



A MESSAGE TO THE
SEVEN CHURCHES
OF REVELATION

THE REALITY OF HEAVEN
REVELATION 4-5 & 21-22

After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first 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 there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the

throne. Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying

“Holy, holy, holy
is the Lord God Almighty,
who was, and is, and is to come.”

Whenever the living creatures give glory,
honor and thanks to him who sits on the
throne and who lives for ever and ever, the
twenty- four elders fall down before him who
sits on the throne and worship him who lives
for ever and ever. They lay their crowns
before the throne and say:

"You are worthy, our Lord and God,
to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things,
and by your will they were created
and have their being."

Then I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides and sealed with seven seals. And I saw a mighty angel proclaiming in a loud voice, "Who is worthy to break the seals and open the scroll?" But no one in heaven or on earth or under the earth could open the scroll or even look inside it. I wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.

Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals."

Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. He went and

took the scroll from the right hand of him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb.

Each one had a harp and they were holding golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of God's people. And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll
and to open its seals,
because you were slain,
and with your blood you purchased for God
persons from every tribe and language and
people and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and
priests to serve our God,
and they will reign on the earth.”

Then I looked and heard the voice of many
angels, numbering thousands upon
thousands, and ten thousand times ten
thousand. They encircled the throne and the
living creatures and the elders. In a loud
voice they were saying:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom
and strength
and honor and glory and praise!”

Then I heard every creature in heaven and
on earth and under the earth and on the sea,
and all that is in them, saying:

“To him who sits on the throne and to the
Lamb

be praise and honor and glory and power,
for ever and ever!”

The four living creatures said, “Amen,” and
the elders fell down and worshiped.

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Look! God's dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and

God himself will be with them and be their God. 'He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death' or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away."

He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

He said to me: "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life. Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. burning sulfur. This is the second death."

But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile,
the murderers, the sexually immoral, those
who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all
liars –they will be consigned to the fiery lake
of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

...

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb down the middle of the great street of the city. On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his

servants will serve him. They will see his face,
and his name will be on their foreheads.
There will be no more night. They will not
need the light of a lamp or the light of the
sun, for the Lord God will give them light.
And they will reign for ever and ever.

Revelation 4-5, 21-22

Where do bad folks go when they die?

They don't go to heaven where the angels fly

They to the lake of fire and fry

Won't see them again 'till the forth of July

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth
will awake: some to everlasting life, others to
shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:2

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”

Matthew 7:13

“Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.”

Matthew 25:46

Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children. But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars –they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

Rev. 21:7-8

The Bible is NOT about heaven and hell,
it's about heaven and earth.

God's purpose is not to get us out of earth
and into heaven; it's to restore heaven and
earth.

Josh Butler, *Skeletons in God's Closet*

There is a PRESENT and FUTURE
reality of heaven

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Rev. 5:1-4

Then one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep!
See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of
David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll
and its seven seals." ...

He went and took the scroll from the right hand of
him who sat on the throne. And when he had taken
it, the four living creatures and the twenty- four
elders fell down before the Lamb...

And they sang a new song, saying:

“You are worthy to take the scroll

and to open its seals,

because you were slain,

and with your blood you purchased for God

persons from every tribe and language and people

and nation.

You have made them to be a kingdom and priests

to serve our God,

and they will reign on the earth.”

Rev. 5:5-9

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer...

Rev. 6:9-10

For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.

Rom. 8:19-22

Then I saw "a new heaven and a new earth," for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.

Rev. 21:1

I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming
down out of heaven from God...

Rev. 21:2