

Current Affairs #56 – The Four Living Creatures, Part 1

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June 17, 2020

The Lamb is the voice in the midst of the four living creatures. So, speaking from inside of the four living creatures—from inside the circle or the semi-circle formed by the four living creatures around the throne—is the Lamb. Now this should stir your interest greatly because, in the picture of heaven, the throne is central. He who sits upon the throne and the Lamb (we have unpacked this previously, so I will not get into that any further) is surrounded by the four living creatures.

If you were to imagine what I am speaking about: a court in which there are concentric circles. In the midst of the circle is the throne, and the Lamb, and the One who holds the scroll with seven seals. That would be the epicenter, not only of heaven, but of creation itself, because it suggests that the authority to govern creation is vested in the One who sits upon the throne. Now we know Jesus claimed, “I have all authority in heaven and on earth” (cf. Matthew 28:18). So God, the living God, God who is Spirit, who dwells outside of time, who holds all of creation together in the breadth of His hand, whose Word has upheld the world since it was created and everything in creation, has conferred authority to govern creation to the One who sits upon the throne and the Lamb.

Now that is to take the lens way back out before we come focusing in. I think you can see where I am going, because I am telling you the four living creatures are the next in the circle around the throne. If you think of this as a court, and all authority in the Kingdom is vested in the One who is sitting upon the throne, then the next round, the next circle of authority is the executive functioning. They do the bidding of the One who sits on the throne, who has all authority.

Outside of that four (the four living creatures) are the twenty-four elders. Twelve being the number of government, times two, represents the government of the Kingdom of God in heaven and on earth.

Although I am deeply tempted to talk about the One who sits on the throne—His authority, His power, the glory of His nature, and His awesome power—I want to shift the focus just a little bit to the four living creatures because they are the executive function of the vested authority of the One who sits upon the throne. So any discussion we have of the authority, the power, the

awesomeness, the majesty, the vastness of the scope to govern and to rule, the unchallenged nature in all of creation, whether by the demonic or mankind, whether by the angelic or any other form of being, the One who has absolute sovereign authority over creation, which sovereign authority is guaranteed in creation (creation including heaven and earth because they were both created), the authority that sustains heaven and earth, that brings things in the appropriate time, first into the heavens, and then out of the heavens into the earth, the authority that sustains all of that is called the Deep—the Spirit of the living God, or God Himself who is Spirit. One person manifested in three distinct forms. I have unpacked that before, and I do not have the time, nor is it now the moment that I wish to unpack it again. The power that is vested in the throne of heaven governs heavens and earth, governs all that is in heaven and on earth. But that power does not originate in heaven. It originates in God, who is eternal. Before there was heaven, before there was earth, before the created realm came in to being, God could say, “In the beginning, God.” God was.

It is imperative for you to see that the throne, then, is the symbol of the authority that holds creation together. It did not just create things; it continues to hold it together for the purposes for which God created the heavens and the earth. Those purposes are meant to be carried out, executed. This concept is one of assignment, of delegation, so that the potential of the One who has plenary authority—if you like, the plenipotentiary (it is a term of governance)—the potential that reveals the plenary or complete authority is the compendium of the four living creatures. They are the primary executors of the authority of the throne. And this, you see, is by design.

Now I know we have not thought much about these things written in the book of Revelation for a long time because we were busy trying to live our best lives now. We were busy trying to find our place at the political table and to speak adoringly of very flawed characters. No, we have not had time to open the Scriptures because we thought we could make this great impact for God. We talked routinely about how our institutions were the compendium of this divine power. No. It was never true. This was never true. They are four living creatures. There is no potential for a dead entity, for a legal fiction, an institution, there is no potential for it to have fellowship with the living God. Therefore, it is impossible, it is absolutely impossible for an institution to be that which is meant by four living creatures. And yet, the four living creatures are the plenipotentiary—they are the potential of seeing the Plenary. And, of course, since this was a (corporate) man in the image

and likeness of God that was the intent of God in creating, we have to be out of our minds to suggest that that man ultimately takes the form of an institution. How batty are we? How insane? How devoid of just basic reason we have come to be? And it is showing up here in the last days, where men and women without insight, without wisdom, are trying to make the institution work for their followers. It cannot.

You do not have to take my word for it, it is the reason that the church is unraveling. It was based on a false foundation. And God has allowed this pandemic to come, primarily, to bring judgment on this aberration, the institutional church. When it is done, whatever is left of it, the spirit of it will fold into the beast of the earth that I will speak of subsequently. Now, you do not have to take my word for any of this. If you are around long enough, that is what will happen. But if you want to know while you are alive, while you are in these difficult times, if you want to know how you might be secure, how you might be at rest no matter what is going on in the world around you, you better listen to what I am saying because I am sounding the alternative and telling you what is different about what the truth speaks of.

So the four living creatures are the executive authority of the One who sits upon the throne, and this is by design. They are so connected to the One who sits upon the throne that, for all practical purposes, they operate in the authority of the One who sits upon the throne in the fashion of an ambassador, an emissary, one who has been tested and proven and who can be deployed to represent the living God. Let us talk about these four living creatures for a moment. Keep in mind these things that I have said and go over them, because I will show you in the unfolding of Scripture that they absolutely represent, exclusively represent, the authority of the throne. “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in times past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us through His Son, whom He appointed heir over all things” (cf. Hebrews 1:1-2). That Son is a spiritual man known as Christ, a corporate man. Four is the number of the corporate man. That is why we have four living creatures surrounding the One who sits upon the throne, who is the executive authority of God in all of creation, who may claim to have all power in all of creation.

