

Revelation 4

Table Revelation 4:1-11

- 1 *After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.*
- 2 *And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.*
- 3 *And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*
- 4 *And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.*
- 5 *And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*
- 6 *And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.*
- 7 *And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.*
- 8 *And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*
- 9 *And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,*
- 10 *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,*
- 11 *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*

See Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 104-126 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* pp 8, 144, 752, 765, 1105, 1648-1649.

1. [Revelation 4:1](#). Revelation 4:1 takes place "**After this**" i.e. after the Church Age that Revelation 2. 3 depict and typifies the Lord's Return for Church Age believers of which John testifies "**I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven.**" That door is an *entrance* opened by the Lord never by men after the manner of 2 Peter 1:11 "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

It should be noted that John in particular as "that disciple whom Jesus loved" John 21:7 with John 19:26, 20:2, 21:20 typifies Church Age believers as a whole "...even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it" Ephesians 5:25.

"**...and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither**" is as:

Job 37:4 "...a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard" according to:

Psalms 29:9 "The voice of the LORD maketh the hinds to calve..." which depicts:

Romans 8:22 “...ourselves also...even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body” with:

1 Corinthians 15:54 “...when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality...” and:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 “For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”

“...which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter” is fulfilled according to:

Job 37:4 “...a voice roareth: he thundereth with the voice of his excellency; and he will not stay them when his voice is heard” as indicated and:

Isaiah 46:9-10 “...I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

Therefore abide by the assurance of 2 Peter 1:19 “We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts.”

2. *Revelation 4:2*. “And immediately I was in the spirit” is separate from *Romans 8:9* “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” and instead is as:

Ezekiel 1:1 “Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God” and:

Ezekiel 8:3 “And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem...” except that here “the visions of God” are “the heavenly vision” *Acts 26:19*, occurring repeatedly in *Revelation 4* depicting the heavenly reality of associated scriptures, according to that which today’s believer can take great comfort as depicted in:

Jeremiah 17:12 “A glorious high throne from the beginning is the place of our sanctuary.”

Hebrews 11:5 “By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated him: for before his translation he had this testimony, that he pleased God.”

3. *Revelation 4:3*. “And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone; and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald” is fulfilled for today’s believer at the Lord’s Return in a most comforting manner though also as an exhortation according to:

Isaiah 33:17 “Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty; they shall behold the land that is very far off” with by way of illustration:

Hebrews 11:16 “...now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city” which for Church Age believers is “...the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” *Revelation 21:2* and:

1 John 3:2-3 “**Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**”

4. *Revelation 4:4*. Note the modern traffic expression “**round about**.” Concerning John’s observation “**And round about the throne were four and twenty seats; and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting**” the question arises who these elders? This writer would answer that question as follows:

The elders are most likely the twelve Old Testament prophets Hosea-Malachi and “**the twelve apostles of the Lamb**” *Revelation 21:24* because *Revelation 4:4* suggests “**the heavenly vision**” *Acts 26:19* of what Paul states in *Ephesians 2:4, 6, 19-20* “**...God...hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus...fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.**”

That begs the question about the status of the four major prophets as they are called; Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel. They may have a special status as the Lord says of Daniel in *Daniel 12:13* “**But go thou thy way till the end be: for thou shalt rest, and stand in thy lot at the end of the days.**” Concerning these elders they are elders who are and/or personify elders who:

