

# “The Majestic Throne”

(Rev 4:5-11)

Part 2 of 2



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

# “seven lamps”



I'd like for us to look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of verse 5:

“And there were **seven lamps** of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God;

- ✧ Heard some interesting interpretations on who or what the “seven lamps” are:
  - ✧ The Holy Spirit
    - ✧ The sevenfold Spirit of God
  - ✧ Gifts, graces and operations of the Spirit of God in the churches
  - ✧ Or that “seven” merely symbolizes fullness, completeness or perfection



# “seven lamps”



Just to quickly demonstrate that “seven lamps” or “seven Spirits of God” does not mean any of those things, I’d like to cross reference Luke...



# Luke 11



Luke 11:24-26 (after Jesus casted out a demon, the Pharisees alleged it was by the ruler of demons, our Lord made the point that Satan's kingdom divided against itself will not stand):

24 "When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' 25 And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. 26 Then it goes and takes along **seven other spirits** more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."

# Luke 11



From our Luke 11 passage, let me ask us the question, what or who were the "seven other spirits" Jesus was referencing in this passage, was it:

- ❧ A. Satan
- ❧ B. The seven fold spirits of Satan
- ❧ C. The activity of Satan
- ❧ D. Symbolic to mean utter evil
- ❧ E. None of the above

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  - ❧ D. Symbolic to mean utter evil
  - ❧ E. None of the above
- ❧ Our passage tells us who they are: they are seven other unclean spirits! Or seven other demons! Who are demons? Fallen angels! The 7 other unclean spirits are 7 other fallen angels evil and wicked like himself!



# “seven lamps”

Ok back to our key verse, what or who are the “seven lamps”? For starters, let’s stick with the verse

“And there were **seven lamps** of fire burning before the throne, **which are the seven Spirits of God**;

- ☞ “seven lamps” = “seven Spirits of God”
- ☞ So whoever or whatever the “seven Spirits of God” are, they are associated with the seven lamps
- ☞ So does anyone want to take a guess who these 7 spirits are referring to?
- ☞ HINT: it’s the opposite of the what we learned of who the 7 unclean spirits were





# “seven lamps”

Ok back to our key verse, what or who are the “seven lamps”? For starters, let’s stick with the verse

“And there were **seven lamps** of fire burning before the throne, **which are the seven Spirits of God**;

- ☞ “seven lamps” = “seven Spirits of God”
- ☞ So whoever or whatever the “seven Spirits of God” are, they are associated with the seven lamps
- ☞ So does anyone want to take a guess who these 7 spirits are referring to?
- ☞ HINT: it’s the opposite of the what we learned of who the 7 unclean spirits were
- ☞ **7 HOLY ANGELS!**



# “seven lamps”



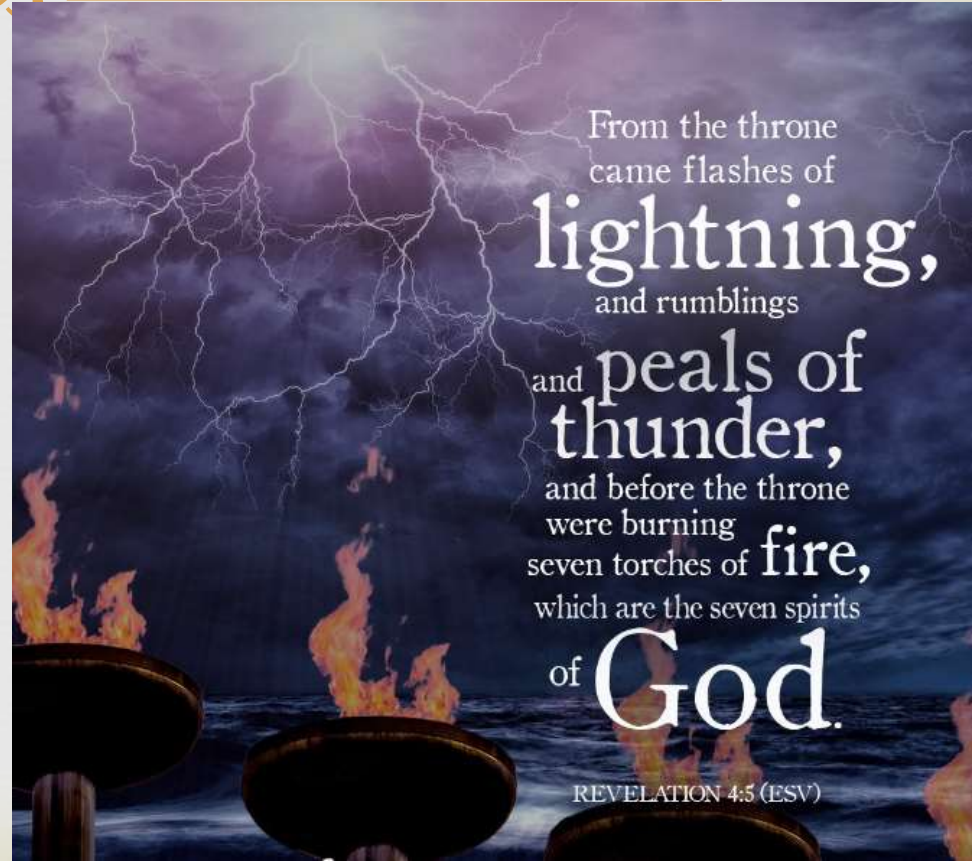
INTERPRETATION: The **seven lamps** of fire burning before the throne, are the **seven Spirits of God**, who are **7 holy angels**

