

## “The 4 Living Creatures”

Rev. 4:6-11

April 9, 2017

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8 And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say,

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY IS THE LORD GOD, THE ALMIGHTY, WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.”

9 And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, to Him who lives forever and ever,

10 the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the throne, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

## “Four Living Creatures”

### I. Their location (6b)

### Rev 4:6-11

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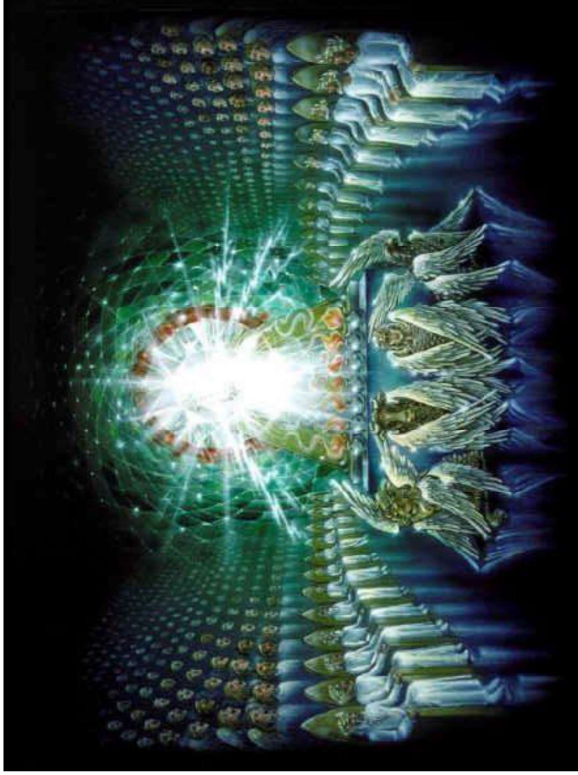
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“in and around the throne”



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### II. Their appearance (6c-8a)

#### Rev 4:6-11

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“in and around the throne”

### II. Their appearance (6c-8a)

- Full of eyes – “front and behind . . . around and within.”

#### Ezek 1:4-15

4 As I looked, behold, a storm wind was coming from the north, a great cloud with fire flashing forth continually and a bright light around it, and in its midst something like glowing metal in the midst of the fire.

5 Within it there were figures resembling four living beings. And this was their appearance: they had human form.

6 Each of them had four faces and four wings.

7 Their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf’s hoof, and they gleamed like burnished bronze.

8 Under their wings on their four sides were human hands. As for the faces and wings of the four of them,

9 their wings touched one another; their faces did not turn when they moved, each went straight forward.

10 As for the form of their faces, each had the face of a man; all four had the face of a lion on the right and the face of a bull on the left, and all four had the face of an eagle.

11 Such were their faces. Their wings were spread out above; each had two touching another being, and two covering their bodies.

12 And each went straight forward; wherever the spirit was about to go, they would go, without turning as they went.

13 In the midst of the living beings there was something that looked like burning coals of fire, like torches darting back and forth among the living beings. The fire was bright, and lightning was flashing from the fire.

