

## Sneaking a peek at the throne: Revelation ch.11



### Today's TFTD comes from Revd Linda Lonsdale

If the Book of Revelation was a painting, then for me it would have to be Picasso's Guernica: it's big, it's bold, it's in your face. It obviously has an important message it's trying to convey, but it's going to make you work at interpreting what's before you.

Revelation – interesting language, challenging symbols, vivid imagery of disaster and suffering -- the Battle of Armageddon, the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, the hideous Beast whose number is 666 all pointing to that Day of Days when evil will be defeated once and for all, and God will gather up his own and take them home.

After explaining what he's about and admonishing the seven churches, John turns his eyes toward Heaven, walks through the "*door standing open*" (4.1) and gives us a peek at the life to come.

Today along with John we take a look at what is going on inside chapter 11, we have the testimony of the two witnesses and the blowing of the seventh trumpet and then we find ourselves in the throne room and the spectacle of: "*the 24 elders, who fell on their faces worshipping God's and singing God's praises*". (11.16)

Who are these elders? Where did they come from? Who do they represent?

For me who they are or what they represent is far less important than what they do. They offer ceaseless praise and worship round the throne of God. It is a foretaste of the worship and praise that will be sung to the King of Kings, the Lord of Lord, the Victorious Lamb who sits upon the throne. Thrones represent power. Rulers, usually kings and queens sit on thrones.

Remember the scene in the film, 'The King's Speech'. King George is getting ready for his coronation, but he has also discovered that his speech therapist, Lionel Logue, isn't a true doctor. They're standing in Westminster Abbey and King George is going on a rant about how he's been deceived, how the people of England deserve someone better than him – a speechless king.

And then he turns around and discovers that Lionel is sitting on the Coronation Throne the Stone of Scone, Scotland's famous Stone of Destiny or Coronation Stone. King George goes into a rage "You can't sit there, that is the Throne of Scone!"

And Lionel answers, "It's just a chair." King George is outraged – it's not just a chair – it's the seat of authority and power – it belonged to a long-gone king.

Eventually Lionel gets up, helps King George find his voice, and the movie continues.

The point being – thrones are special, thrones are sacred things. They aren't meant for just anyone – they are meant for royalty. They symbolize the seat of power. And the throne in Heaven is the throne to outdo any of our earthly visions of a throne. The throne in Heaven represents power that has no equal. It is the seat of God's authority, the seat of the One who defeated Satan and death – the Lamb Victorious.

Throughout the book of Revelation the throne will go on to represent the dwelling of God. Worship takes place around the throne, voices will come from the throne, and the river of living water will pour out from the throne.

The throne in Heaven – the seat of ultimate power, ultimate authority, ultimate love, mercy, and grace! And it is the throne that will never be defeated!

And the purpose of the 24 elders is to gather around the throne to sing praise to the Victorious Lamb. But we're not quite there yet we still have several chapters to go – we're still in that time-in-between.

There's an old revival hymn written in Ireland by a woman named Charitie Lees Bancroft (1841–1923) called: Before the Throne of God Above

Before the throne of [God](#) above

I have a strong and perfect plea.

A great [High Priest](#) whose name is Love

Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,

My name is written on His heart.

I know that while in Heaven He stands

No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When [Satan](#) tempts me to despair

And tells me of the guilt within,

Upward I look and see Him there

Who made an end of all my sin.

Because the sinless [Saviour](#) died

My sinful soul is counted free.

For God the just is satisfied

To look on Him and pardon me.

Behold Him there the risen Lamb,

My perfect spotless righteousness,

The great unchangeable [I AM](#),

The King of glory and of grace,

One in Himself I cannot die.

My soul is purchased by His blood,

My life is hid with [Christ](#) on high,  
With Christ my Saviour and my God!

Every blessing Linda

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