

# Heaven's Open Door

Long Beach Alliance Church • January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2013 • Pastor Chris Lankford

***In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one called out to another and said, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts, the whole earth is full of His glory." And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.***

***~Isaiah 6:1-4 (NASB)***

## **1) From Earth To Heaven's Throne Room**

- A) The opening chapter of the Apocalypse (Revelation 2-3) are focused on the life of the 'Universal Church' on earth. These first chapters provide a clear view of the powerful work in the church of God/Christ/Holy Spirit (Trinity).
- B) Beginning in Revelation 4, the scene of the Apocalypse shifts from the earth to heaven (4:1) as the Apostle John is beckoned from earth to heaven by Jesus Christ.
- C) Since heaven is a place with which mankind has virtually no contact or understanding, the use of Apocalyptic language (pictures, symbols, mixed metaphors, lots of use of "like" and "something like") increases dramatically. So hang on to your hats, it's through heaven's door we go!

## 2) The Throne Of God Almighty

- A) As John's second vision begins (4:2, cf. 1:10), the primary focal point is on the throne of God. The "throne of God" (mentioned 12 times in chapter 4!) represents the theme of this section, the sovereign rule of God over all things.
- B) Immediately, we are drawn into fantastical pictures and images of God upon His throne, drawn from significant OT imagery (Ezekiel 1; Isaiah 6). Note: Each image has a reflective quality as it emanates from the throne of God!
- C) It is also notable that there is no real description of God in terms of having a body. He is spirit (John 4:24), light (1<sup>st</sup> John 1:5), and a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29) in Scripture. Like these descriptions, God is completely "other" than mankind, entirely holy (Leviticus 11:44-45).
- C) God is "like" three colorful stones (Revelation 4:3), two opaque (jasper & sardius/carnelian), and one translucent (emerald). These jewels each reflect/shine God's glory.
- D) Around God's throne are 24 thrones of "elders," a holy court of spiritual beings which reflect the authority and justice of God (4:4). The elders are dressed in white (purity) with gold crowns (majesty), all reflections of God.
- E) Lightning and thunder emanate from the throne, reflective of the spectacle of God's awesome power, flowing out of from the throne and manifest by God's Holy Spirit in the midst of the seven lamps of the church (4:5, cf. 1:20).
- F) In front of the throne is "something like" an expansive sea of "something like" shining/reflective crystal (4:6, cf. Ezekiel 1:22). The throne "floats" above the crystal sea.
- G) Surrounding the throne are four living creatures with reflective characteristics of God (4:6-7). "Like" a lion reflects God's Royal Kingship, "like" a calf/ox reflects God's Almighty power, "like" a human face reflects the image of God, and "like" a flying eagle reflects God's speed and swiftness. Like four compass points, it's all about God!