14 And the living beings ran to and fro like bolts of lightning.

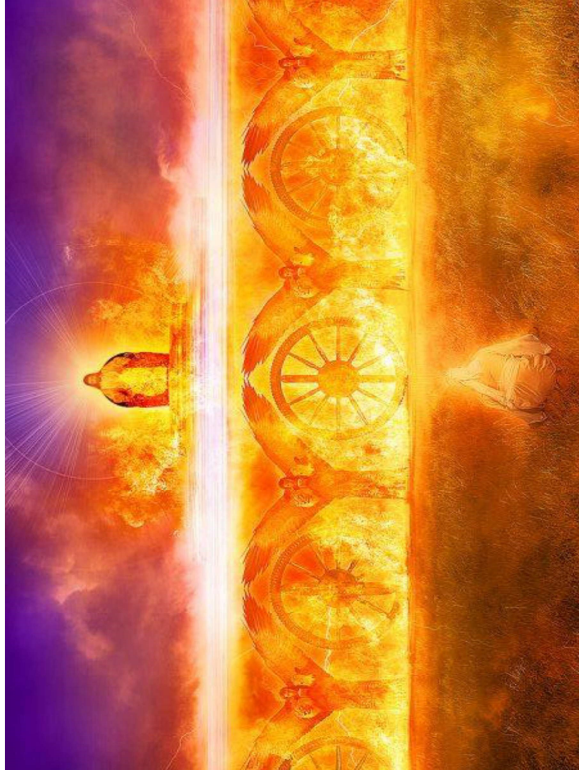
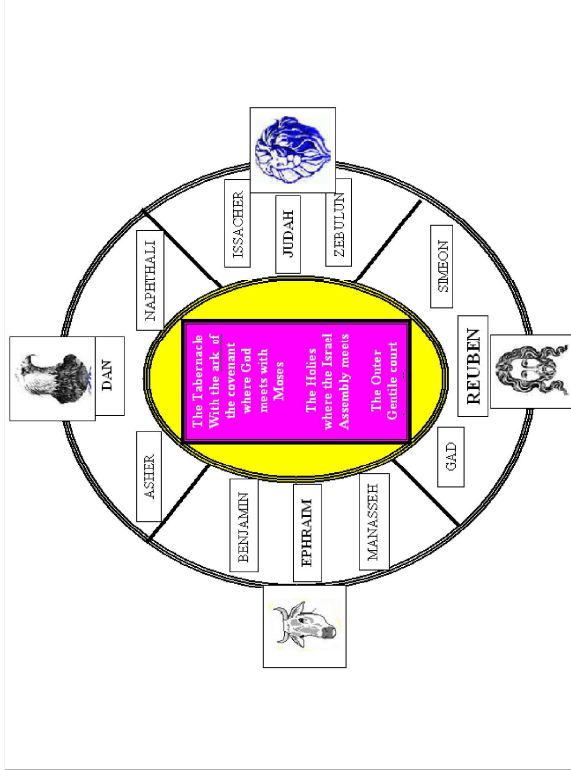
15 Now as I looked at the living beings, behold, there was one wheel on the earth beside the living beings, for each of the four of them.



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- "There are four primary forms of life in God's creation...man, calf, lion and eagle." -Talmud
- They represented all of creation:
  - "man" – intelligence
  - "calf/ox" – strength
  - "lion" – nobility
  - "eagle" - speed
- In the camp of Israel, three tribes gathered under each of these four banners...
  - 3 tribes gathered with Reuben, symbolized by a man,
  - 3 tribes gathered with Dan symbolized by an eagle,
  - 3 tribes gathered with Ephraim symbolized by the ox or the calf,
  - 3 tribes gathered with Judah symbolized by the lion.



## **“Four Living Creatures”**

### **I. Their location (6b)**

“in and around the throne”

### **II. Their appearance (6c-8a)**

- Full of eyes – “front and behind . . . around and within.”
- 4 different faces
- 6 wings

### **III. Their proclamation (8b)**

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**"HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

- God is holy.

#### **Rev 4:6-11**

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"Holy is the way God is. To be holy He does not conform to a standard. He is that standard. He is absolutely holy with an infinite, incomprehensible fullness of purity that is incapable of being other than it is. Because He is holy, all His attributes are holy; that is whatever we think of belonging to God must be thought of as holy."

- **A. W. Tozer**

"The basic meaning of holiness is 'set apart' or 'separation.' Several features are embraced in the holiness of God. It has a transcendent emphasis, indicating 'He is absolutely distinct from all His creatures and is exalted above them in infinite majesty. It has an ethical emphasis, indicating He is separate from moral evil or sin." Holiness' points to God's majestic purity, or ethical majesty."

- **Paul Enns**

Moody Bible Institute

### **Eph 3:8-11**

8 To me, the very least of all saints, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ,  
9 and to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things;  
10 so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

### **III. Their proclamation (8b)**

- "**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**  
• God is holy.  
"**THE LORD GOD,**"  
• God is sovereign  
"**THE ALMIGHTY,**"  
• God is omnipotent.  
"**WHO WAS AND WHO IS AND WHO IS TO COME.**"  
• God is eternal.

### **V. Their affect (9-11)**

The 4 living creatures cause the 24 elders to do 4

- things:  
• "fall down"

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## Is. 6:5

"**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."

