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.” At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne. 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. From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.

Vs. 1, “After this”
- Immediately after John is finished writing the letters to the churches
  - Only after Jesus has given direction to the Churches could He begin the Apocalyptic Scenes

Vs. 1, “I looked”
- Observation is key to discovering God’s Revelation

Vs. 1, “and there before me was a door standing open in heaven.”
- A door without a building attached to it: a portal!
  - John doesn’t enter into “the Spirit” or the throne room until 2 verses later
  - He is on Earth looking up into the sky looking at a door
- Perhaps this is the door Jesus mentioned in the letters:
  - To the church in Philadelphia:
    Revelation 3:8, “See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut.”
    - This was in response to the Judaizers that were trying to teach salvation by Religious Works
    - Jesus says that the door of Salvation is only through Him and no one can shut it
    - Hear we see that the other side of the door of Salvation is Heaven
  - To the church in Laodicea:
    Revelation 3:20, “Here I am! I stand at the door and knock.”
    - Jesus stands at that door in Heaven and knocks on it, waiting, hoping for someone on Earth to open it.
    - When it is opened, Jesus goes through it, not us to Him:
      Revelation 3:20, “If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him and he with Me,”
      - The churches are on Earth - Jesus goes through the door to us
      - When John enters Heaven, he goes through the door to Jesus
      - Note: Jesus isn’t just knocking, “If anyone hears my voice”

Vs. 1, “And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said”
- John is referring to the voice he heard in Revelation 1:12, “I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me”
  - Here, John refers to the voice as the one he had heard “first” in Revelation 1, the same Voice
  - In both cases, John never refers to Jesus by His Name:
    - Odd because they were so close on Earth
    - “I turned around to see the voice” is an odd statement. You can’t see a voice.
- Continually you see that John in the flesh was completely overwhelmed by the spirit realm and the Presence of Jesus. Heightened respect. No “buddy-buddy” with Jesus for now.
  - This is an important balance for us all to have
  - Jesus is our brother but He is also the Almighty Cornerstone!
- Like a Military Trumpet: You can’t miss it!
  - Revelation 1:15, John describes it again as the sound of rushing waters
    - Have you ever been to Niagara Falls? - there are no conversations happening at the base of the Falls
  - Daniel describes Jesus’ voice as a “Multitude” of voices:
    I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever!”

Vs. 1, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this”
- Revelation 1:19, Jesus had directed John to write:
  - What he saw
  - What was now (in relation to John’s time)
  - What was about to take place
* The “what must take place after this” indicates 2 things:
  1. The letters to the Churches was the “now”
     - Because the letters include the culminating Promises and Judgments, the “now” may refer to the Church Age which:
       - Began at Pentecost
       - And Ends at the Rapture
  2. Revelation 4 and beyond are the events that are futuristic (after the Church Age)

**Vs. 2 “At once I was in the Spirit”**
- Vs. 1 Jesus says, “Come up here”
  - Indicates that Heaven is “up”
- Location Timeline:
  - Revelation 1:1-9 - John is on planet Earth
  - Revelation 1:10 - John is taken up “in the Spirit” “On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit”
  - Here we see John going back up “in the Spirit”
- Perhaps we can assume that when Jesus was reciting the letters to John, they went back to planet Earth so John could use a pen and a scroll
- Remember: This happened “immediately” after the writing of the letters
- Regardless, John is back up in the Spirit and specifically (Vs. 2) in the Throne Room of Heaven
- “at once”
  - Perhaps an indication of what death will be like - the passing over from one realm to another…suddenly!

**Vs. 2, “and there before me was a throne in heaven”**
- John was immediately “in the Spirit” and the revealed location was “the throne in heaven”
  - Capital “S” = the Holy Spirit?
  - Perhaps indicating that the Throne Room of Heaven is in the bosom of the Spirit
  - Jesus said of His own Presence, “The Kingdom of Heaven has come among you”

**Vs. 2, “with someone sitting on it”**
- Here, John is either looking at Father God or the GodHead (Trinity)
  - I think it is the Father God because later, images of the Spirit and Jesus are present as well.
- “someone” and “sitting” indicates that it is in human-like form
  - Actually, it’s the reverse thinking - we are made in His image

**Vs. 3, “And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby”**
- “had the appearance of…” indicates that He wasn’t made of stone, nor did He look like stone, He simply had some attributes of the gemstones named
  - Jasper - Though jasper is wavy multi coloured (“fire” like), it is also referred to later in Revelation more like a diamond
  - Revelation 21:11, It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal.
- “Ruby” is not a great translation: A red stone
  - “Carnelian” used in some translations is more accurate
  - Original Greek = Sardinos (King James uses “Sardine”)
  - From Wikipedia: Carnelian is a brownish-red mineral used as a semi-precious gemstone. Similar to carnelian is sard, which is generally harder and darker (the difference is not rigidly defined, and the two names are often used interchangeably). The colour can vary greatly, ranging from pale orange to an intense almost-black colouration (Like “Fire”)
  - “Carnelian” or “Sardinos” shows up 2 other places in scripture:
    1. In the Breastplate of the Priests (Exodus 39:10-12)
       - 4 rows of gems on the breastplate
       - The first row includes “Carnelian”
       - The last row includes “Jasper”!
    2. In the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21:20)
       - In the 12 foundations
       - First level: “Jasper”
       - Sixth Level: “Carnelian”
• The combination of Clear (Jasper) symbolizing Purity and Brownish Orange (Carnelian) resembling Fire (which is multi-coloured) symbolizing Judgment are used often in scripture to describe God:
  Ezekiel 8:2, “I looked, and I saw a figure like that of a man. From what appeared to be his waist down he was like a fire, and from there up his appearance was as bright as glowing metal.”
  Daniel 7:9, “As I looked, “thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took His seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of His head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.”
  Revelation 1:14, “The hair on His head was white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes were like blazing fire.”
• This “Someone” was like a person on fire

