

Revelation 4

Scene in Heaven

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." ² Immediately I was in *the Spirit*; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and *someone was* sitting on the throne.

³ 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. 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 Throne and Worship of the Creator

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; ⁶ 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.

⁷ The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second creature like a calf, the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night ^[e]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."

⁹ And when the living creatures give glory, honor, and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ 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 will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

¹¹ "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."

We will use five tools on our expedition that are built around five questions

What questions were provoked within you?

Did anything confuse you?

Did anything move you emotionally?

Did God instruct you to do something?

Did you gain any insight into God's character?

Paul's observations and insights

1. Having received through a vision regarding a message to the seven churches, John received something new.
2. He says 'I looked' what does it mean to look?
3. He says 'and behold' . To behold means to see or observe someone or something, especially of remarkable or impressive nature. "Behold your lord and prince!"
4. John sees, a seer is like an old testament prophet.
5. He sees an open door into heaven. What do you think the significance of this means?
6. The key to this vision is that the door is open.
7. John gets a repeat encounter of the first voice he heard, so he refers back to the description of the voice he heard in the vision that was speaking to the seven churches.

8. He describes a voice 'like a trumpet' speaking. How would you describe a trumpet speaking?
9. The voice said 'come up here'.
10. I will show you what must take place.
11. After these things.
12. Immediately, at once, John is in the spirit. What do you think this means?
13. Paul's heavenly vision, 2 Corinthians chapter 12
14. A throne standing in heaven.
15. The one sitting on the throne – sitting means what to you?
16. John describes what the one sitting on the throne is like – he is glorious and awesome, surrounded by a rainbow, which represents promise and glory.
17. Around His throne are twenty four more thrones with twenty four elders representing those who carry out the will of God in heaven.
18. There is a sea of glass.
19. The twenty four elders sitting on the throne are clothed with white garments, it means pure and righteous.
20. They are wearing golden crowns on their heads, which means they are ruling in the courts of heaven.
21. Amidst the throne are bursts of energy and glory. They are like explosive glory shouts, uncontrollable, they cry out adoration and revelations regarding God.
22. There are seven lamps which are the seven spirits of God.
23. The sea of glass has four living creatures in it that are covered in eyes that see.
24. John reveals what he sees in regards to what these creatures look like to him.
25. A lion, a calf, a man, an eagle.
26. They each have eyes to see all about them, everywhere.
27. Before His throne the four living creatures cry out night and day.
28. Holy, holy is the Lord God almighty, to Him who sits upon the throne.
29. Having brought this outburst of revelation exultation, they cry 'who was -has always been, who is – here now, who is to come – the fullness.
30. As the four living creatures exalt and declare there is a spontaneous heavenly bow in adoration to Him on the throne.
31. The elders worship Him on the throne.
32. The elders cast their crown of glory towards Him and say 'worthy, worthy are you'.
33. Our Lord.
34. Our God.
35. Then the elders manifest God's creation, they accredit the will of God as being the instigator of creation.

Isaiah 11:2

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 the fear of the Lord.

The Spirit of the Lord

The Spirit of Wisdom

The Spirit of Understanding

The Spirit of Counsel

The Spirit of Strength

The Spirit of Knowledge

The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

Are the Seven Spirits of God distinct from the Holy Spirit?

The seven spirits of God are **NOT distinct** from the Holy Spirit. They are not seven distinct spirits. There is only one Holy Spirit. The seven spirits are what is used to describe who the Holy Spirit is and His character.

The Holy Spirit manifests each of these seven spirits and they all work together. They are a representation of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit and the seven spirits of God are one spirit. These seven spirits, or attributes, work together to form a cohesive representation of who the Holy Spirit is and what His character looks like. They are not separate entities but rather complementary aspects that make up our understanding of the Holy Spirit.