

“The Throne”

Rev. 4:1-6

April 2, 2017

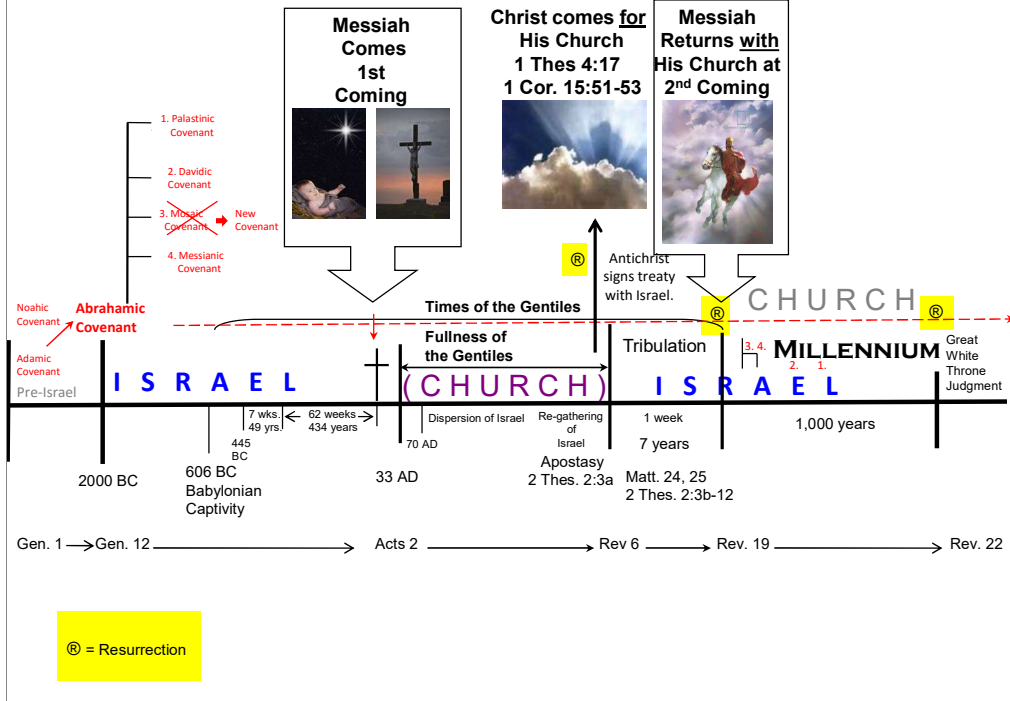
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- 6 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind.

Rev 1:19

- 19 "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things.

Comprehensive Biblical View of Future Prophetic Events



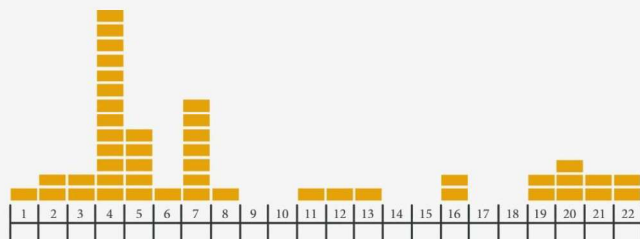
Church

ἐκκλησία [ek·klay·see·ah]



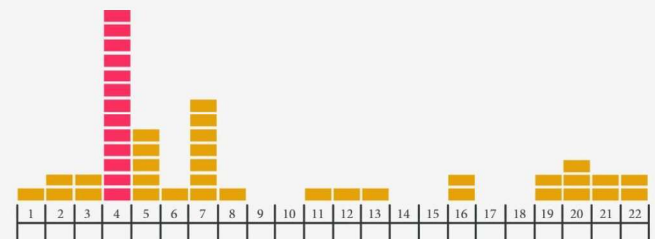
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2. Daniel "Until thrones were set up,
And the Ancient of Days took His seat;"

Dan 7:9-10

9 "I kept looking

Until thrones were set up,

And the Ancient of Days took His seat;

His vesture was like white snow

And the hair of His head like pure wool.

His throne was ablaze with flames,

Its wheels were a burning fire.

10 "A river of fire was flowing

And coming out from before Him;

Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,

And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;

3 men who peered into heaven -

1. Micaiah "saw the Lord sitting upon his throne"

2 Chron 18:18

18 Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left.

