



END TIMES: WHAT'S GOING ON?

"A Door Standing Open in Heaven" Revelation 4:1-5:14

No. 4605

Stuart Briscoe

Having "seen" Christ active in the life of the church, John now has another vision in which he "sees" Christ at home in heaven. Both visions need to be seen in perspective.

I. A Vision of God the Creator. 4:1-11

NOTE: The "open door" suggests heaven's accessibility; the "invitation" confirms it, the purpose of which is to show John what **MUST** take place.

A. A throne in heaven (as opposed to those on earth!).

1. Occupied by "someone...that had the appearance of"; reserve shown.
2. Encircled by "a rainbow resembling emerald"; covenant/mercy.
3. Surrounded by "twenty-four elders" seated on "thrones"; church reps.
4. Emanating from, thunder and lightening; authority. e.g. Exodus 19:16ff
5. Before the throne, seven blazing lamps; crystal sea. Exodus 25:31ff; 2 Chronicles 4:2f
6. Integral to "living creatures" like a lion, bull, man, eagle; creation.
 - a. Eyes.
 - b. Wings. See Isaiah 6:2-3
 - c. Giving glory, honor, thanks.
 - d. Acknowledging God's holiness, power, and eternity.

NOTE: nature sings; church worships Creator; fall down, cast crowns.
vv. 9-11

II. A Vision of Christ the Savior. 5:1-14

A. A scroll: seven sealed in the hand of the Creator.

1. Who can open the seals; is qualified to clarify what **MUST** happen?
2. John heartbroken: no one anywhere is worthy or able to do it.

B. A proclamation: the triumphant Lion of Judah, Root of David can do it!

C. A Lamb "standing in the center of the throne."

1. Alive, but appearing to have been slain.
2. Humble (lamb-like), but powerful (seven horns) and wise (seven eyes).
3. Accepted commission and worshipped by elders, living creatures.
 - a. Because of his sacrifice and its ramifications for mankind.
 - i. Redemptive: purchased.
 - ii. Universal: every tribe, etc.
 - iii. Transforming: made kingdom.
 - iv. Eternal: reign.
 - b. Countless numbers of angels join in worship.
 - c. "Every creature" joins in the worship.
4. Seven qualities of Father and Son jointly recognized and acclaimed.
5. Living creatures who started it say "Amen;" elders prostrated.