

'The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. '

Revelation 1:1-3

'After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven!

And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.'

Revelation 4:1-3

'Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God, and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind: '

Revelation 4:4-6

'Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and break its seals?" And no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll or to look into it, '

Revelation 5:1-3



THE SEALED SCROLL

"And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals."

Revelation 5:1

'and I began to weep loudly because no one was found worthy to open the scroll or to look into it. And one of the elders said to me, "Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered, so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals." And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.'

Revelation 5:4-7

'And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.'" Revelation 5:8-10

Who or what are the 24 Elders?

- ◆ Exalted saints who have died and gone to heaven (white robes, crowns and thrones)?
- ◆ Exalted saints in heaven after the rapture?
- ◆ Heavenly beings in the divine council (elohim)?

'And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and **hast redeemed us to God** by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign** on the earth.' Rev 5:9-10 KJV

And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood **you ransomed [people] for God** from every tribe and language and people and nation, and **you have made them** a kingdom and priests to our God, **and they shall reign** on the earth.'" Rev 5:8-10 ESV

"As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire. A stream of fire issued and came out from before him; a thousand thousands served him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him; the court sat in judgment, and the books were opened. But the court shall sit in judgment, and his dominion shall be taken away, to be consumed and destroyed to the end. ' Daniel 7:9-10,26 ESV

'I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne was like the fiery flame, and his wheels as burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. But the judgment shall sit, and they shall take away his dominion, to consume and to destroy it unto the end.

'Daniel 7:9-10,26. KJV

' God has taken his place in the divine council; in the midst of the gods he holds judgment: I said, "You are gods, sons of the Most High, all of you; nevertheless, like men you shall die, and fall like any prince." ' Psalm 82:1,6-7 ESV

'God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.
'Psalms 82:1,6-7 KJV

Who or what are the 24 Elders?

- ◆ 5:8 Holding bowls of the prayers of the saints (they are not saints).
- ◆ 5:9, 10 They refer to the redeemed as “them” not “us”.
- ◆ 7:13, 14 They talk about the multitude of the redeemed and are not part of the multitude.
- ◆ Divine council in Daniel 7:9, 10, 26 and Psalm 82:1 and elsewhere.

Son of man dominion like the scroll

"I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of

Days and was presented before him. And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed. ' Daniel 7:13-14