

### Introduction

- Remember this is about beholding and worshipping God.
- Our questions and study should lead to greater worship.

### Isaiah 6

- The only creatures present are the seraphim, who have 6 wings.
- Their song begins the same way, but is different.
- God is on a throne, but it is lifted high and above everyone else.
- The royal robes of God fill the entire temple, where heaven is a temple.
- There is an earthquake at God's voice, which fills the place with smock.
- Isaiah must have sin dealt with before he can proceed.
- Isaiah is commissioned to prophecy the future after this event.

### Ezekiel 1

- The vision begins with a storm and fire.
- He sees 4 creatures with four heads and four wings.
- They each have the head of a man, lion, ox, and eagle.
- They appear like fire and move like lightening.
- He also sees 4 wheels, covered with eyes, that follow the creatures.
- He sees someone sitting on the throne surrounded by jewels and a rainbow.
- His body is like fire and shining metal.

### Differences

- Isaiah and Ezekiel are brought into heaven to be commissioned as prophets.
- John is more of a witness of the events taking place in the heavens.
- All of Revelation 4-19 takes place in the throne room.
- Each vision sees different participants inside of the throne room.
- One could argue they saw the same scene or events, but described it differently like the gospels do.
- They all may only be getting different sneak peaks of what heaven truly is like.
- Or they simply are each seeing heaven at different places in time.

### Stones and Glass

- God may only appear like these stones, not literally be them.
- Jasper was used to refer to any opaque precious stone.
- Jasper was used with the high priest's breastplate (Ex 28) the promised restoration of Jerusalem (Is 54:14), Eden (Ez 28:13), and in new Jerusalem (Rev 21).
- Carnelian is red, used in high priest's breastplate (Ex 28), Eden (Ezekiel 28:13), New Jerusalem (Rev 21), and beauty (Proverbs (25:11-12)).

- The stones are probably used repeatedly in the Bible because they reflect something in the heavenly realm.
- Early church saw the sea of glass as symbolic of baptism.

#### Elders

- The primary question is whether these are human or angelic beings.
- They are always mentioned, in Revelation, alongside the creatures and angels.
- Their worship song is about how God has redeemed "them," not themselves.
- Some see them as the authors of the 24 OT books in the Hebrew bible.
- Probably some reference to the 12 tribes and 12 apostles.
- Some see them as singular figures like Melchizedek, Stephen, and others.
- They definitely represent the people of God, in either option.
- I believe they are part of the people of God.

#### Creatures

- The six wings of each creature add up to 24.
- They seem similar to the seraphim and cherubim in Isaiah and Ezekiel.
- 1 Enoch describes seraphim, cherubim, and ophanim as being around the throne.
- They have eyes and are on every side to oversee and carry out God's will.
- The early church saw the creatures as the four gospels.
- Some see them as representing all created beings.
- I think it is likely they are angelic beings.

#### Describing God

- Attempting to describe the physical appearance of God the Father is dangerous.
- Most descriptions use words like "the appearance of" or was "like."
- Describing God is like describing colors to the blind or music to the deaf.
- This why the incarnation of Christ is such a significant event.

#### Application

- This should help us realize the indescribable glory of God.
- Isaiah, Ezekiel, and John may or may not have seen the same scene, but none of them saw everything.
- We know everything we need to know and have hints of more.