

- *Nominally a Family Service; what will be after this earth has gone? God on the throne...*

What's next?

- What will you be doing later today/tomorrow/this week?
 - how do you know?
 - what difference does it make knowing what is likely to happen later?
- Wanting to get stuff about security and confidence to face day/week
- What's it like when we don't know what the future will hold?

On the Throne

- Football fans?
 - what happens after a goal is scored?
- Picture painted is of the triune God on the throne, at the centre
 - a celebration of his victory, each part of the picture having some significance
 - after this world is over, God will still reign supreme
 - it is from this centre that everything else flows...
- Worship as focus: more football goal celebration, than endlessly repeated banal songs!
- Throne is first, then the details (v.2)
- Minerals (v.3) - wealth and honour
- Rainbow - fulfilment of God's promises to Noah, sign of covenant kept
- Elders - 24 - old and new covenants, 12 tribes + 12 disciples
- White - holiness, made clean
- Lightning and thunder: power
- Seven - perfect number
- Sea of glass, crystal: unclear! Remember there is an imprecision in John's language; this is heaven he is speaking of, as seen in vision
 - clear glass would, however, have been tremendously expensive in the ancient world
 - at least one ancient story of glass being used to floor the area in front of King Solomon's throne, so much so that the Queen of Sheba thought it was water and lifted her skirts to approach!
- Living creatures - angelic beings
 - "like", not necessarily a visual description, cf strong as an ox...
 - likely symbols of the **best** of each part of the animal kingdom (birds, domestic, wild + man): strongest, noblest...
 - wings - separation, covering, screening, holiness!
- Some kind of creative imaginative reflection on what elements you would want to draw in to paint a picture of God in control of the whole universe, for ever
 - what's your palette, what images, words, sounds do you draw in?

After this...?

- **Confidence from knowing God reigns!**