

## Chapter 4

**[1] After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened into heaven; and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up here, and I will show you 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 there 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 in the midst of 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 like 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 servants of God.**

In [Verse 1] John saw a door open into heaven and heard a voice “as it were of a trumpet,” telling him to “Come up here,” and it would show him “things which must be hereafter.” These three notable things took place in John’s experience and opened the door for him, as well as for others, to discover significant parts of God’s plan of salvation for man.

(One) The door to heaven was open and John was allowed to look into heaven. This is indeed an experience which seems out of reach today, but Joseph Smith and Sidney Rigdon had a similar experience on February 16, 1832, as recorded in [D&C 76:3a-b, f-h]. They were enlightened by the power of the Spirit “to see and understand the things of God;” ... “and beheld the glory of the Son, on the right hand of the Father, ... and saw the holy angels, and they who are sanctified before his throne, worshiping God and the Lamb, who worship him for ever and ever.”

Now, let’s look back to a time long before John had this experience; back to the days of Enoch wherein Enoch was high and lifted up, even in the bosom of the Father and the Son of Man;

(a) and God showed him all things down to the end of the earth. [Genesis 7:31]

(b) The Lord showed unto Enoch all the inhabitants of the earth, and [7:27]

(c) Enoch beheld, and lo, all the nations of the earth were before him. [7:30]

(d) The Lord spoke unto Enoch, and told Enoch all the doings of the children of men. [7:47]

(e) Enoch saw that Noah built an ark [7:50]

(f) Enoch saw the day of the coming of the Son of Man, even in the flesh; [7:54] and

(g) he saw him lifted up on the cross. [7:62]

(h) Enoch saw the day of the coming of the Son of Man, in the last days, to dwell on the earth, in righteousness, for the space of a thousand years. [7:73]

The Lord showed Enoch many other things and many years later showed them to Moses.

[D&C 22:6a-e] And it came to pass, that Moses looked and beheld the world upon which he was created. [6b] And as Moses beheld the world, and the ends thereof, and all the children of men, which are and which were created; of the same he greatly marveled, and wondered.

(c) And Moses ... beheld the earth; yes, even all the face of it; and there was not a particle of it

which he did not behold, discerning it by the Spirit of God. [22:19a]  
(d) And he beheld the inhabitants thereof, and there was not a soul which he beheld not, [22:19b]  
(e) And the glory of God was upon Moses, so that Moses stood in the presence of God, and he talked with him face to face. [22:20] \* *Verse e agrees with what is written in the Bible; Look!*  
[Exodus 33:11] And the Lord spoke unto Moses face to face, as a man speaks unto his friend.

The Lord went on to show Moses all things pertaining this earth, and between the time of Enoch and Moses, the Lord showed the brother of Jared all thing.

[Ether 1:90-91] And when the Lord had said these words, he showed unto the Brother of Jared all the inhabitants of the earth which had been, and also all that would be; and the Lord withheld them not from his sight, even unto the ends of the earth; [91] For the Lord had said unto him in times before, that if he would believe in him, that he could show unto him all things--it should be shown unto him; therefore the Lord could not withhold anything from him; for he knew that the Lord could show him all things.

The prophets were told either to write not or to seal up, the greater things which they saw and heard, [Revelation 10:4] [2 Nephi 11:143] [Ether 1:87-100] - However, the gentiles have the promise that when they are worthy, they shall receive them, i.e., the sealed parts.

[Ether 1:100-101] For the Lord said unto me, They shall not go forth unto the Gentiles until the day that they shall repent of their iniquity, and become clean before the Lord; [101] And in that day that they shall exercise faith in me, saith the Lord, even as the Brother of Jared did, that they may become sanctified in me, then will I manifest unto them the things which the Brother of Jared saw, even to the unfolding unto them all my revelations, saith Jesus Christ, the Son of God, the Father of the heavens and of the earth, and all things that in them are. [3 Nephi 12:2-5]

(Two) The voice of the first angel that John heard sounded “as if it were a trumpet.” This phrase was not uncommon to John; Jesus had used it; Paul had used it and John continued to us it.

[Matthew 24:40] For the Son of Man shall come, and he shall send his angels before him with the great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together the remainder of his elect from the four winds; from one end of heaven to the other. [Revelation 8:13]

[1 Corinthians 15:52] In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the sound of the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

(Three) Because the voice said to John; “Come up here, and I will show you things which must be hereafter,” those who have written about this book have invariably surmised that all that John wrote thereafter happened from that time forward. How is it then that, in the next chapter, John states that he saw the Lamb of God being slain, which had already happened? It will be seen that many of the events of this book occurred long before John’s time, some at the beginning of man.

