

*Session 3: The Beauty Realm of God*

**I. OVERVIEW: YOUR FATHER IN HEAVEN AND HIS DWELLING PLACE IN THE NEW JERUSALEM**

- A. When we pray it's important to understand where we appear before God and where our prayers are answered.
- B. *Background:* the apostle John received the message of the book of Revelation around 90AD. He was a prisoner on the island of Patmos, and in his late 80's, early 90's.
- C. Revelation 4 gives us the most detailed description of the Father's person and surroundings in Scripture. Many call this the "beauty realm of God." Jesus escorted John by the Spirit to witness these things—but the truths are here for us in part to change our understanding of prayer.

*<sup>1</sup> After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven...<sup>2</sup> Immediately I was in the Spirit; and **behold, a throne set in heaven** (Rev. 4:1–2)*

- D. Revelation 4 gives us an *interior view* of the Holy of Holies where the Father dwells at the height of the eternal celestial city, the New Jerusalem (Heb. 8:2; 9:11; Rev. 3:12; 7:15; 11:19; 14:15, 17; 15:5, 6, 8; 16:1, 17; 21:2–3).

*<sup>12</sup> **He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God... I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name.** (Rev. 3:12)*

- E. This heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, will one day come down out of heaven and rest upon the earth (Rev. 3:21; 21:2–3). This city is our eternal home. (Gal. 4:26; Phil. 3:20; Heb. 11:10, 16; 12:20).

*<sup>2</sup> Then I, John, saw **the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.** <sup>3</sup> And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "**Behold, the tabernacle of God [The Father] is with men, and He [The Father] will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.** (Rev. 21:2–3)*

*<sup>16</sup> But now they desire a better... heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for **He has prepared a city for them.** (Heb. 11:16)*

**II. THE FATHER'S THRONE ROOM: THE GREATNESS OF HIS BEAUTY (REV. 4)**

- A. Revelation 4:2–7 outlines four categories of God's greatness in His beauty, each with three themes.

*<sup>2</sup> I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne. <sup>3</sup> He who sat there was like a **jasper** and a **sardius** stone in appearance; and there was a **rainbow** around the throne, in appearance like an **emerald.** <sup>4</sup> Around the throne were twenty-four **thrones**... I saw twenty-four **elders** sitting...in white **robes**; and they had **crowns** of gold...<sup>5</sup> From the throne proceeded **lightnings, thunders, and voices.** Seven **lamps** of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. <sup>6</sup> Before the throne there was a **sea of glass, like crystal**...around the throne, were **four living creatures**... (Rev. 4:2-6)*

