

# The View From Heaven

4:1 *After this* I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in **heaven**. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "*Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.*" 2 At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in **heaven** with someone sitting on it. 3 And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian. A rainbow, resembling an emerald, encircled the throne. 4 Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. Before the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. 6 Also before the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under his wings. Day and night they never stop saying:

"Holy, holy, holy  
is the Lord God Almighty,  
who was, and is, and is to come."

9 Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives forever and ever, 10 the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him who lives forever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:

11 "You are worthy, our Lord and God,  
to receive glory and honor and power,  
for you created all things,  
and by your will they were created  
and have their being."

"It is very little that we can know of the future state, but we may be quite sure that we know as much as is good for us. We ought to be as content with that which is not revealed as with that which is. If God wills us not to know, we ought to be satisfied not to know.

Depend on it, *he has told us all about heaven that is necessary to bring us there*; and if he had revealed more, it would have served rather for the gratification of our curiosity than for the increase of our grace." (Spurgeon)

1 Thess 4:16-18

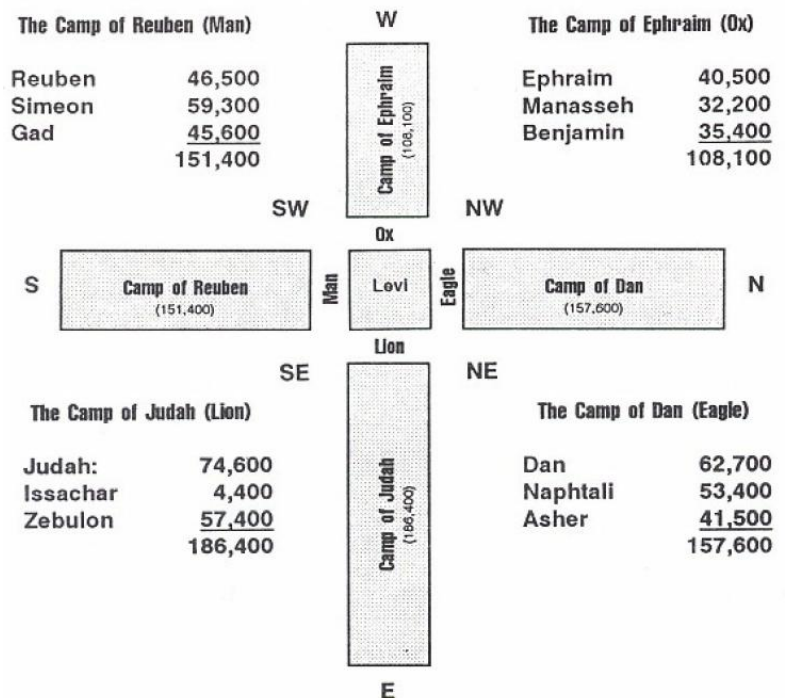
6 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

2 Cor 12:2-3

2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know-God knows.

Similar but different to the cherubim in Ez 1, 10 that had 4 faces and 4 wings. It may also be that John only saw the one face directed toward him.

"If you and I should walk into some great cathedral where they were singing, and ask to be allowed to sing in the choir, they would ask whether we had ever learnt the tune, and they would not let us join unless we had. Nor can we expect that untrained voices should be admitted into the choirs above. Now, dear brothers and sisters, have you learnt to cast your crowns at the Savior's feet already?" (Spurgeon)



*Ezek 28:12-14*

*"You were the model of perfection,  
full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.  
You were in Eden, the garden of God;  
every precious stone adorned you:  
ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper,  
sapphire, turquoise and beryl.  
Your settings and mountings were made of gold;  
on the day you were created they were prepared.  
You were anointed as a guardian cherub,  
for so I ordained you.*

*Ezek 1:10-12*

*10 Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had  
the face of a man, and on the right side each had the  
face of a lion, and on the left the face of an ox; each  
also had the face of an eagle. 11 Such were their faces.  
Their wings were spread out upward; each had two  
wings, one touching the wing of another creature on  
either side, and two wings covering its body.*

