We are going to try to cover Verses **4** through **11** tonight. The scene before us is unlike anything we have ever seen! We will do our best to describe it and define it.

We see a throne and in **Vs.3** we see that it is surrounded by an emerald rainbow. In **Vs.4** we see that it is also encompassed by ***24 seats*** upon which ***24 elders*** sit. We see that they are wearing ***white raiment*** and have ***crowns of gold*** upon their heads. There are differing views as to the identity of these elders and what they represent.

**Some say they are angels**.

This is not likely for several reasons. **1.** Angels have no crowns. **2.** In Chpt. **7:11** angels are distinguished from the elders. **3.** The song being sung is about ***redemption*** and angels are not redeemed. **Rev. 5:8-10; 1 Pet.1:12**. **4.** The term "***elder***" implies ***maturity*** and angels are timeless.

If they are not angels who and what are they?

**Some say they are the 12 apostles and the 12 Patriarchs.**

This doesn't fit because **Rev. 5:9,10** talk about these having been redeemed from every nation, kindred and tongue. The 12 apostles and the 12 patriarchs were all Jews!

**Some say they are Church Age Saints.**

This is the more likely choice.

1. The white raiment speaks of attire of a priest. (The church age saints are priests. (**Rev. 1:6; 1 Pet.2:9**)
2. White robes were promised to the overcomers. (The church age saints are overcomers. (**1John 5:4**)
3. The seats or thrones would be consistent with the fact that the church age saints are also kings. (**Rev.1:6**)
4. Thrones and crowns are offered to the overcomers. (**Crown of Life**: **James 1:12; Rev. 2:10**; **Incorruptible Crown**: **1 Cor. 9:25**; **Crown of Righteousness**: **2 Tim.4:8**; **Crown of Glory**: **1 Pet.5:4**; **Crown of Rejoicing**: **1 Thess. 2:19)**

Much that qualifies the Church Age Saint could also be said of the Tribulation Saint except that the location of the ***Tribulation Saint*** is given in **Rev.6:9-11**. They are ***under the altar***!They had been beheaded! (**Rev.20:4**)

We say ***these elders are representative*** because they number **24**. The redeemed saints will be innumerable. (**Rev.5:11**)

**Vs.5**: "***Out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices***:"This speaks of ***judgment***. From here all the way to **Chpt. 20**, that's all there is, ***Judgment***! (**Ex. 9:23; 19:16; 1 Sam.7:10; 1 Sam.12:17-18**)

"***Seven lamps of fire burning***": The text defines the seven lamps of fire as the seven Spirits of God. The "S" in "Spirit" is capitalized. We know that there is but one Holy Spirit and we know that the number **7** speaks of "***fulness or completeness***". What we have here is a manifestaion of the Holy Ghost in all His fulness.

**Vs.6**: "***And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal***:"Just some verses for you to consider. We can't take the time to look at these tonight. (**Ps.148:3,4; Job 26:7,9,10; 37:18; 38:30; Isa.14:13; Ps.48:2; Gen.1:6-8; 2 Pet.3:5-6**) This "sea" is spoken of again in ***Rev. 15:2. And I saw as it were a sea of glass mingled with fire: and them that had gotten the victory over the beast, and over his image, and over his mark, and over the number of his name, stand on the sea of glass, having the harps of God***.

It would seem that there is a "***body of water***", "***the Deep***", that is frozen. It separates the Third heaven from the Second heaven. The portal or entance, the "***door***", into the Third heaven is shielded or clouded but is located in the empty place in the north.(**Job 26:7**) A sea of glass mingled with fire sounds like a sea of "***dry ice***" on steroids! You say, "This proposterous! It cannot be!" Wait 'till you meet these four beasts!!

**Vs. 6b-9** introduce us to some very strange beings indeed! And yet, they are part of God's creative work! If you have ever watched much programming on the Nature channel you will have seen God's "***diversified and creative***" artistry. These "***heavenly creatures***" are just as amazing and moreso! Let the text speak for itself.

These "***4 beasts***' are **S*eraphim***. (**Isa.6:1-3; 6,7**) We know this because they have **6** wings. They differ from the ***Cherubim*** in that they have only **4** wings. It would seem that both have responsibilities around the Throne and the altar in heaven. For a description of Cherubim, see **Ezek.1:5-10 and 10:1-22**.

Cherubims were chraged with the keeping of the Tree of Life after Adam and Eve had sinned and were cast out. They did so with a "***flaming sword***" which turned every way to keep the way of the Tree of life! (**Gen.3:24**)

Cherubs guard the ***"Mercy Seat"***. (**Ex. 25:17-21**)

**Ezek.28:14** describes Lucifer as the "***covering cherub***". He is not there because he had been cast down from the Third heaven.**Ezek.28:16**)

When these beasts give glory and honour and praise and thanks to the One on the throne, (**Vs.10)** the 24 elders (representative of the Church age Saints) fall down and worship the Eternal One, casting their crowns at his feet!!

(**Vs.11**) All the while they are doing this, they are crying out, **THOU ART WORTHY, O LORD, TO RECEIVE GLORY AND HONOUR AND POWER: FOR THOU HAST CREATED ALL THINGS, AND FOR THY**