Enjoin obedience to “the LORD God of Israel” *Exodus 5:1, 32:27, Joshua 7:13, 19, 20, 8:30, 9:18, 19, 10:40, 42, 13:14, 33, 14:13, 22:24, 24:2, 23, Judges 4:6, 5:3, 5, 6:8, 11:21, 23, Ruth 2:12, 1 Samuel 2:30, 10:18, 14:41, 25:32, 34, 2 Samuel 12:7, 1 Kings 1:30, 48, 8:15, 17, 20, 11:9, 14:7, 13, 15:30, 16:13, 26, 33, 17:1, 14, 22:53, 2 Kings 9:6, 10:31, 14:25, 18:5, 19:20, 21:12, 22:15, 18, 1 Chronicles 15:12, 14, 16:4, 36, 22:6, 23:25, 24:19, 28:4, 2 Chronicles 2:12, 6:4, 7, 10, 11:16, 13:5, 15:4, 13, 20:19, 29:10, 30:1, 5, 32:17, 33:16, 18, 34:23, 26, 36:13, Ezra 1:3, 4:1, 3, 6:21, 7:6, Psalm 41:13, 106:48, Isaiah 17:6, 21:17, 24:15, 37:21, Jeremiah 11:3, 13:12, 21:4, 23:2, 25:15, 30:2, 95 references in all according to *Deuteronomy 27:1* “**And Moses with the elders of Israel commanded the people, saying, Keep all the commandments which I command you this day.**”*

“**Feed the flock of God**” *1 Peter 5:2* as “**the elders of the church**” *Acts 20:17, James 5:14* as Peter exhorts in *1 Peter 5:1-3* “**The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God’s heritage, but being ensamples to the flock.**”

It follows therefore as Paul advises “**This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work**” *1 Timothy 3:1*.

Concerning the elders’ appearance “**...clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold**” their clothing signifies that each of them like “**...David...served his own generation by the will of God**” *Acts 13:36* and thus they are over-comers according to *Revelation 3:5* “**He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment...**” like those who “**...were tortured, not accepting deliverance; that they might obtain a better resurrection**” *Hebrews 11:35* or were like Jonah according to *Psalm 116:3, Jonah 2:2* “**The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell gat hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow...I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the LORD, and he heard me; out of the belly of hell cried I, and thou heardest my voice.**”

Today's believer can overcome according to these *victory verses noting the testimonial outcome*:

1 Corinthians 15:57 **"But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."**

2 Corinthians 2:14 **"Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place."**

The elders' crowns indicate that they are **"the prophets of the LORD"** 1 Kings 18:4, 13 and **"the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ"** Jude 17 **"who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords"** 1 Timothy 6:15 because gold is for a king. 1 Kings 10:18 says of Solomon that **"...the king made a great throne of ivory, and overlaid it with the best gold."** As shown, the Lord Jesus Christ is **"the King of kings, and Lord of lords"** 1 Timothy 6:15, so the **"the best gold"** befits Him.

Today's believer should therefore have as an ensample the ministry of Barnabas as set forth of him in Acts 11:23 **"Who, when he came, and had seen the grace of God, was glad, and exhorted them all, that with purpose of heart they would cleave unto the Lord."**

5. *Revelation 4:5*. **"And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices"** is **"the heavenly vision"** Acts 26:19 with Revelation 4:6, see below, with respect to *division of ministry gifts by the Spirit of God* according to 1 Corinthians 12:11 **"But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will"** and noting the Lord's promise that can apply in the Church Age of Psalm 29:3-4, 7, 10-11 **"The voice of the LORD is upon the waters: the God of glory thundereth: the LORD is upon many waters. The voice of the LORD is powerful; the voice of the LORD is full of majesty...The voice of the LORD divideth the flames of fire...The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever. The LORD will give strength unto his people; the LORD will bless his people with peace."**

Concerning **"seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God"** that is **"the heavenly vision"** Acts 26:19 of what *should* be said to today's believer with respect to **"...the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ"** Titus 2:13 **"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise...In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit"** Ephesians 1:13, 2:22:

"I have even heard of thee, that the spirit of the gods is in thee, and that light and understanding and excellent wisdom is found in thee" Daniel 5:14 **"the gods"** being **"the holy gods"** Daniel 5:11.

Note further this extract from www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ *Revelation 3 Part 1*, p 2, *Revelation Overview* p 53.

Then the statement **"he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars"** shows that the Lord Jesus Christ is He of Whom:

- Isaiah prophesies with respect to **"the seven Spirits of God"** **"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD...and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked"** Isaiah 11:1-4
- Paul exhorts with respect to **"he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars"** with Luke giving the outcome from which today's believer can take comfort **"Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer: for I believe God, that it shall be even as it was told me...And so it came to pass, that they escaped all safe to land"** Acts 27:25, 44

- Peter therefore exhorts with respect to “he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars” in that “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches” Revelation 1:20 “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator” 1 Peter 4:19.

