived to take away the sin of the world (John 1:29).

Revelation 5:6 describes the Lamb as having seven horns and seven eyes (Zechariah 3:9; 4:10), representing the seven spirits of God sent out into the world. Earlier in Revelation 4:5, the seven spirits were portrayed as "seven lamps" blazing with fire. God has been working in the affairs of man since the beginning, but at the end of time there is a special work where God's messengers of His presence become intimately involved in the final appointed time of the end.

According to the Scriptures, the seven spirits described seven lamps to light the world, seven horns of powers and seven watchful eyes of judgment to illustrate the multifaceted role of the seven spirits. The "horns" represent power in prophecy, in the same way the four spirits (Zechariah 6:2-5; or, four winds) of Heaven—known as the four Living Creatures (Revelation 4:6-9), are involved with the seven horns of governmental power of the last days. The "lamps" represent light of knowledge, similar to the work of the "two candlesticks," and "olive trees" (two witnesses—Moses and Elijah: Zechariah 4:14; Revelation 11:3-4), and the "eyes" the work of Christ Himself, the Seventh, who sees all, knows all and judges all mankind.

John saw the four living creatures and twenty-four elders immediately dropped down to their faces before the Lamb in worship. Each one had a harp of musical praise and was holding golden bowls full of incense, which represent the prayers of the persecuted. They sing a new song of praise in adoration of the slain Lamb who is found worthy to open its seals and reveal its content.

Angels: Too Many To Count

Revelation 5:11-12 reveals the angelic host who witness the heavenly proceedings. John saw a retinue of angels, so many he could not begin to count them, who had gathered to play a vital role in the events of judgment and to give praise to the Lamb in the form of a sevenfold doxology.

9. In a loud voice they sang the Lamb was worthy to receive what seven (Revelation 5:12)? _____

See also Revelation 7:11-12.

10. What does John hear next (Revelation 5:13)? _____

Creation sings out in honor to both the Father who sits on the throne and the standing Lamb. All of creation will sing of God's amazing grace and power.

To summarize, John wrote down his visual review of Heaven's participants and the proceedings in the Temple. This adds needed insight into the judgment that Daniel saw long ago, which will begin at the appointed time of the end in response to Satan's grand attempt to sway the whole world under his deceptive control (Daniel 7:9-10). However, the final verdict will declare that Satan (and Antichrist) must lose



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their dominion, which will be consumed in coals of fire and destroyed forever (Daniel 7:26; Psalms 11:6).

The Lamb of God, found worthy because of His humble sacrifice at Calvary, is intimately involved in events both in Heaven and on earth. The next lesson will begin with the breaking of the seven seals, which corresponds to Daniel's predictions given in his first vision in Daniel 7.

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