Vs. 3, “A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne”
• Common interpretation: Green was highlighted in the rainbow highlighting the Redeeming essence of God

• The rainbow originated in Noah’s time after the flood
  - The flood was meant to cleanse the world of sin by killing sinners
  Genesis 6:13, “I am going to put an end to all people, for the earth is filled with violence because of them.”
  - It was God’s promise that He would not flood the earth again (He would not deal with sin in this way again)
• This rainbow in Heaven, highlighting green symbolizing redemption is like a trophy saying, “I have dealt with sin by sending My only begotten Son to die in the sinners place”
• This rainbow wasn’t just an arch, it encircled the Throne

Vs. 4, “Surrounding the throne were twenty four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty four elders”
• “Elders” = Greek “presbuteros”
  - specifically an Israelite Sanhedrist (or later Christian presbyter)
• These were humans who, now in Heaven, lived victorious lives and received Jesus’ payment on the cross to declare them righteous.
  - We know this because of the next sentence:

Vs. 4, “They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads”
• White Clothing: Symbolizing purity/righteousness (One of Jesus’ promises in the 7 letters)
• Thrones: Symbolizing Victory/Authority (Another one of Jesus’ promises in the 7 letters)
• Who are the Elders?
  - Most likely the 12 disciples:
    Matthew 19:28, “Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on His glorious throne, you who have followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.”
  - One common theory: 12 representing the Tribes of Israel (Old Testament) + 12 Disciples or Apostles (New Testament).
    - People under both Covenants represented.

• NOTE: If this is true, John saw himself on one of the thrones (John was a disciple)
  - Jesus had just outlined the Promises to the Overcomer in the 7 letters:
    Revelation 2:7 - Eat from the Tree of Life (Eternal Life)
    Revelation 2:11 - Not hurt by the Second Death (Eternal Life)
    Revelation 2:17 - Hidden Manna (New Revelation of Jesus)
       - White Stone (Know God’s Voice/Will and help Judge)
    Revelation 2:26 - Power/Authority over the Nations
       - The Morning Star (what was once Lucifer’s title/position)
    Revelation 3:5 - White Garments
       - Their name in the Book of Life
       - Jesus will confess their name before the Father and angels
    Revelation 3:12 - Thrones
  - John now sees “what will be after this” and observes the promises fulfilled!
* If we could only see ourselves IN our Eternal Destiny… life changer!
Vs. 5, “From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder”
- Oldest manuscripts say, “voices and thunderings”
  - These were coming from the throne
  - The throne and/or the One sitting on it produced these powerful elements

- Similar to Moses and the Israelites’ experience:
  Exodus 19:16-19, “On the morning of the third day there was thunder and lightning, with a thick cloud over the mountain, and a very loud trumpet blast. Everyone in the camp trembled. Then Moses led the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. Mount Sinai was covered with smoke, because the Lord descended on it in fire. The smoke billowed up from it like smoke from a furnace, and the whole mountain trembled violently. As the sound of the trumpet grew louder and louder, Moses spoke and the voice of God answered him.”
  - Note the similarities: Trumpet, thunder, lightning
  - Added elements: Fire, Smoke, the whole mountain Trembled violently (perhaps Earthly reactions not applicable to Heaven’s structure)

Vs. 6, “In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.”
- The 7 spirits are the representation of the complete work of the Holy Spirit
  Isaiah 11:2, “The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him—the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord”

- No lampstands! Just the lamp.
  - There will be no need for “churches” in Heaven. The Body of Christ will be the Bride of Christ. Perfectly unified and functioning in full wisdom, knowledge and Love.

  - Also note, the lampstand isn’t the light. The lampstand only holds up the light!
    - Churches should never point to themselves but to Christ.
  - What should churches ultimately be known for?
    - Good music, good preaching, friendly people, great programs and events?
    - Churches should ultimately be known as a people who pursue and lift up Jesus!
    2 Corinthians 4:7, “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

Vs. 6, “Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal”
- Thoughts from “Commentary Critical and Explanatory of the Whole Bible”
  - “The pure ether which separates God’s throne from John, and from all things before it, may be meant, symbolizing the “purity, calmness, and majesty of God’s rule”

- This Sea has depth and transparency, but not the fluidity and instability of the natural sea. It stands solid, calm, and clear
  Revelation 21:1, “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.”
  - NOTE: Interesting that water is both necessary for LIFE and a cause of DEATH and is the very thing we are baptized in to declare our Death to ourselves and New Life in Christ

- Psalm 36 refers to God’s judgments as “a great deep”
  Psalm 36:6, “Your righteousness is like the highest mountains, your justice like the great deep.”

- In Revelation 15 describes the scene of the Seven Angels with the Seven Plagues (Representing Judgment)
  Rev 15:2, “I saw what looked like a sea of glass glowing with fire and, standing beside the sea, those who had been victorious over the beast and its image and over the number of its name”

  ** A mixture of Cleansing and Judgment: Water and Fire (Both bring Life or Death)
  ** And there it is in front of God’s Throne, where all who come to Him walk on to get to Him!

  ** Like John, if only we could see ourselves IN the Throne Room in Paradise, we would be determined to Overcome!