

## Beauty – Rev. 4:1-11

After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

<sup>2</sup> Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. <sup>3</sup> And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. <sup>4</sup> Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. <sup>5</sup> And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

<sup>6</sup> Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. <sup>7</sup> The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature *was* like a flying eagle. <sup>8</sup> *The* four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying:

“Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God Almighty,

Who was and is and is to come!”

<sup>9</sup> Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:

<sup>11</sup> “You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created.”

**Open:** Describe what you think heaven looks like.

→What words in the passage need to be explained for you?

*NOTE: The narrator is St. John (referred to as The disciple whom Jesus loved in the Gospel of John; also wrote I, II, III John)*

1. What’s the first thing John sees? (v. 1)
2. What’s the voice like? What does it say? (v. 1)
3. In vv. 2-5, John describes a “throne room”. Who is there? What do they look like? What are the sounds? What other things are in this scene?
4. vv. 6-8 describe four strange creatures. What is the setting like? What are the creatures like?
5. In v. 8, the creatures speak. What do they say?
6. What do we find out about the throne in v. 9?
7. How do the elders respond when the creatures give glory and honor to the One on the throne? (vv. 10-11)
8. What are the various ways the One on the throne is described? (vv. 8-11)

### Apply

- Compare this scene to worship settings you’ve participated in. What’s the same? What’s different?
- If you came upon a scene like this, how would you respond?
- How can you worship God by yourself?

*[B]eauty is both something that calls us out of ourselves and something which appeals to feelings deep within us.*

N T Wright