

commanded Jöhn to write to the seven churches in that part of Ä'siä, of which churches that at Êph'e-süs was the first. To each church was to be sent a different letter, the word of the Lord Jē'sus to that church, praising it for some th'ngs, and rebuking it for others. When these words had been given to the churches, Jöhn saw a door opened in heaven and he heard a voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying to him, "Come up to this place, and I will show thee things that shall come to pass."

Then at once Jöhn was taken up to heaven, and he saw the throne of God, and One sitting upon it whom he could scarcely see for the dazzling glory around him. And over the throne was a rainbow of many colors. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and upon them sat twenty-four old men, the elders of the church, dressed in white, with crowns of gold on their heads. Out of the throne came lightning, and thunder, and the sound of voices. Before the throne was a sea of glass like crystal, and beside the throne were four strange living creatures, each having six wings. And these living ones were saying, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God, the Almighty, which was, and which is, and which is to come."

And then the elders would fall down and worship him who sits on the throne, and lay their crowns at his feet, and say, "Thou art worthy, O God, our Lord, to have the honor, and the glory, and the power; for thou didst create and make all things."

Then Jöhn saw in the right hand of the One sitting on the throne a book, in the form of a roll, written on both sides, and sealed with seven seals. And a mighty angel called out with a loud voice. "Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose its seals?"

And no one in all the heaven, or on the earth, or under the earth, was able to open the book or to loosen its seals. Then Jöhn began to weep, because there was found no one worthy to open the book or even to look upon it. But one of the twenty-four elders spoke to Jöhn, saying, "Weep not; see, the Lion of the tribe of Jü'dah, he who came from Dä'vid, has won the right to open the book and its seven seals."

Then before the throne, and among the elders and the four living creatures, Jöhn saw standing the Lamb of God, Jē'sus Christ, with the wounds of the cross upon him, in hands, and feet, and side. He came and took the book from the right hand of the One who was sitting on the throne. And as he took the book the four living