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| **Grant Street Baptist Church** | **Sermon Notes** |
| **Jeremy Beck** | **June 2, 2021** |

Title: *“It’s Heaven”*

Scripture: Revelation 4:1-11

Message: **1. The Rapture** *(vs 1)*

1After this **(after the church age has passed)** I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven **(John was allowed to enter into the presence of God)**. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet **(used in bible days to get your attention)** said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

**2. The Throne of God** *(vs’ 2-9)*

2At once I was in the Spirit **(John was out of body)**, and there before me was a throne in heaven **(throne of God)** with someone sitting on it. 3And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper **(diamond = “perfect”)** and ruby **(red stone = “blood shed”)**. A rainbow that shone like an emerald **(a green rainbow = “eternal life”)** encircled the throne. 4Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders **(not angels, but 12 apostles from the N.T. + 12 sons of Jacob from the O.T.)**. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. 5From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder **(thunderstorms reveal God’s power and judgment)**. In front of the throne, seven lamps **(7=complete)** were blazing **(fire=judgment)**. These are the seven spirits of God **(7 characteristics of the Holy Spirit = *church of Sardis study notes for names*)**. 6Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea **(sink/tub for continual cleansing)** of glass, clear as crystal **(no water = made clean once and for all through Jesus)**. In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures **(cherubim/seraphim angels that guard the throne of God)**, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back **(ability to see past, present and future)**. 7The first living creature was like a lion **(power of God)**, the second was like an ox **(God as servant)**, the third had a face like a man **(God as human = Jesus)**, the fourth was like a flying eagle **(God’s will = soars to great heights)**. 8Each of the four living creatures had six wings **(1 set covered face = reverence for God, 1 set covered feet = humbled before God, 1 set to fly = swiftness to obey God’s orders)** and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings **(ability to see past, present and future)**. Day and night they never stop saying **(never stop chanting)**: “‘Holy, holy, holy **(holiness of the trinity; God the Father, Son, Holy Spirit)** is the Lord God Almighty **(ruler of all; King of Kings, Lord of Lords = Isaiah 6:3)**,’who was, and is, and is to come **(Omnipresent = has always been; no beginning and no end)**.” **(the sound of Heaven)** 9Whenever **(the cheerleaders that start the praise of God in Heaven)** the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him **(God)** who sits on the throne and who lives forever and ever

**3. The Judgment Seat** *(vs’ 10-11)*

10the twenty-four elders **(they represent all Christians)** fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns **(3 crowns = crown of righteousness “Christian lifestyle”, crown of glory “ministers”, crown of life “suffering, persecution”)** before the throne and say: 11“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power **(He is worthy of our praise)**, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” **(Colossians 1:16; created by God to be for God)**

Application:

* It’s Heaven
* One day the trumpet will sound and we will get to experience all this as well
* Even now God gives us a glimpse of His throne as a warning to humanity at every thunderstorm that rolls through, reminding us that one day He will be our judge
* The living creatures teach us how we too should respond to God = six wings (1 set covered face = reverence for God, 1 set covered feet = humbled before God, 1 set to fly = swiftness to obey God’s orders)
* 3 crowns = crown of righteousness “Christian lifestyle”, crown of glory “ministers”, crown of life “suffering, persecution”
* “You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power (He is worthy of our praise), for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.” (Colossians 1:16; created by God to be for God)
* Tonight may we too fall before God acknowledging that He is worthy and that we were created by Him to be for Him