# THE GLORY OF ENCOUNTERING GOD - THE BEAUTY REALM OF GOD (REV. 4)

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- B. **The beauty of God's Person**: as seen in *sardius*, *jasper* and an *emerald rainbow* (Rev. 4:3). Glorious light emanates from the Father (jasper) as He is seen in a glowing, red hue (sardius), encircling his throne by a rainbow saturated with shades of emerald.
1. *Jasper* speaks of His brilliant, clear and uncreated light shining forth from His very Being (Ps. 50:2; 96:6, 9; 119:96; 1 Tim. 6:16).
  2. *Sardius* speaks of His burning desire and compassion for His people (Deut. 4:24; Zeph. 1:18; Jas. 4:5; Ex. 33:19; Psalm 145:8; Isa. 49:15; Lk. 15:20). His love is a fire that purifies and prepares His people (1 Cor. 3:13–15; Rev. 3:18).
  3. *Emerald* shows that everything He does is motivated by mercy (Ps. 145:8–9; Isa. 55:7; Mic. 7:18; Eph. 2:4–5). It's His mercy that atoned for sin. Under His leadership, the Father will make all things new (Rev. 21:5).
- C. **The beauty of God's Partners**: the Church *enthroned*, *robed*, and *crowned* in the immediate presence of God surrounding His eternal Throne (Rev. 4:4). These are the highest governmental leaders of the redeemed in eternity. It is a testimony of *God's transforming power* to take the weak and broken of humanity and put them in such a significant position to rule creation with Him in *deep partnership* motivated by His beauty, released through faith-filled words of agreement. The fact the elders are enthroned tells us of the Father's astounding humility and kindness to share His power.
- D. **The beauty of God's Power**: *manifestations of power* in *lightning*, *thunder*, and *voices*, including noises, sounds and music coming from His Throne (Rev. 4:5a). These reveal His emotions and thoughts to the saints, beautify the courtroom and charge the atmosphere around Him. At the end of each judgment series: *7 seals* (Rev. 8:5), *7 trumpets* (Rev. 11:19) and *7 bowls* (Rev. 16:17–21), these manifestations of power break out before Him, fill His throne room and are released upon the earth.
- E. **The beauty of God's Presence (fire)**: *on lamps*, *seraphim*, and *the redeemed saints* (Rev. 4:5b-7; 15:2).
1. The lamps speak of the Holy Spirit in his diversity revealing the Father in heaven (Rev. 1:4).
  2. The living creatures are “burning ones,” encircling the Father, gazing upon Him and declaring His beauty.
  3. The sea of glass, mingled with fire, serves as a place of congregation before the Throne where redeemed saints in the glory of their resurrected bodies (Rev. 15:2; Dan. 12:3; Mt. 13:43; Acts 2:3).
- F. In Revelation 4:8–11, we see the governmental leaders of heaven worship God and declare His transcendent beauty (v. 8). They glory or boast with delight in God as they honor and thank Him. *Beauty driven worship!*
- <sup>8</sup>The four living creatures...do not rest day or night, saying: “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” <sup>9</sup>Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne...<sup>10</sup>the twenty-four elders fall down...and worship Him...and cast their crowns before the throne, saying: <sup>11</sup>“You [Father] are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things...” (Rev. 4:8-11)***
1. “Holy” means to be separated from everything sinful.

# ***THE GLORY OF ENCOUNTERING GOD - THE BEAUTY REALM OF GOD (REV. 4)***

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2. “Holy” also means “transcendent,” completely separate from everything created. He is infinitely superior to everything in creation, beyond anything we can comprehend and understand. When seeing His transcendent beauty, the elders are overwhelmed and fall on their faces and the living creatures cover their eyes.

G. *When we pray, we should understand this is this place where we appear.* We come before Him in the Spirit (John 4:21–24; 17:24; Eph. 2:4–6; Heb. 4:16; 10:19–20; 12:22–24). This is our eternal home, where we belong.

***<sup>22</sup> But you have come [in your spirit] to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, <sup>23</sup> to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect, <sup>24</sup> to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant... (Heb. 12:22–24)***

H. Paul spoke of our new heavenly position when ministering to God in His temple (Eph. 2:4–6). Upon salvation God gives us this new heavenly calling (Heb. 3:1).

***<sup>4</sup> But God [the Father]...made us alive together with Christ... <sup>6</sup> and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus (Eph. 2:4–6)***

I. The writer of Hebrews told us to come boldly before the Father in prayer (Heb. 4:16; 10:19–25).

***<sup>16</sup> Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace [the Father's throne], that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (Heb. 4:16)***

***<sup>19</sup> Therefore, brethren, having boldness to enter the Holiest [Throne room of God in Heaven] by the blood of Jesus, <sup>20</sup> by a new and living way which He consecrated for us... (Heb. 10:19–20)***

J. *This scene of Revelation 4 is coming to earth!* The joy, beauty and greatness of the Father and all who He is will one day be with mankind. Jesus gives John *the title to the Father* as “[He] *who is and who was and who is to come*,” revealing His special commitment and future coming to the earth. You will one day be in this throne room before the Father with a resurrected body! (1 Cor. 13:12)

***<sup>4</sup>...peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come. (Rev. 1:4)***

***<sup>3</sup> The tabernacle of God is with men, and He [the Father] will dwell with them [on the earth]. (Rev. 21:3)***

1. ***Who is:*** He is presently involved in human history, guiding it and overseeing it’s direction unto a set purpose which He has predetermined.

2. ***Who was:*** He was deeply involved with the earth from the beginning, laying it’s foundations and overseeing it’s early events.

3. ***Who is to come:*** *He is the Father that will come live with us on earth, giving us great hope.*