Today’s believer can then be encouraged by this statement when delivered to him by “...the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus” Hebrews 3:1:

“And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go” Judges 18:6.

6. Revelation 4:6. Concerning John’s report “...before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal” see Psalm 29:10 “The LORD sitteth upon the flood; yea, the LORD sitteth King for ever” and remarks under Revelation 4:5. Note that according to Isaiah 57:20 “...the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt.”

Isaiah 57:20 is a depiction of 1 John 5:19 “...the whole world lieth in wickedness” but in “the third heaven” 2 Corinthians 12:2 no such trouble exists because as Revelation 4:6 depicts “The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen” Job 38:30. See [www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Job 38-39 p 33](http://www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/Job%2038-39%20p%2033) and this extract with no change of format.

“The waters are hid as with a stone, and the face of the deep is frozen” Job 38:30. The frozen face of the deep acts as a vast stone barrier preventing “the waters which were above the firmament” Genesis 1:7 from deluging “the third heaven” 2 Corinthians 12:2 as God Himself declared in Job 38:11 “...Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed...” See www.hymntime.com/tch/htm/e/t/e/eternalf.htm and the attached study **God Stays the Sea.**

The spiritual lesson for today’s believer by contrasting the frozen sea of Job 38:30, Revelation 4:6 with “the troubled sea” Isaiah 57:20 is Isaiah 26:3 “Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee.”

Concerning John’s report “...in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind” that statement is “the heavenly vision” Acts 26:19 of God’s omnipresent vision that today’s believer should always keep to the fore *together with the outcomes of God exercising that vision* according to these sample scriptures:

2 Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...”

Proverbs 15:3 “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

Colossians 3:23-25 “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”

7. Revelation 4:7. The statement “And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle” is a description of the supernatural beings called “the cherubims” Ezekiel 10:15 according to:

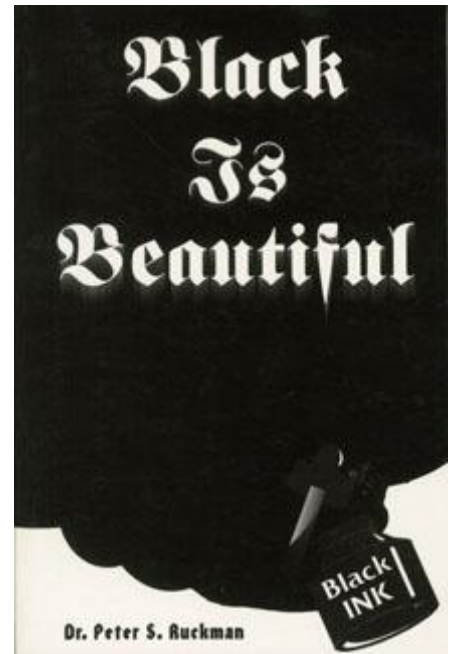
Ezekiel 1:1, 5-8, 10 “Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God...Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man. And every one had four faces, and every one had four wings. And their feet were straight feet; and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf’s foot: and they sparkled like the colour of burnished brass. And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides; and they four had their faces...As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of

a lion, on the right side; and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.”

Ezekiel 10:14-15 “And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle. And the cherubims were lifted up. This is the living creature that I saw by the river of Chebar.”

