

## ELDERS IN HEAVEN SERVING THE LORD

**Rev 4:4** *And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.*

The number 24 represents several things. For one, it points to the 12 representatives of the tribes of Israel along with the 12 Apostles. Hence a completion of the entire assembly of God from the new and old testaments. “And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone” (Eph 2:20). In addition, the number 24 can also point to the Levitical order of service in the Temple structured by King David in I Chronicles 24:7-18. These priestly courses of service ensured there was service to the Lord 24/7. Incense, prayers, worship were offered to God on a continual basis. Hallelujah! The church has 24 elders who ensure continual service before the Lord Jesus in heaven. This is what the Apostle John found discovered and shared with us.

**Exodus 30:8** *And when Aaron lighteth the lamps at even, he shall burn incense upon it, a perpetual incense before the LORD throughout your generations.*

Next, notice the title the Lord gave them – elders, not lords or chiefs etc. God loves experience. The 24 elders represent maturity and experience in the Lord. The church is expected to grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord. We are to go from the milk of the word to the meat of the word. “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive (Ephesians 4:13,14). The 24 elders in heaven had been tested in every way; they held to the doctrine of salvation and fought for holiness. Their sins were cleansed, and they endured to the end. Some of us ought to be elders in our walk with the Lord by this time.

**Heb 6:1** *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.*

Furthermore, the 24 elders were all around the throne and sitting upon the same seats. This speaks of equality. There appeared to be no hierarchy or difference in rank between them. Before the throne and glory of Jesus we are all equal. In heaven, we shall all worship and reverence the Lord Jesus with equal zeal and love. There is no hierarchy in worship and

love. No one's Hallelujah or Amen will carry more weight or have greater importance in the sight of Jesus. Every Hallelujah will be acknowledged and blessed by the Lord. Even the woman who blessed the breasts that fed the Lord, while corrected, was nevertheless given a mention in the Bible because of her sincere attempt at worship. "And it came to pass, as he spake these things, a certain woman of the company lifted up her voice, and said unto him, Blessed is the womb that bare thee, and the paps which thou hast sucked" (Luke 11:27). Don't allow anyone to intimidate your Hallelujahs and Amens – all are equal in worship before the throne of the Lord.

Next, the elders were all clothed in white raiment. Their clothes were washed by the blood of the Lamb. They had no righteousness of their own, and they knew it. Every one of us here has come with clothes washed with different detergents and soaps, but the clothes of heaven have only one cleansing agent – the blood of Jesus. There is only one standard of cleanliness and holiness in heaven – the one which is washed by the blood of Jesus. Only then can we stand as priests and enter into the holy of holies as his priests. All owed their holiness to the Lord. John also notes that they had crowns of gold on their heads. They were kings reigning with Christ. We must reign over our sins now in order to reign as kings with the Lord. "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (Rev 1:6). We do not talk often about this, but we are destined to reign with the Lord as kings. Jesus is the King of kings! Which kings? That would be us, saints of God! Get used to the idea – what a blessing! "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us" (2 Tim 2:12).

**Rev 4:10** *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying.*

The elders fell down and cast their crowns because they were overcome with gratitude at what Christ did for them, and never forgot the source of their blessings. Whatever the Lord gave us, we ought to remove that crown and place it at his feet. They knew that the Lord himself gave them the grace to do what they did in order to gain a crown. The crown belonged to Jesus, not them. When the Lord blesses you and me, let us not forget to return to his throne like the elders and give the crown back to him! For this reason, they spent their time praising and worshipping the Lord continually. "And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia" (Rev 19:4).

Finally, do not think for a moment that they had no other work – the elders were answering John’s questions and asking him questions. “And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they?” (Rev 7:13). The elders were still ministering, revealed secrets and comforted John when he wept. “And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof” (Rev 5:5). We will always have work to do for the Lord. What a tremendous future awaits us! The 24 elders give us a tiny glimpse of the blessings the Lord will bestow upon those who overcome. Let us persevere and claim our destiny in Jesus’ name!