

# The Setting in Heaven

## 4:1-11

### Introductory Notes

- We now shift our attention drastically from the seven churches in chapters 2-3.
  - We shift from “the things which are” for John to “the things which shall be hereafter” for both John and us today.
  - We shift our setting from Earth to Heaven
- Chapter 4 sets the stage for the events of Chapter 5.

### Outline

- The Heavenly Invitation - 4:1
- The Scene Around the Throne - 4:2-11

### Notes

- vs. 1 - “Come up hither” - Although this refers specifically to John, I think this refers to the Rapture (I Thessalonians 4:13-18) and sets the timing of the following events.
- vs. 2 - “in the spirit” - same as in 1:10.
- vs. 2 - the one sat on the throne is God the Father. This will be made clearer in chapter 5.
- vs. 3 - I believe it is important to note that while God the Father is on a physical throne He is not described as having a physical form. The only member of the Trinity that is seen as a physical being is Christ. I personally think John saw God’s glory and not God Himself.
- vs. 3 - The precious stones described:
  - Jasper - clear in its purest form, also last stone in High Priests’s breastplate in Exodus 28:20
  - Sardine - red, also first stone in the High Priest’s breastplate in Exodus 28:17
  - Emerald - green, also in High Priest’s breastplate in Exodus 28:18
- vs. 4 - the 24 elders are likely representatives from the church. I think their seats, or thrones, circle the throne.
- vs. 4 - Types of Crowns
  - Ruler’s Crown
  - Victor’s Crown - used here.
- vs. 5 - “lightnings and thunderings and voices” - compare to Exodus 19:16.
- vs. 5 - “seven Spirits of God” (Holy Spirit) - see vs. 1:4.
- vs. 5 - “sea of glass” - Also used in 15:2. I can’t find anyone with a solid explanation of what is being described. My personal opinion is that this describes the area or floor surrounding the throne.
- vs. 6 - the Four Beasts are another great mystery of this book:
  - Are they seraphim (Isaiah 6:2-3) or cherubim (Ezekiel 1:5-10;10:20)?
  - Do they symbolize the four Gospels (vs. 7)?
- vs. 8-11 - Want to know what goes on in Heaven around the throne? Look here.