3. Stephen "looked up steadfastly into heaven,"

Acts 7:55-56

55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God;

56 and he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

4 People Went to Heaven

- Isaiah (Isaiah 6)
- Ezekiel (Ezekiel 1)
- Paul (II Corinthians 12)
- John (Revelation)

Isa 6:1-7

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 And one called out to another and said,
"Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts,
The whole earth is full of His glory."
- 4 And the foundations of the thresholds trembled at the voice of him who called out, while the temple was filling with smoke.
- 5 Then I said,
"Woe is me, for I am ruined!
Because I am a man of unclean lips,
And I live among a people of unclean lips;
For my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts."
- 6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me with a burning coal in his hand, which he had taken from the altar with tongs.
- 7 He touched my mouth with it and said, "Behold, this has touched your lips;
and your iniquity is taken away and your sin is forgiven."

Ezek 1:1-3,22-28

- 1 Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.
- 2 (On the fifth of the month in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's exile,
- 3 the word of the Lord came expressly to Ezekiel the priest, son of Buzi, in the land of the Chaldeans by the river Chebar; and there the hand of the Lord came upon him.)
- 22 Now over the heads of the living beings there was something like an expanse, like the awesome gleam of crystal, spread out over their heads.
- 23 Under the expanse their wings were stretched out straight, one toward the other; each one also had two wings covering its body on the one side and on the other.

- 24 I also heard the sound of their wings like the sound of abundant waters as they went, like the voice of the Almighty, a sound of tumult like the sound of an army camp; whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings.
- 25 And there came a voice from above the expanse that was over their heads; whenever they stood still, they dropped their wings.
- 26 Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something resembling a throne, like lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which resembled a throne, high up, was a figure with the appearance of a man.
- 27 Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His loins and downward I saw something like fire; and there was a radiance around Him.
- 28 As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

2 Cor 12:1-7

- 1 Boasting is necessary, though it is not profitable; but I will go on to visions and revelations of the Lord.
- 2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a man was caught up to the third heaven.
- 3 And I know how such a man — whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows —
- 4 was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.
- 5 On behalf of such a man I will boast; but on my own behalf I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses.
- 6 For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain from this, so that no one will credit me with more than he sees in me or hears from me.
- 7 Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations, for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself, there was given me a thorn in the flesh,

Rev 4:1-6

- 1 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 One 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.
- 5 Out from the throne come 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.

What does a throne symbolize?

1. Sovereignty.

Ps 103:19

19 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens,
And His sovereignty rules over all.

Ps 47:8

8 God reigns over the nations,
God sits on His holy throne.

2. Power and authority.

2 Chron 18:18

18 Micaiah said, "Therefore, hear the word of the Lord. I saw the Lord sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing on His right and on His left.

3. Majesty and honor.

Heb 12:2

2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

4. Justice.

Ps 9:7

7 But the Lord abides forever;
He has established His throne for judgment,
8 And He will judge the world in righteousness;
He will execute judgment for the peoples with equity.

5. Stability.

Lam 5:19

9 You, O Lord, rule forever;
Your throne is from generation to generation.

Ps 45:6

6 Your throne, O God, is forever and ever;

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Rev 21:11

11 having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper.



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2. Not Israel or Tribulation saints.

- They haven't received their glorified bodies yet or been given crowns.

3. The only group left that the 24 elders represent is the Church.

- The Church will reign with Christ.
- "Elder" is a church term to describe leadership and representation of the Church.
- The Church does sit.
- The church is clothed in "white garments." (Rev. 19)
- The Church is given victor's crowns.

1 Cor 9:25

25 Everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

2 Tim 4:7-8

- 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith;
- 8 in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day;
- The Church has their glorified bodies and has been given crowns.

Who are the "24 Elders"?

****They are a representative group of a larger group.**

Scripture uses the number "24" in the Bible in that manner:

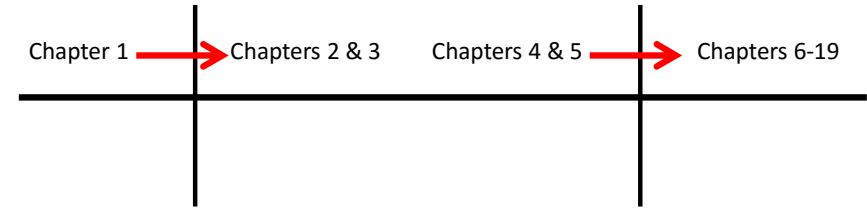
- 24 elders appointed by David to represent the Levitical priesthood. (1 Chron. 24)
- 24 singers representing the divisions of musicians in the temple. (1 Chron. 25)

1. Not angels –

- Angels are never said to sit on thrones and reign with Christ.
- Angels, because they do not age, are never called elders.
- Angels are never seen sitting.
- Angels are not clothed in "white garments."
- Angels are not given crowns and we never see an angel wearing a crown. This is a victor's crown for winning the battle.

