

Book of Revelation, part 49
The Thone of God

- I. *The things that are ... the things that are about to occur after the previously mentioned things*** (Rev. 1:19).
1. “The things that are”, chapters 2 & 3.
 2. “The things about to occur” (all most all of chapters 4-22).
- II.** The throne of God the Father (Rev. 4:1-11).
1. John in realm of human spirit—vision (9:17).
 2. The Father’s throne (3:21 cf. Matt. 25:31).
 3. Voice like a trumpet—command demanding attention, authoritative.
 4. One sitting on the throne—Christ (v. 11 cf. Jn. 1:3).
 5. Multicolored radiance from the throne—rainbow.
 - 1) Jasper—diamond like, white light.
 - 2) Carnelian (sardine, KJV) blood red light.
 - 3) Emerald encircling green light.
 6. John sees only the radiance, hears the One’s voice of One Person.
- III.** The identity of the 24 elders.
1. The number 24 seems to represent a rotational system as organized by King David (1 Chron. 24).
 2. They are distinct from both angels and cherubim and therefore they are not spirit beings (Rev. 5:5-11).
 3. The twenty-four elders possess spiritual insight not shared by angels (Rev. 5:9 cf. 5:2).
 4. They are described as mature ones whereas no spirit being is ever described as maturing. Spiritual maturing is a New Testament human process (Rev. 4:4 cf. Phil. 3:12, 15; Eph. 4:13).
 5. They are seated on thrones and indicating that they reign (Rev. 4:4; 2:26).
 6. They have victor’s wreaths, or crowns (Rev.4:4, 3:5; 1 Cor. 9:25). Also see Rev. 2:10 regarding crowns.
 7. They are clothed in white garments, consistent with descriptions of saints. White garments are specifically worn by the church in this context (Rev. 3:5; 4:4; 19:8).

8. They perform priestly duties; the church is a kingdom of priests (Rev. 5:8 *cf.*, 1:6; 1 Pet. 2:9).
9. They have been purchased (redeemed) by Christ. The elders are human since spirit beings are never described in Scripture as having been purchased by the blood of Christ (Rev. 5:9).
10. They sing, whereas; angels are never described as singing in Scripture. Examples of errant tradition when contrasted to Scripture are in Job 38:7 where angels “shouted,” and in Luke 2:13 the verb is “saying.”
11. That the 24 elders have a glorified body is deductively seen in that they discern the One on the throne (1 Tim. 6:16 *cf.* 1 Jn. 3:2).