Now, verse 6 of Revelation 4,

*Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne... (Revelation 4:6a NKJV).*

“In the midst of the throne,” meaning, surrounding the throne, in the midst of circles. As I mentioned to you, there are at least three different circles. One is the circle of angels; another is the circle of the twenty-four elders; and inside of that, the third circle and closest to the throne, that which encircles the throne and encircles the One who sits upon the throne, are these four living creatures.

*...were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back (Revelation 4:6b).*

What does that mean? It means they could see in every direction. And for our purposes, seeing in every direction means you can see the past, you can see the present, you can see the future. So these four living creatures are perfectly cognizant of what is in the mind of God from long ages past, where those events are in present time, and where they are going in the future.

- “full of eyes in front and in back”— They can see where they have been, they can see where they are, and they can see where they are going.

*The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf [an ox, and the word is plower, a plower—the ox] the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within (Revelation 4:7-8a).*

Again, the understanding is that they could see where they have been, they could see where they are, they could see where they are going, full of eyes around and within, seeing everything. Now you will note that when the Lamb is described, He has seven eyes and seven horns, which are a parallel metaphor—seven being the number of completeness—so the Lamb sees everything in the same manner in which these four living creatures see everything. But let me go on and read the rest of the attributes of the four living creatures here so that you can get the whole picture. Then, we will talk about the lion, the ox, the man, and the eagle.

*And they [these four living creatures who see in every direction], do not rest day or night, saying:*

*“Holy, holy, holy,  
Lord God Almighty,  
Who was and is and is to come!” (Revelation 4:8b)*

They are fully aware of the eternal things because they can speak of He who was (past), He who is (present), and He who is to come. So, they can actually see in every direction.

*Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, [when they do it] the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying:*

*“You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created” (Revelation 4:9-11).*

The twenty-four elders take their cues from the four living creatures. The four living creatures ordain the timing, and the twenty-four elders execute; they bring the order of things into creation.

- “For You created all things”—They understand the governance associated with the purpose for creation.

It is an incredible thing, in that we would not have known it before or would not have thought of it or focused on it before simply means that the time had not come. But the time has come.

Let us talk about these four living creatures for a moment. The first creature was like a lion. The lion, in physical creation and in heaven, is referred to as the conqueror. Let me go over to chapter 5, and here the question was, “Who should take the scroll from the right hand of the One who sat

on the throne, who held this scroll sealed with seven seals?” (cf. Revelation 5:1-2). And it appeared that no one was qualified to do so, and so picking up at verse 4 of chapter 5, John says,

*So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals.”*

*And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns [which means He is all powerful] and seven eyes [which means that He is able to see in everything], which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth (Revelation 5:4-6).*

That Lamb, who is announced as the Lion, He came and took the scroll out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne. I wanted to point out that, even in the textual interpretation of the Lion here, the four living creatures, one had a face like a lion and he is standing around the throne at the time of the announcement of the Lion of the tribe of Judah who has overcome. Contextually, this lion (the creature with the face of a lion) is in perfect harmony with, especially if He is going to execute the judgments of, the Lamb who is the Lion of the tribe of Judah. Hence, we are speaking of rule, the capacity to rule, having overcome. In fact, that is exactly what is said in Scripture: “To him who overcomes I will give the right to sit with Me on My Father’s throne” (cf. Revelation 3:21). So the lion is the overcomer, therefore, the ruler. Now, obviously, looking at these four living creatures, we are not speaking of an actual lion, but rather a creature that possesses the spirit of an overcomer, the spirit of a ruler, the spirit of the lion.

The second living creature is like an ox. In literature, and here in the Scriptures, the ox is synonymous with one who cannot be turned. We even use the term “stubborn as an ox,” which is one that is not easily turned, persistent, unyielding—in remembrance of the term of the Scripture when Paul wrote, “Be you therefore steadfast and unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (cf. 1 Corinthians 15:58). You will see later on when we go to the book of Ezekiel to pick up on these four living creatures, that they do not deviate, they do not turn. They go straight

forward and backward, and they do not turn. In other words, this creature, this second living creature, this ox, cannot be turned because it knows where it is going, inasmuch as it sees: “full of eyes in front and in back.” It sees what has been, it sees what is now, and it sees what is to be. This creature cannot be confused with being a political leader or a leader of a political church, for they are blown by every wind of doctrine. They are blown by every opportunity of convenience. They neither know the past, the present, nor the future. They exist for themselves. They are not representatives of anything. They can be dissuaded the moment their price is met. Clearly, this is not the character of one of these four living creatures.

The third living creature had the face like a man. In other words, these characteristics are housed within that which is ultimately representative of that which God raised up from the earth in order to bring forth, in the end of the age, as that which was in the image and likeness of God. It speaks of the potential of this man who has the spirit of a lion, the steadfastness of an ox, and now the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle. This is not a nesting eagle. It is not one that simply occupies an aerie above the planes; it is flying. It is in action. It is seeing. This is the prophetic spirit that sees, being borne on the winds of time. A flying eagle is different from a nesting eagle because the flying eagle depends upon the winds of the Spirit. He is moving in the realm of the spirit. This is prophetic, meaning, that is how the prophetic operates. It is borne up on the invisible but real presence of the Spirit of God.

When a person is “in the spirit,” they are not in the realm of time and space, and they get to see things that are not typically seen; so are the four living creatures. The ruler, the undeviating standard, the prophetic visionary who sees as God sees, clothed in the face of (as you will see later on) and appearing to have the body of a man, with hands like a man under their wings. The four living creatures had six wings and were full of eyes around and within. When we see the four living creatures again in Ezekiel, chapter 1, they are not in heaven; they are on the earth, and they have four wings: two to cover their bodies and two to spread upward. They move differently on the earth, but in heaven they move in the spirit. We will pick up from Ezekiel, chapter 1, where we see these four living creatures again.