**LESSON IV**

**Revelation Chapter 4**

“This chapter along with chapter 5 do not merely give us a picture of heaven. They describe the entire universe from the aspect of heaven. The purpose of the vision is to show us, in beautiful symbolism, that all things are governed by the throne-occupant. Hence, when the world is enkindling the flames of hatred and slaughter and when the earth is drenched with blood, may our tear-dimmed eye catch a vision of the throne which rules the universe.”

William Henriksen, More Than Conquerors, pp. 100-101.

**I. THE CALL** (vss. 1-2a)

1. “Come up here” (see illustration page 4 of syllabus)
2. “in the Spirit” (see comments on 1:10)

**II. THE VISION**

1. The appearance of God as three stones

1. jasper

2. sardius

3. rainbow with the appearance of an emerald

1. (vs. 4) the twenty-four elders

1. Clothed in white garments

2. Golden crowns upon their heads

1. (vs. 5) see Exodus 20:18
2. (vs. 6) “a sea of glass like crystal”

Interpretations

1. Many writers suggest that this represents the great gulf that exists between sinful man and the sinless and holy God.
2. Another possibility is that the crystal sea around the throne represents God’s clear view of all history from His throne.

(See Exodus 24:9-10)

1. The four living creatures.
2. There have been no less than 13 different interpretations of these creatures.
3. The many eyes may speak of their omniscience and vigilance.
4. The number 4 represents nature.
5. All for aspects of nature.
6. Lion—the strong
7. calf —the week
8. man—the intelligent
9. eagle—the Swift
10. (Verse 8) “6 wings” (see Isaiah 6:1-3)
11. The idea being portrayed in these verses is that God is continually praised by nature.
12. Psalm 19:1-2
13. (verse 10) the casting of crowns before the throne represents complete submission.