Ezekiel 1:1, 5-8, 10, 10:14-15, Revelation 4:6-7 show that **“the cherubims”** Ezekiel 10:15:

- Are **“the...four living creatures”** Ezekiel 1:5 **“For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him”** Luke 20:38 in contrast to satanic counterfeits **“Dead things...formed from under the waters, and the inhabitants thereof”** Job 26:5. See Dr Ruckman’s work store.kjv1611.org/black-is-beautiful/
- Are able to manifest **“four faces...the face of a man...the face of a lion...the face of an ox...the face of an eagle”** Ezekiel 1:6, 10
- Are distinguished *pre-Calvary* by **“the face of an ox...the face of a cherub”** Ezekiel 1:10, 10:14
- Are in **“the third heaven”** 2 Corinthians 12:2 **“in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne...four beasts”** Revelation 4:6
- Are in **“the third heaven”** 2 Corinthians 12:2 *post-Calvary* manifest as individual representatives of four *land-based* creatures **“like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle”** Revelation 4:7
- Are *different* from their *pre-Calvary* manifestation in their *post-Calvary* manifestation in that **“the face of an ox...the face of a cherub”** Ezekiel 1:10, 10:14 is now **“like a calf.”**



The significance of that difference is that **“an ox...hath horns...”** Psalm 69:31 but a calf does *not*. See:

kidssearch.com/PicturesOfOx.html

articles.extension.org/pages/65519/early-identification-of-sick-dairy-calves-important-to-their-survival-and-future-milk-production.



The Biblical significance of that difference is that the *horn* in scripture denotes *power* or *strength* such as an *ox* possesses:

1 Samuel 2:10 “The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken to pieces; out of heaven shall he thunder upon them: the LORD shall judge the ends of the earth; and he shall give strength unto his king, and exalt the horn of his anointed.”

Proverbs 14:4 “Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.”

Daniel 8:7 “And I saw him come close unto the ram, and he was moved with choler against him, and smote the ram, and brake his two horns: and there was no power in the ram to stand before him, but he cast him down to the ground, and stamped upon him: and there was none that could deliver the ram out of his hand.”

Habakkuk 3:3-4 “God came from Teman, and the Holy One from mount Paran. Selah. His glory covered the heavens, and the earth was full of his praise. And his brightness was as the light; he had horns coming out of his hand: and there was the hiding of his power.”

Note in passing that *elements* of the depiction of “the cherubims” Ezekiel 10:15 according to the likeness of a man...and every one had four wings...and the sole of their feet was like the sole of a calf’s foot...and they four had the face of an ox on the left side...And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub...” Ezekiel 1:5-7, 10, 10:14 with the depiction of “the prince of this world” John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11 as in for example Revelation 12:9 “...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan...” give rise to the common perception of the devil as a humanoid creature with horns like an ox, wings, cloven hooves and a tail like a serpent. A Google search of images of the devil will reveal artists’ impressions that use those attributes, among others.

In sum, the above references concerning “the face of an ox...the face of a cherub” Ezekiel 1:10, 10:14 now “like a calf” Revelation 4:7 and the *horn* as depicting *power* show that though the devil for now is still “...the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” Ephesians 2:2 his hold on his horns of power is *temporary* as shown in Matthew 28:18 “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

See the attached extract from the study *Appendix – Deficiencies of the NIVs* that shows that the Lord Jesus Christ *now* has “the power of death” Hebrews 2:14 *not* the devil though the modern version editors do all they can to give that power back to the enemy. Noting that as Church Age saints “...we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places” Ephesians 6:12 alteration of “the word of a king” Ecclesiastes 8:4 *must* benefit an enemy and is therefore *high treason* according to **The Treason Act 1351**...still in force in the United Kingdom...A person was guilty of [high treason](#) under the Act if they...adhered to the King’s enemies in his Realm, giving them aid and comfort in his Realm or elsewhere...

See en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Treason_Act_1351.

Today’s believer should therefore remember Colossians 3:25 “But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.”

See remarks under Revelation 4:8 with respect to the distinction between “every one had four wings...And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides” Ezekiel 1:6, 8 and “...the four beasts had each of them six wings about him...”

In addition the statement “And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle” with respect to Revelation 4:6 “...in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind” is “the heavenly vision” Acts 26:19 of God’s intimate care for His creatures Genesis 8:21 “...for the imagination of man’s heart is evil from his youth...” notwithstanding according to:

Job 34:14-15 “...if he gather unto himself his spirit and his breath; All flesh shall perish together, and man shall turn again unto dust.”

Psalms 8:4-6 “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet.”

Psalms 100:1, 3 “Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands... Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.”

