

# Fulfilled Prophecies

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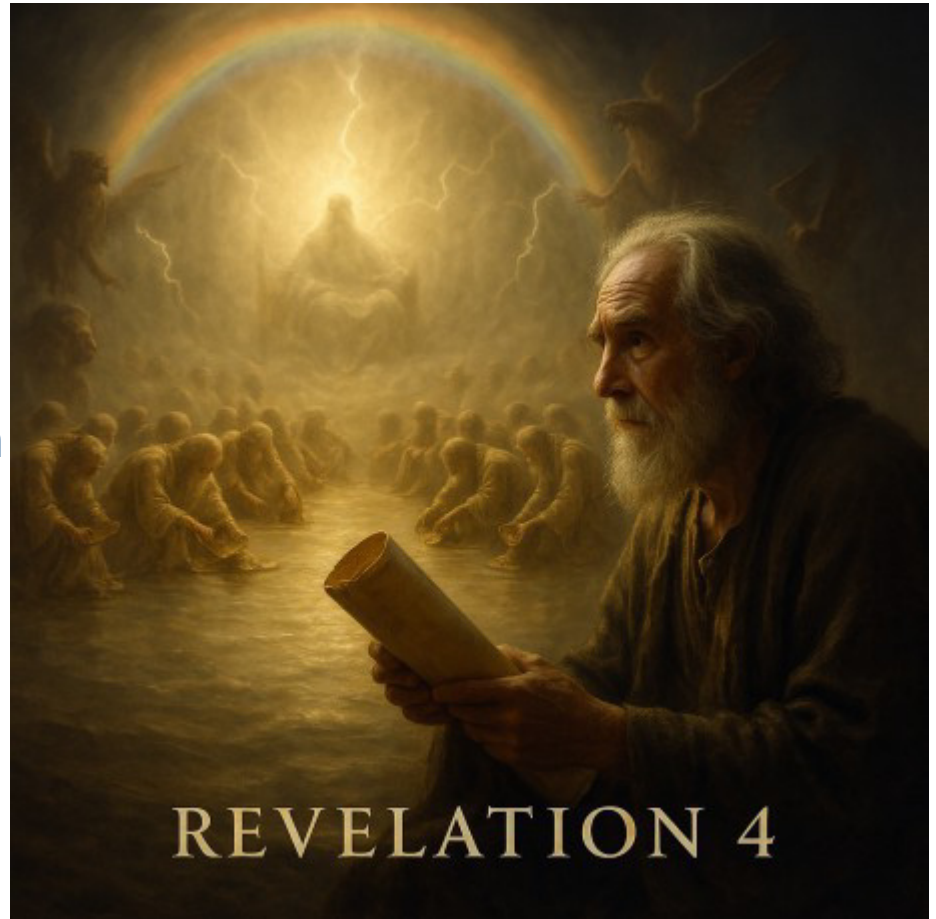
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**Revelation 4** This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

## **Revelation 4**

### **Revelation 4:1**

After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."

† John was granted a heavenly vision, not to escape history, but to see the divine perspective on events about to unfold. The "after these things" refers to the judgments soon to fall in his

generation.

### **Revelation 4:2-3**

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and someone was sitting on the throne. And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.

† The vision emphasizes God's sovereignty. The jasper and sardius reveal His majesty and judgment. The rainbow recalls God's covenant mercy in Genesis 9.

### **Revelation 4:4**

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones; and upon the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads.

† The 24 elders likely represent the fullness of God's covenant people, 2 tribes and 12 apostles. They symbolize continuity between Old and New Covenant saints.

† Early church writers such as Victorinus of Pettau identified the elders as the patriarchs and apostles together.

### **Revelation 4:5**

Out from the throne came flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

† The imagery recalls Sinai (Exodus 19:16), showing God's awesome power. The seven Spirits represent the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

### **Revelation 4:6-7**

And before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. The first creature was

like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature was like a flying eagle.

† The sea of glass symbolizes separation between sinful man and God's holiness, now overcome in Christ. The four living creatures reflect creation itself, wild animals, domesticated animals, humanity, and birds, worshiping God.

† The Dead Sea Scrolls (1QM 4.1-2) depict angelic beings with similar attributes, showing Jewish expectation of such imagery.

### **Revelation 4:8**

And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God, the Almighty, who was and who is and who is to come."

† The triple "holy" echoes Isaiah 6:3. God's timeless nature is emphasized, past, present, and future.

### **Revelation 4:9-11**

And when the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and they will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and they will throw their crowns before the throne, saying, "Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created."

† The elders casting crowns demonstrates that all authority is derived from God. Creation itself testifies to His worthiness.

† Chrysostom noted that the worship of heaven reveals the pattern for worship on earth, all glory belongs to God alone.

### **How it applies to us today**

- † God is enthroned, sovereign over history and judgment.
- † Christ has reconciled us to approach the throne once guarded by separation.
- † Worship unites heaven and earth, creation and covenant people.
- † Our crowns, all achievements, must be cast before Him in acknowledgment of His supremacy.

## † This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

### Source Index

- † Genesis 9 – covenant rainbow of mercy
- † Exodus 19:16 – lightning and thunder at Sinai
- † Dead Sea Scrolls, 1QM 4.1-2 – angelic imagery
- † Isaiah 6:3 – triple declaration of holiness
- † Victorinus of Pettau, Commentary on Revelation – 24 elders as patriarchs and apostles
- † Chrysostom, Homilies on Revelation – heavenly worship as pattern for the church

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