If you're taking notes you can write:

7 lamps = 7 spirits of God = 7 holy angels who are before the throne

☞ More on who these 7 holy angels are as we progress

☞ But for now, let's also see what John sees before the throne, v.6



From the throne  
came flashes of  
**lightning,**  
and rumblings  
and **peals of  
thunder,**  
and before the throne  
were burning  
seven torches of **fire,**  
which are the seven spirits  
of **God.**

REVELATION 4:5 (ESV)

# Exposit Rev 4:6



6 and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal;  
and in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in  
front and behind

☞ “sea of glass” [more on this]

☞ “four living creatures” [more on this]

# “sea of glass”



John said “before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal”

- ❧ What is that sea of glass?
- ❧ First let’s look at the Greek
- ❧ There are 2 Greek words for sea:
  - ❧ Pélagos which generally refers to the ocean, a vast expanse of water or the open sea
  - ❧ Thálassa is the word that could generically refer to sea (vs. land) and can also be used to describe the seashore
- ❧ In v.6, it is thálassa
- ❧ “crystal” is krústallos (only used 2x in this book) which means water solidified by cold; resembles ice



# “sea of glass”



The next thing I'd like to do is to look to Scripture when any combination of sea/glass/crystal were used and associated with a scene in heaven

- ✧ The only connection from the OT to this scene that I can find was in Ezk 1 (which I read last time) Ezekiel sees a similar vision to John's and makes mention of "crystal"

Ezekiel 1:22

22 Now over the heads of the living beings there was something like an expanse, like the awesome gleam of **crystal**, spread out over their heads.

- ✧ Whatever this sea of glass is, its like the sky that's over the heads of the 4 living creatures





# “sea of glass”



☞ The only other mention of “sea of glass” in the NT is later this book in chapter 15:

Revelation 15:1-3

1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous, seven angels who had seven plagues, which are the last, because in them the wrath of God is finished.

2 And I saw something like a sea of glass mixed with fire, and those who had been victorious over the beast and his image and the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, holding harps of God. 3 And they \*sang the song of Moses, the bond-servant of God,



# “sea of glass”



- ❧ What we can deduce from sea of glass reference in Rev 15 is that John saw a sign in heaven and that sign was 7 angels who had the 7 plagues who will finish administering the wrath of God
- ❧ And John also saw a victorious group standing on that sea of glass
- ❧ So let's pull this together and here's my deduction on what that sea of glass is
- ❧ The sea of glass is some sort of sky, portal between heaven and earth
- ❧ And that sea of glass is some sort of entry point for angels ascend/descend to/from





# “four living creatures”



John also saw “in the center and around the throne, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind

- ☞ Who are these 4 living creatures?
- ☞ “creatures” is zōon which is also translated animals
- ☞ John saw 4 living creatures that resembled animals or living beings
- ☞ 1<sup>st</sup> Creature: Like a Lion
- ☞ 2<sup>nd</sup> Creature: Like a Calf
- ☞ 3<sup>rd</sup> Creature: Like a Man
- ☞ 4<sup>th</sup> Creature: Like a Flying Eagle

1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup>



# Exposit Rev 4:8



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.”