Psalms 145:16 “Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing.”

Proverbs 12:10 “A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast; but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.” See remarks below on Ezekiel 28:14-16 concerning “the wicked.”

In sum the above references emphasise that today’s believer can take comfort from Philippians 4:19 “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.”

See the attached extract from [Job 39:1-30 – Summary Thoughts](#) that shows in more detail God’s particular care for “every living thing” and addresses the absence of the fifth cherub i.e. Satan from the throne, representing aquatic and reptilian creatures and, it would appear, “all creeping things” Leviticus 11:42, Ezekiel 38:20 according to Ezekiel 28:14-16 “Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. By the multitude of thy merchandise they have filled the midst of thee with violence, and thou hast sinned: therefore I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.”

One reason that the future tense is used is that although Revelation 4:6 shows that the devil has been cast out of his *permanent* position “...in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne” destruction of the devil is not finally accomplished until Revelation 20:10 “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.”

In sum today’s believer can therefore take comfort in James 4:7 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.”

8. [Revelation 4:8](#). The distinction between “every one had four wings...And they had the hands of a man under their wings on their four sides” Ezekiel 1:6, 8 and “...the four beasts had each of them six wings about him...” arises because “the four beasts” are transporting the throne as shown in Ezekiel 1:26 “And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne, as the appearance of a sapphire stone: and upon the likeness of the throne was the likeness as the appearance of a man above upon it” but in “the third heaven” 2 Corinthians 12:2 the throne is in a fixed position and “the four beasts” are “in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne” Revelation 4:6.

Concerning John’s report “and they were full of eyes within” see remarks under Revelation 4:6 “...in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.”

John’s report “...and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come” is “the heavenly vision” Acts 26:19 of the fulfilment of:

Psalm 72:15 “And he shall live, and to him shall be given of the gold of Sheba: prayer also shall be made for him continually; and daily shall he be praised.”

Isaiah 9:6 “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.”

Micah 5:2 “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.”

Zechariah 14:9 “And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one.”

1 John 5:7 “For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”

Today’s believer can therefore look forward to the *soon* fulfilment of Jude 14 “And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints.”

9. *Revelation 4:9*. John’s report “...those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever” is “the heavenly vision” Acts 26:19 of the fulfilment of:

Philippians 2:9-11 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

Today’s believer should therefore always seek to abide by Hebrews 13:15 “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

10. *Revelation 4:10-11*. Revelation 4:10-11 are “the heavenly vision” Acts 26:19 of the fulfilment of the following scriptures with respect to worship in “the third heaven” 2 Corinthians 12:2 of the Lord Jesus Christ:

Colossians 1:16 “Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.”

1 Peter 3:22 “Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.”

Today’s believer should therefore learn from the Lord’s disciples in Matthew 14:33 “Then they that were in the ship came and worshipped him, saying, Of a truth thou art the Son of God.”

Conclusion

“And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming” 1 John 2:28.

Revelation 4 Study Questions and Sample Answers

Study Questions

1. What does Revelation 4 reveal about **“the third heaven”** 2 Corinthians 12:2?
2. How does that revelation match **“the heavens and the earth, which are now”** 2 Peter 3:7?
3. What should be today’s believer’s response?

Sample Answers

1. **“And I will fasten him as a nail in a sure place; and he shall be for a glorious throne to his father’s house”** Isaiah 22:23.
2. **“...the heavens are not clean in his sight”** Job 15:15, **“The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof...”** Isaiah 24:5.
3. **“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness”** 2 Peter 3:13.

God Stays the Sea

Job 38:11 *“...Hitherto shalt thou come, but no further: and here shall thy proud waves be stayed...”* is a good reminder of the navy hymn:

*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd’st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!*

See:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bDjwUzUnNpU



Roker Lighthouse, Sunderland

[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternal_Father, Strong to Save](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Eternal_Father,_Strong_to_Save). Note that the word *brood* in the third stanza is wrong and should be *move*, Genesis 1:2. Apart from that, the hymn is scriptural.

