

Things Are Not as They Seem
Who's Really in Charge?
Revelation 4

"A true perspective; a hopeful perspective means continually looking forward to the eternal world - which is not, as some modern people think, a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history, you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get the earth thrown in. Aim at earth and you will get neither." – C. S. Lewis

Chapters 4 and 5 are the heart of the message of Revelation and help clear and sharpen our visions of earth. An important turning point in the book of revelation.

FIVE THINGS STAND OUT ABOUT THE THRONE.

1. _____ the throne is
_____. v.2
2. _____ the throne comes
_____. v. 5

Exodus 19:16-19 “there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. . . .¹⁸ Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the LORD descended on it in fire. . . . the whole mountain trembled violently”

It is the Bible’s imagery declaring

_____.

3. _____ the throne is a
_____. v. 3
4. _____ the throne are
_____. v. 5.

1 John 1:5 “This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.”

In front of the throne is also a sea of glass like crystal. From the rest of Revelation we discover that the sea represents

_____.

Psalms 89:8 “O LORD God Almighty, who is like you? You are mighty, O LORD, and your faithfulness surrounds you. You rule over the surging sea; when its waves mount up, you still them.”

5. _____ the throne are
_____. Verse 4,6.

“there are four mighty creatures. The mightiest among the birds is the eagle, the mightiest among domestic animals is the ox, the mightiest among the wild animals is the lion, the mightiest of them all is man, and God has taken all these and secured them to his throne.” – Jewish rabbi around 300 A.D.

When we gather to worship we step into a worship service that has been going on for a long time!!

The single most reliable indicator of clear vision:

Become a _____ people.

Colossians 3 “Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.² Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things.³ For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.⁴ When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.”