## Ezek. 1:28

And when I saw it, **I fell on my face** . . .

## Rev 1:17

17 When I saw Him, **I fell at His feet like a dead man.**

## Rev 4:10

10 the twenty-four elders **will fall down before Him**  
who sits on the throne,

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The 24 elders will do 4 things:

- "fall down "
- "worship Him"

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The 24 elders will do 4 things:

- “fall down”
- “worship Him”
- “cast their crowns”

“A victor’s crown is symbolic of the fact that the judge has declared the athlete victorious. Anyone can go out and buy a trophy in a store, but a trophy received as a reward for victory in competition has much greater value because of what it represents. Christians will receive crowns for finishing the race set before us. We do not compete against fellow believers, but we compete to overcome our spiritual enemies, namely, the world, the flesh, and the devil. When a victorious athlete returned home from the games and participated in a final celebration, he would ceremoniously offer the wreath or crown that he had earned to his deity.”

- **Dr. Thomas Constable**

Dallas Seminary

## V. *Their affect (9-11)*

The 24 elders will do 4 things:

- “fall down”
- “worship Him”
- “cast their crowns”
- Praise God for 2 things:
  - His power to create.
  - His power to sustain.

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### Gen 1:1

1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

### Ps 148:1-5

- 1 Praise the Lord!  
Praise the Lord from the heavens;  
Praise Him in the heights!  
2 Praise Him, all His angels;  
Praise Him, all His hosts!  
3 Praise Him, sun and moon;  
Praise Him, all stars of light!  
4 Praise Him, highest heavens,  
And the waters that are above the heavens!  
5 Let them praise the name of the Lord,  
For He commanded and they were created.

### Is. 40:26

26 Lift up your eyes on high

And see who has created these stars,

The One who leads forth their host by number,  
He calls them all by name;

Because of the greatness of His might and the  
strength of His power,

Not one of them is missing.

### Is. 45:12

12 "It is I who made the earth, and created man upon  
it.

I stretched out the heavens with My hands

And I ordained all their host.

## Col 1:16-17

16 For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities — all things have been created through Him and for Him.  
17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

## Heb 1:3

3 And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His power.

## Rom 11:36

36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things.



**Reginald Heber**  
1783-1826

interest in writing hymns. During a 16 year stretch he wrote 57 hymns. While serving at a church in Calcutta, and preaching to large crowd in the sun on a hot afternoon, he afterward plunged into a pool of cool water, suffered stroke and died at the age of 43. It was after his death, that his widow found the 57 hymns in a trunk. It was among these 57 hymns that the great Trinitarian hymn was found and published. The hymn's title is:

Reginald Heber was born at Malpas, Cheshire, England, April 21, 1783 to a heritage of wealth and culture. By the age of five, he had read the Bible so thoroughly that he could give chapter and verse for chance quotations.

His childhood was "distinguished by sweetness of disposition, obedience, and trust in God's providence, which was so prominent a feature in his character. He could read the Bible with fluency at five years old, and the avidity with which he studied it, and his wonderful remembrance of its contents, astonished his parents. Indeed, from the moment he could read, his passion for books became insatiable." Heber was educated at Oxford winning many prizes for both Latin and English poetry. His love for writing poetry gave him a keen interest in writing hymns. During a 16 year stretch he wrote 57 hymns. While serving at a church in Calcutta, and preaching to large crowd in the sun on a hot afternoon, he afterward plunged into a pool of cool water, suffered stroke and died at the age of 43. It was after his death, that his widow found the 57 hymns in a trunk. It was among these 57 hymns that the great Trinitarian hymn was found and published. The hymn's title is:

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## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

1. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
Early in the morning  
Our song shall rise to Thee;  
Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty!  
God in three Persons, blessed Trinity!
2. Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,  
Casting down their golden crowns  
Around the glassy sea;  
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee,  
Who was, and is, and evermore shall be.
3. Holy, holy, holy! though the darkness hide Thee,  
Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see;  
Only Thou art holy; there is none beside Thee,  
Perfect in power, in love, and purity.
4. Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!  
All Thy works shall praise Thy name,  
In earth, and sky, and sea;  
Holy, holy, holy; merciful and mighty!  
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