The Youtube soundtrack is from Easington Lane Independent Methodist Church, Houghton Le Spring, Tyne and Wear. The lighthouse is Roker Lighthouse, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, Northeast England. (The lighthouse appears from the graphic in the soundtrack to have undergone some refurbishment since the above photo was taken.

This is in fact the case [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roker#Lighthouses and pier](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roker#Lighthouses_and_pier).)

Though best known as *The Navy Hymn*, the hymn is applicable as a prayer for all of God’s saints who are pilgrims in *“this present evil world”* Galatians 1:4 as Isaiah explains.

“But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt” Isaiah 57:20.

Job 38:11 is therefore a reminder that the scripture addresses reality, especially with respect to suffering, as in the case of Job, Job 1, 2.

Appendix – Deficiencies of the NIVs

Extract from www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Hebrews ch2, pp 7, 8-9

Hebrews 2:14. The 1978, 1984, 2011 NIVs change “**had the power of death**” 1611 AV1611, 2011+ AV1611 past tense to “holds the power of death” present tense.

Of the pre-1611 versions:

The 1385, 1395 Wycliffe, Tyndale, Coverdale, Matthew*, Great Bibles have “*had lordship of death.*”

*Reprinted 1537 Edition, the phrase appears to have been inadvertently omitted from the online 1549 Edition – or possibly inadvertently omitted from that particular edition.

The 1582 JR New Testament has “*had the empire of death.*”

Of the post-1611 versions:

The 1749-1752 DR Challoner’s Revision has “*had the empire of death.*”

The 1881 RV, ASV, NASV, JB, NJB, NKJV, CEV, NLT have “*had the power of death*” or similar.

The RSV, NRSV, ESV, NCV have “*has the power of death.*”

The GNT has “*has the power over death.*”

The HCSB has “*holding the power of death.*”

The NET has “*holds the power of death.*”

The NWT has “*having the means to cause death.*”

Nestle’s 21st Edition Interlinear has “*having the might of death.*”

Ricker Berry’s Edition of Stephanus’s 1550 Received Text Edition Interlinear has “*has the might of death.*”

The Farstad-Hodges ‘Majority’ Text Edition Interlinear has “*having the power of death.*”

The Devil no longer has “**the power of death.**” Before Calvary, the Devil was like Nebuchadnezzar, a type of the antichrist, see *Mark of the Beast* by Dr Ruckman p 64, Dr Ruckman’s commentary *The Book of Revelation* pp 369-370, 470-472 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible* p 1057, “**whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive**” Daniel 5:19. The Devil could kill “**whom he would**” unless God expressly forbade him, Job 1:12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 2:6, 7.

Since Calvary it appears that the Devil can only kill those whom God expressly gives him permission to because the Lord Jesus Christ has “**the power of death.**”

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” Revelation 1:18.

All the pre-1611 Bibles show that the Lord Jesus Christ, not the Devil, now has “**the power of death.**”

Many of the new versions fail to see this transfer of power and again fail to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ as the AV1611 does.

Job 39:1-30 – Summary Thoughts

Extracts from www.timefortruth.co.uk/alan-oreilly/ Job 38-39 pp 36-37

Job 39:1-8. *“Knowest thou the time when the wild goats of the rock bring forth? or canst thou mark when the hinds do calve?...or who hath loosed the bands of the wild ass?”* Job 39:1, 5.

The scripture classifies *“hinds”* with *“roe(s)”* Proverbs 5:19, Song of Solomon 2:7, 3:5 and in turn therefore with the *“hart,” “roebuck”* and *“fallow deer”* Deuteronomy 12:15, 22, 14:5, 15:22, 1 Kings 4:23, Song of Solomon 2:9, 17, 8:14 i.e. the scripture shows that *“hinds”* are deer.

“wild goats,” “hinds” and *“wild asses”* are non-domesticated herb-eating creatures that *“bring forth”* Job 39:1, 3, *“grow up with corn”* Job 39:4 growing wild as *“the old corn of the land”* Joshua 5:11, 12, *“go forth”* Job 39:4, survive and multiply even in *“the wilderness, and the barren land”* Job 39:6 where nevertheless *“The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searcheth after every green thing”* Job 39:8.

