

Tuesday

## Around the Throne

**Today's Scripture** Revelation 4:1-11

The concept of an “open door” appears in Revelation (Revelation 3:8; 3:20; 4:1). Philadelphia had a door that was opened by the Lord to expand their ministry. Now Jesus opens the door to heaven so John can see.

What John observes is the throne of God in heaven. There is unimaginable beauty all around this throne and twenty-four more thrones for the elders who sat there. There is sound, flashes of lightning, seven torches burning, and four special creatures: a lion, ox, man, and an eagle. Instead of the seraphim of Isaiah's vision (Isaiah 6), these four creatures have six wings and are flying and shouting a similar praise, “Holy holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty. Who was and is and is to come!” When these creatures fly and shout, the twenty-four elders fall down and cast their crowns before Him who sits on the throne, and they shout praise as well (Revelation 4:9-11).

Have you ever opened a door and had your breath taken away by something awesome on the other side? Can you imagine John's reaction when this door opened? We sing the song, “How Beautiful Heaven Must Be” and Jesus here gives us a small taste.

Some have said, “If all heaven is about is singing and worshipping all the time, then what is so great about it?” The fact is we know little about heaven. The picture God gives us is so amazing it is hard to conceive. We should all want to go there so that we can meet Jesus and praise God in person, before His breath-taking throne. The Bible depicts heaven as rest (Matthew 11:28; Hebrews 4:1) and as Paradise (Revelation 2:7; 22:1-5). Neither of those things is boring. When I was a boy, I was amazed at the colors of the castle in Wizard of Oz. That cannot begin to compare to heaven.

**Today, I will...**spend some time trying to envision the throne room of my God, and then spend time in prayer thanking Him for allowing His Son to prepare that place for me (John 14:1-6).