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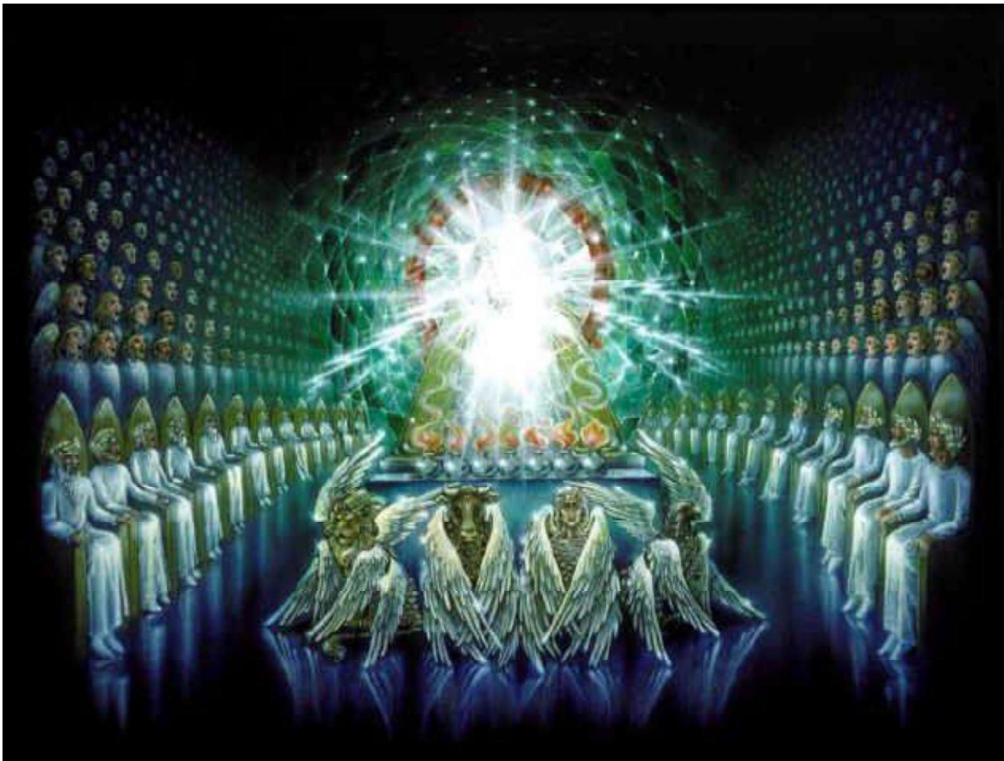


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Francis Harold Rowley
1854-1952

A doctor's son, Rowley attended the University of Rochester and Rochester Theological Seminary in New York. He was ordained a Baptist minister in 1878, and pastored for over 30 years in several locations: Titusville, Pennsylvania; North Adams, Massachusetts; Oak Park, Illinois; Fall River, Massachusetts; and at the First Baptist Church in Boston, Massachusetts. Around 1908, he became president of the Massachusetts Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, where he served until retirement in 1945. Oglethorpe University in Atlanta, Georgia, named the Rowley School of Humanities after him. Rowley, in these words, recounts a hymn that he wrote: "I was minister of the First Baptist Church of North Adams [Massachusetts] at the time the hymn was written in 1886, as nearly as I can remember. The church and the community were experiencing a period of unusual interest in religious matters, and I was assisted by a remarkable young singer named Peter Bilhorn. One night after the close of the service he said, Why don't you write a hymn for me to set to music? During the night these most unpretentious and wholly unworthy verses came to me. Some years ago as I was going down a London street one night about eleven o'clock, I discovered ahead of me a group of Salvation Army people holding a service, and as I came nearer to them it occurred to me that the hymn they were singing was familiar. Then it dawned upon me that it was this one."

I WILL SING THE WONDROUS STORY

1. I will sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me.
How He left His home in glory
For the cross of Calvary.

Refrain

***Yes, I'll sing the wondrous story
Of the Christ who died for me,
Sing it with the saints in glory,
Gathered by the crystal sea.***

2. I was lost, but Jesus found
me,
Found the sheep that went
astray,
Threw His loving arms around
me,
Drew me back into His way.

Refrain

3. I was bruised, but Jesus healed me,
Faint was I from many a fall,
Sight was gone, and fears possessed
me,
But He freed me from them all.

Refrain

4. Days of darkness still come o'er me,
Sorrow's path I often tread,
But the Savior still is with me;
By His hand I'm safely led.

Refrain

5. He will keep me till the river
Rolls its waters at my feet;
Then He'll bear me safely over,
Where the loved ones I shall meet.

Refrain