

## V#3 – And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.



"And thou shalt set in it [the high-priest's breastplate] settings of stones, even four rows of stones: the first row shall be a sardius, a topaz, and a carbuncle: this shall be the first row. And the second row shall be an emerald, a sapphire, and a diamond. And the third row a ligure, an agate, and an amethyst. And the fourth row a beryl, and an onyx, and a jasper: they shall be set in gold in their enclosings" -- **Exodus 28:17-20**

"In Exodus 28, we read of these stones in the breastplate of the high priest. The Sardius (the blood-red) stone having to do with Reuben is mentioned first, and the Jasper stone last. Revelation 4 speaks first of the Jasper stone--the clear white stone of Benjamin. This is not to be taken lightly. There is a definite reason for reversing of the stones, putting the first last, and the last first.

"The Sardius was blood-red, speaking of the sacrifice of blood, pointing to the cross and the first coming of Jesus to shed His blood for the remission of sin. The name is derived from two Hebrew words meaning 'behold the Son.' It pointed to the person of whom John the Baptist said, 'Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world' (John 1:29). It also tells us that He (the Lord Jesus) was the first born of every creature, and the first begotten--the ONLY begotten--son of God (John 3:16).

"The Jasper, the last stone in the Old Testament breastplate, represented Benjamin. This was a clear stone, speaking of total victory. On the Jasper stone was Benjamin's name, which is a combination of two Hebrew words (BEN and JAMIN), so scholars tell us, meaning 'the son of my right hand'...or, as one authority puts it, 'the son of my power.' The first and last stones pointed forward to the first and second coming of the great High Priest--none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

"However, here in Revelation 4, the order of the stones is reversed. John the Beloved sees Him (Jesus) first as the Jasper, and second as the Sardius. The reason is clear: In the Old Testament the saints looked forward to the day when the Lamb would come, they looked forward to the cross, and therefore saw the Sardius...the blood-red stone...first. They looked beyond that and saw the Jasper, the clear white stone representing His power and His rule at His second coming to set up the kingdom. However, when John had the experience we are now studying, he was on this side of Calvary and the Rapture, and was looking back. John saw, first of all, the Jasper stone, the clear one--and then the red stone, the cross and sacrifice.

**V#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.

**Crowns** – *Gk. {Stephanos}*; a mark of royal or exalted rank. A martyr crowns rather than diadems (monarch crowns)



White clothing represents righteousness which is the successful outcome of a tried faith.

**V#5** – And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.



**V#6** – And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

"SERAPHIM" - THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES  
ISALAH 6 & REVELATION 4



**V#7** – And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast was like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

**V#8** – And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

**V#9** – And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever

**V#10** – The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, cast their crowns before the throne, saying

**V#11** – Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.



# REVELATION

CHAPTER FIVE

# V#1 – And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written and on the backside, sealed with seven seals.

The word translated "Beasts" should be translated "**LIVING CREATURES**," as in the Revised Version. The word here translated "beast" (**Zoon**), is not the same as the one translated "beast" (Therion) in chapters eleven, thirteen, and seventeen. The word here used means a "living being" or "creature," while the word used in chapters eleven, thirteen, and seventeen, means a **wild, untamed animal**. They are not angelic beings, for they are distinguished from the angels, who are mentioned as a class by themselves in Rev. 5:11. Neither are they representative of redeemed human beings, for they do not join in the Redemption Song. Rev. 5:8-10. The word "they" in this passage does not refer to the "Four Living Creatures," but to the "Four and Twenty Elders."

The "Four Living Creatures" are not in the same class with the "Elders," for they have no "thrones" or "crowns" or "harps" or "golden vials." They are the "Guardians" of the Throne of God, and accompany it wherever it goes. Ez. 1:24-28. They are **four in number**, which is the "**earth number**," and therefore have something to do with the earth. That is, they are interested in the "**re-gensis**" of the earth to its former glory before the Fall. They have eyes **before** and **behind** and **within**, which reveals their intelligence and spiritual insight of things past, present, and to come, and they are tireless in their service, for they rest not day nor night, saying, "**Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.**"

The first time these "Living Creatures" are mentioned in the Bible is in Gen. 3:24, where they are called "**CHERUBIM**," but are not described. They were placed at the entrance to the "Garden of Eden" to prevent the re-entrance of Adam and Eve, and to keep the way of the "Tree of Life." It would appear as if at the place where they were stationed there was a Tabernacle, a place of worship to which Cain and Abel resorted to make their offerings, and that it was from there that Cain went out from the "**PRESENCE OF THE LORD**." Gen. 4:16.

When Moses was given on the Holy Mount the pattern of the Tabernacle, he was instructed to make the "Ark of the Covenant" with two Cherubim upon it. Ex. 25:10-22. These Cherubim were guardians of the "Mercy Seat," or the place of God's **PRESENCE** when He in His "Shekinah Glory" visited the Tabernacle. But it is not until Ezekiel had his vision of the Cherubim (Ez. 1:1-28; 10:1-22), that we have a description of what they are like.

Ezekiel describes them as having the likeness of a man, with **4 faces**, and **4 wings**, and feet like a **calf's foot**, and hands like a **man's hand** under their wings on their 4 sides. Their 4 faces were different. The front face was that of a **MAN**, the right side face was that of a **LION**, the left side face was that of an **OX**, and the rear face was that of an **EAGLE**, and their whole body, back, hands, and wings, were full of eyes round about. Ez. 10:12. In John's Vision of the "Cherubim" or "Living Creatures" they are described as like animals, the first was like a **LION**, the second like a **CALF**, or a young Ox, the third had the **face** of a **MAN**, and the fourth was like a **FLYING EAGLE**. John's "Living Creatures" had **6 wings**, while Ezekiel's "Cherubim" had only 4. In Ezekiel's vision, the "Cherubim," or "Living Creatures," were accompanied by the Holy Spirit (Ez. 1:12) and traveled on wheels, which shows that they were on some tour or mission, attended by the Lord, who sat on His Throne over their heads (Ez. 1:25-28), but the **wheels** are absent in John's vision, for the scene is in Heaven, the permanent home of the Throne of God.

In the camping and marching order of Israel in the Wilderness, there was a fixed relation of the Twelve Tribes to the Tabernacle. In camp the Tabernacle rested in the middle. The Camp of Judah, composed of 3 Tribes, rested on the East, with its Standard bearing the figure of a **LION**. The Camp of Ephraim, composed of 3 Tribes, rested on the West, with its Standard bearing the figure of an **OX**. The Camp of Reuben, composed of 3 Tribes, rested on the South, with its Standard bearing the figure of a **MAN**. The Camp of Dan, composed of 3 Tribes, rested on the North, with its Standard bearing the figure of an **EAGLE**. Thus the Tabernacle in the centre of the Camp, the place of God's Presence, was surrounded and protected by Standards that bore the figures of Ezekiel's and John's "Living Creatures."