- ✧ All 4 creatures had their own distinct resemblance, but also had things in common:
- ✧ All 4 creatures:
  - ✧ Had 6 wings
  - ✧ Were full of eyes around and within
  - ✧ Never ceased praising the One sitting on the throne

1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup>



# Ezekiel 1



From here I'd like to jot down Ezekiel's account of 4 living beings he saw when he was allowed to see into the throne room in heaven in Ezk 1:

- ☞ Ezk 1:5: "there were four living beings" and "they had human form"
- ☞ Ezk 1:6: "each of them had four faces and four wings"
- ☞ Ezk 1:7: "their legs were straight and their feet were like a calf's hoof"
- ☞ Ezk 1:8: "under their wings on their four sides were human hands"
- ☞ Ezk 1:10: "each had the face of a man; all four had the face of a lion... and the face of the bull... and the face of an eagle"

# CONJECTURE



- ☞ I once made the comment that the 4 living beings in Ezk 1 are the 4 living creatures in Rev 4
- ☞ I stand corrected one again
- ☞ If you were to put their descriptions side-by-side; they are similar in some ways, but they are also distinct in other ways (i.e. Rev 4 they had 1 face and 6 wings vs. Ezk 1 they had 4 faces and 4 wings)

Revelation 4



Ezekiel 1





# CONJECTURE



- ∞ There are other distinctions, but in the interest of time won't indulge
- ∞ Besides a lot in this vision is beyond me, beyond human comprehension
- ∞ But I believe these 8 are high ranking hosts of heaven who have particular roles and activities
- ∞ In the case of the 4 living creatures in Rev 4, that would include unending praise saying

Revelation 4



Ezekiel 1



# Exposit Rev 4:8



Back to our key verse, these 4 living creatures have something to say:

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.”**

❧ BROWNIE POINTS: Which Person of the trinity is being praised here?

1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

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# Exposit Rev 4:8



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

- ❧ BROWNIE POINTS: Which Person of the trinity is being praised here?
- ❧ **GOD THE FATHER!**
- ❧ But wait a minute: isn't this book about the Revelation of Jesus Christ who is and who was and who is to come? Amen!

1<sup>st</sup>

2<sup>nd</sup>

3<sup>rd</sup>

4<sup>th</sup>





# CONJECTURE



And I've spoiled this earlier in our "He Who is to Come Study" back in chapter 1

- ❧ TRUTH: the Father is coming too! But not until AFTER Jesus returns!
- ❧ The Father is not coming until AFTER Jesus returns, AFTER Jesus rules and reigns for a thousand years, AFTER Jesus is finished punishing and judging all evil and all sin
- ❧ The Father won't come until Jesus fulfills all of the prophecies concerning Him and won't come until this present heavens and earth pass away
- ❧ The Father will arrive when the new heaven and new earth and the New Jerusalem comes to pass
- ❧ It can be said that the book of Revelation of the unveiling of both the Lord Jesus Christ and God the Father!

# Exposit Rev 4:9-11



We're almost done:

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."



# Exposit Rev 4:9-11



A few things from these verses:

Let's meet heaven's worship team:

- ☞ Choir Director: 4 Living Creatures
- ☞ Worship Team: 24 Elders
- ☞ Whenever the 4 Living Creatures praise the One sitting on the throne
- ☞ The 24 Elders get off their throne, cast their crowns before Him and join in praise and worship 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."



# Exposit Rev 4:9-11



Which Person of the Trinity is being spoken of in v. 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.”



# Exposit Rev 4:9-11



Which Person of the Trinity is being spoken of in v. 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.”

❧ **GOD THE FATHER!**

❧ TRUTH: God the Father “created all things” and because of the Father’s “will they existed and were created”!

❧ Again hammering home the truth we previously learned that both the Father and Jesus are Co-Creators in the Father’s creation! All of creation is the Father’s will

