

After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this." Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. And He who sat there *was* like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald. Around the throne *were* twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire *were* burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. The first living creature *was* like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, 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. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!" Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever, 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 4:1-11)

By "*wings*" are signified powers, because by them birds lift themselves up, and wings with birds are in the place of arms with men, and by "*arms*" are signified powers. Since by "*wings*" are signified powers, and each animal had six wings, it is evident, from what has been said above, what kind of power is signified by the wings of each, namely, that by "*the wings of the lion*" is signified the power of fighting against evils and falsities from hell; which power is of the Divine truth of the Word from the Lord. That by "*the wings of the calf*" is signified the power of affecting minds, for the Divine truth of the Word affects those who read it as holy. That by "*the six wings of the man*" is signified the power of being wise as to what God is, and what is of God, for this is properly man's in reading the Word: and that by "*the wings of the eagle*" is signified the power of knowing truth and good, and thereby acquiring intelligence for oneself. (Apocalypse Revealed 245)

# "The Four Living Creatures"

## New Church Day Series - Part Two

### A New Church Day Service About

#### the Lord's Protection

June 13, 2021

Rev. Jeremy Simons

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#### Thanks and Announcements

"Please join us on Zoom at 10:00am Sunday for a discussion."

**Informal Service Pastor:** Solomon Keal

**Music Director:** Graham Bier

**Musicians:** As Listed Above

**Video and Audio Recording:** Solomon Keal, Graham Bier,

**Video and Audio Editing:** Tykah Echols, Kurt Asplundh, Graham Bier

The four living creatures symbolize the Word of the Lord from the first of it in its lasts, and its protections. I know people will be surprised at my saying the four living creatures symbolize the Word. This is nevertheless their symbolic meaning. The four living creatures here are the same as the cherubim in Ezekiel... and they were, as here, a lion, an ox, a human being, and an eagle... They were seen "*in the midst of the throne and around the throne.*" The Lord was in the midst of the throne, and because the Lord embodies the Word, it could not appear anywhere else. They were also seen around the throne, because they were seen in the angelic heaven, where the Word exists also. The fact that *cherubim* symbolize the Word and its protection...is because the literal sense of the Word is a protection for the genuine truths that lie within. The protection consists in the fact that the literal sense can be turned this way or that, or explained in accordance with one's comprehension, yet without harming or violating the Word's inner meaning. For it does no harm for the literal sense to be interpreted differently by different people. But harm is done if the Divine truths that lie within are perverted, for this does violence to the Word. (Apocalypse Revealed 239)

Everyone who reads the Word is enlightened according to his end and affection. (Arcana Coelestia 3436)

"The Lord cannot be approached except by the good of love." (Apocalypse Explained 313)