“wild goats,” “hinds” and *“wild asses”* therefore not only subsist but even thrive in that potentially harsh and hostile environment without any *“herdmen”* Genesis 13:7 twice, 8 twice, 26:20 twice, 1 Samuel 21:7, Amos 1:1 where by contrast domesticated *“flocks and herds”* need careful husbandry otherwise *“if men should overdrive them one day, all the flock will die”* Genesis 33:13.

Lucifer cannot take care of *“wild goats,” “hinds”* and *“wild asses”* and is therefore unfit to reign in his evil attempt to *“exalt my throne above the stars of God”* Isaiah 14:13. Lucifer is *“the serpent”* Genesis 3:1, 2, 4, 13, 2 Corinthians 11:3, Revelation 12:14, 15, *“leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent...the dragon that is in the sea”* Isaiah 27:1 and *“that old serpent”* Revelation 12:9 and the fallen fifth cherub, Isaiah 14:12, Ezekiel 28:14, 16 who represented amphibian, aquatic and reptilian creatures, not herbivores like *“the second beast like a calf”* Revelation 4:7 of the *“four beasts”* that remain *“round about the throne”* Revelation 4:6.

“one sat on the throne...set in heaven” Revelation 4:2 is fit to reign because *“the second beast like a calf”* Revelation 4:7 of the *“four beasts”* that remain *“round about the throne”* Revelation 4:6 has remained obedient to Him.

Note that Lucifer’s type is *aquatic “as a whale in the seas”* Ezekiel 32:2 but it is now *God* who must now oversee Lucifer’s former jurisdiction *directly*. *“O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches. So is this great and wide sea, wherein are things creeping innumerable, both small and great beasts. There go the ships: there is that leviathan, whom thou hast made to play therein. These wait all upon thee; that thou mayest give them their meat in due season”* Psalm 104:24-27...

Job 39:13-18. *“Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich?”* Job 39:13.

“Gavest thou the goodly wings unto the peacocks? or wings and feathers unto the ostrich? Which leaveth her eggs in the earth, and warmeth them in dust, And forgetteth that the foot may crush them, or that the wild beast may break them...Because God hath deprived her of wisdom, neither hath he imparted to her understanding” Job 39:13-15, 17.

Job 39:13-15, 17 describe a conspicuous wild creature that could easily be made extinct by hunters or predators and a careless wild creature that could make itself extinct by its own negligence.

God nevertheless ensures that each of these wild creatures not only survives but flourishes as with herbivores, see remarks on Job 39:1-8 above. Lucifer is again shown to be embarrassingly impotent in that respect. The careless wild creature for example could at least in Job’s time swiftly outrun its only natural predator *“the horse and his rider”* Job 38:18.

Each of these creatures is one of the *“fowls after their kind”* Genesis 6:20 and therefore God may take care of it through the fourth and last of the *“four beasts”* that remain *“round about the throne”* Revelation 4:6 because *“the fourth beast was like a flying eagle”* Revelation 4:7.

Note that in Job 38:39 God fulfils *“Wilt thou hunt the prey for the lion? or fill the appetite of the young lions”* for wild carnivores by means of the first of the *“four beasts”* that remain *“round about the throne”* Revelation 4:6 in that *“the first beast was like a lion”* Revelation 4:7. God sustains man in that *“Man goeth forth unto his work and to his labour until the evening”* Psalm 104:23 because *“the third beast had a face as a man”* Revelation 4:7.

Consistent with God’s harangue of Lucifer in Job 38 for his unfitness to reign, Job 39 including *“the unicorn”* Job 39:9, 10 and *“the horse”* Job 39:19 with 2 Kings 2:11, 6:17, Isaiah 34:7, Revelation 4:6-7 further underline Lucifer’s unfitness to reign because those references together emphasise the only throne from which *“the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men”* Daniel 4:17, 25, 32 *“the throne of God”* Matthew 23:42, Hebrews 12:2, Revelation 7:15, 14:5, 22:1, 3.