In [Verse 2] we see that “in the Spirit,” John beheld God, sitting on his throne in heaven. And, In [Verse 3] John gives a description of he that sat on the throne. “He that sat there was to look upon like a jasper, *(a green precious stone of ancient times)* and a sardine stone, *(one of the precious stones in the breastplate of the Jewish high priest, thought to have been a ruby).*” The rainbow

round about the throne, like unto an emerald, would be green in appearance. Though nothing is said about God's form, we know that man was created in the likeness of his body. [Genesis 6:9] IV

In [Verse 4] is seen twenty-four elders sitting upon twenty-four seats in the midst of the throne. They were clothed in white raiment and had crowns like gold upon their heads. Some believe that the twenty-four elders represent the twelve Apostles and the twelve tribes of Israel. But for them to represent the office of apostle, and the office of the twelve Nephite ministers, makes more sense.

[1 Nephi 3:115-116] ... the twelve apostles of the Lamb ... are they who shall judge the twelve tribes of Israel: [116] Wherefore, the twelve ministers of your seed shall be judged of them; for you are of the house of Israel; and these twelve ministers whom you behold, shall judge your seed.

In [Verse 5] is written; "And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices;" John was surely familiar with the history of these natural phenomena occurring when man stands in God's presence and see his glory, as had happened at mount Sinai and elsewhere.

[Exodus 19:16-19] And on the third day in the morning, there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled. [17] And Moses brought forth the people out of the camp to meet with God; and they stood at the nether part of the mount. [18] And mount Sinai was altogether on a smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire; and the smoke thereof ascended as the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mount quaked greatly. [19] And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spoke, and God answered him by a voice.

[Exodus 20:18] And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking; and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

David referred to similar marvels in;

[Psalms 97:1-6] The Lord reigns; let the earth rejoice; let the multitude of isles be glad thereof. [2] Clouds and darkness are round about him; righteousness and judgment are the habitation of his throne. [3] A fire goes before him, and burns up his enemies round about. [4] His lightnings enlightened the world; the earth saw, and trembled. [5] The hills melted like wax at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the Lord of the whole earth. [6] The heavens declare his righteousness, and all the people see his glory. \*\* see [Psalms 77:14-20]

Also in [Verse 5] John saw "seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven servants of God." *\*Lets critique the seven lamps, servants, stars, and candlesticks;*

In the first chapter of this book, the Lord said to John; "What you see, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; [Revelation 1:11]

[Revelation 1:4] Now this is the testimony of John to the **seven servants** who are over the **seven churches** in Asia.

[Revelation 1:12-13, 16] "I saw **seven golden candlesticks**; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, ... And he had in his right hand **seven stars**;"

[Revelation 1:20] This is the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the servants of the seven churches; and the seven candlesticks which you saw are the **seven churches**.

[Revelation 3:1] "he who has the seven stars, which are the **seven servants of God**;"

Though the ‘seven servants before the throne’ seem to be metaphors for the ‘servants of the seven churches in Asia;’ they are apparently much more; and though their ministry may be similar, the ministry of those ‘before the throne’ is farther reaching. For speaking of the “**candlestick of gold, (the Church) ... and his seven lamps thereon,**” the Lord told Zachariah that “the lamps are the servants of the Lord, which run to and fro through the whole earth. [Zechariah 4:2, 10]

[Chapters 6 through 11] reveal the Lamb opening the seals that kept men in their graves; and the angels (*servants*) sounding their trumpets, reviewing the seven thousand years of man’s doings.

**[6] And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal; and in the midst of the throne were the four and twenty elders; and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.**

The “sea of glass” is again depicted in [Revelation 15:2] where John states that he, “**saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire.**” But in this chapter, the “sea of glass like unto crystal.” Both of these descriptions are meaningful, for the fire signifies that which purifies, as will be seen when we reach [Chapter 15].

The “sea of glass like unto crystal” indicates that it is pure and crystalline; for nothing is hid from view “before his throne;” there will be no secrets there! \* more on this in [Chapter 15]

**[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 honor and thanks to him that sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,**

**[10] The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sits on the throne, and worship him that lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,**

**[11] You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they are and were created.**

Many, many, **many** - and then some, ministers as well as laymen, have said and still say that animals, birds, and fish have no soul; therefore, they will have no place in heaven, however;

[Verse 7-11] finalize this chapter by showing the diversity of God’s creatures who worship “him that lives forever and ever.” Perhaps a better rendition of the word “beasts,” as it appears in these verses, would be “heavenly creatures.”

[Revelation 5:13] And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power, be unto him that sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb forever and ever.

[D&C 28:6b-c] the end shall come, and the heaven and the earth shall be consumed, and pass away, and there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; [c] for all old things shall pass away, and all things shall become new, even the heaven and the earth, and all the fullness thereof, both men and beasts, the fowls of the air, and the fishes of the sea.

