

Chapter 4

“Called out and Caught Up!”

Introduction and Overview:

Chapter 1 – John’s Vision – Jesus in Glory – The one who keeps the lamb stands burning - What he sees

Chapters 2-3 - Church Ages – History - The Things that are, Then, the Things After these Things:

Chapter 4 - Throne – Some Say the Rapture? No further reference of the church. Great Worship – 4 creatures because of Who Jesus is & the 24 elders for what he has done.

Chapter 5 – Lion and the Lamb, The Title Deed Book for earth, Redeemer, initially seated then Standing in Judgment.

Chapters 6 – 18 – The Great Tribulation -

1. Opens with 7 seals (including 144,000 – 12 tribes)
2. 7 trumpets (including 2 witness)
3. 7 Bowls of Wrath
4. Babylon Falls - First and Last Judgment of Babylon Gen 11 & Rev 17-18

Chapter 19 – Armageddon - Wedding Supper & Great Supper of God

Chapter 20 – Millennium, then Satan and the Dead’s final Doom

Chapter 21 - New Earth and Heaven

Chapter 22 – Closing

Rev. 1:19

“Write the things which you have seen and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.”

Glorified Christ / Churches / Future

Chapter 1 – See, Saw,

Chapters 2-3 – “These are” 7 times to the seven churches.

Chapter 4:1 – NKJV

“**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.**”

I Thessalonians 4:16 – 5:4

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The Day of the Lord

5 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, “Peace and safety!” then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.

I Corinthians 15:50-52

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed— ⁱⁿ a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Church – Ec – La – see – a - The called out ones. New Testament 114 times – 20 times in Revelations (19 in Chapters 2-3 and 1 time in Rev 22:16 which is a historical reference.

The Church is represented by the 24 elders (representatives of the Churches – 12 Tribes and 12 Disciples). After, it can no longer be called the church because they are no longer called out.

2 Thessalonians 2:1-9 – The Restrainer is removed.

The Day of the LORD – Judgement!

- 24 Old Testament Passages all note Judgement and Second Coming
- 5 New Testament Passages - All speak to judgement but two, promise hope.
 - 1 Thessalonians 5:9-10
 - 2 Peter 3: 10-13
- Pre-Tribulation view requires a nuanced interpretation
 - First Resurrection (Phase which includes all who are resurrected prior to second Resurrection)
 - Phased return of Christ (Clouds, wedding in Heaven, and return at end of Trib)
- Post-Tribulation issues
 - Why are the angels and the two witnesses needed to carry the gospel?
 - Who is left in nations if all are raptured Christians out prior to the 1,000 years?
 - How is the Holy spirit removed and church still here?

Pre-Tribulation vs Post-Tribulation Rapture

Pre-Tribulation		Post-Tribulation	
Enoch went up, and Noah went through sealed (Lord shut the door)	Gen 5:24, Gen 7:16	Clearly, Jesus shows up in the clouds, but then does not come back for seven years.	Rev 4:1; Rev 19:11-15
Sodham and Gomorrah, Lot and family were rescued before judgment fell	Gen 19:15	The promise land was only acquired by faith and given to everywhere they set their foot.	Joshua 1:3
Restainer (Holy Spirit) is removed) revealing the Antichrist	2 Thessalonians 2:6-7	Sun is dark..Trumpet sounds Lord send angels to gather His chosen people....	Matthew 24:29-31
Who is in natural bodies and makes up the nations that rebel with Satan in the end unless mortal Christians live through to the Millennium?	Rev 20:7-10	"we shall not all sleep, but at the last trumpet, in a twinkling of an eye....	1 Cor. 15:51-52
For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on us. Go Through Tribulation before the wedding?	1 Thessalonians 5:9	Do not be deceived, the day will not come unless the man of sin is revealed	2 Thessalonians 2:1-4
Bride is dressed in fine linen, white and clean prior to the Christ Return as King of Kings	Rev 19:15	Resurrection of the Tribulation Saints	Rev 20:4-5

Why should we believe in a pre-tribulation rapture vs. mid-tribulation, or post tribulation?

1. Church is mention 19 times and stops immediately along with the phrase “after these things.”
2. Door is opened and Trumpet is sounded
3. This is done before the Antichrist is revealed which is consistent with 2 Thess 2:7-8
4. Satan and the World want you to deny the Goodness of God.
5. Promise to the church of Philadelphia (Rev 3:10) limits the time for the rapture to Rev 13:14 Trumpets
6. Would the Groom put his bride through the Tribulation with the harlot before the Wedding?
7. Removing of the Holy Spirit necessitates God sealing the 144,000? Would he not seal His church too?

How important is the rapture to us as believers and why? Do you think the power of the air here Satan wants you to believe in a rapture? Do you live and act as if there will be a rapture soon?

Chapter 4:1 – NKJV

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V1 – Begins with a Continuation of the same topic the church and picture of the rapture. Door 1 of 4 doors

- 1.) Philadelphia 3:8 - offered an open door no one can shut
- 2.) Invitation 3:20 – Stand at the door and knock
- 3.) Rev 4:1 – Door open to heaven
- 4.) 19:11 Door White Horse – This door is open – Jesus opened it – he is the door. The way, truth and light.

Rev 4:2-3 “ At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it. And the one who sat there had the appearance of jasper and ruby. A rainbow that shone like an emerald encircled the throne.”

V2 - 3 – At once in spirit equates to twinkling of an eye – twinkling is the speed of the eye lash going up – Approximately 1/1000 of a second.

Here is a picture of the Throne of God complete with the rainbow. In the Spirit means the Holy Spirit has taken hold of John here in a strong way bringing him to the very presence of God.

Rev 4:4 “Surrounding the throne were twenty-four other thrones, and seated on them were twenty-four elders. They were dressed in white and had crowns of gold on their heads.”

24 Elders – 12 apostles and 12 tribes to symbolize all in Christ. Clothed in Righteousness and with Crowns of Gold – Saints that have already received their rewards. Notice no one is there that is not clothed in the righteousness of Christ with their proper garment on as Jesus said in Matthew 22:11-14.

Rev 4:5-6 “From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits[a] of God. Also in front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal”

Just like in Texas Thunder and Lighting always precedes the storm. This is a storm of Judgment. Blazing fire of judgment and power of Holy Spirit.

Holiness – rest for the church – not tossed by the world – placid sea. **How does God sees things?**

Rev 4:7-8 *“In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures, and they were covered with eyes, in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second was like an ox, the third had a face like a man, the fourth was like a flying eagle. 8 Each of the four living creatures had six wings and was covered with eyes all around, even under its wings. Day and night they never stop saying:*

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”

Four Living Creatures (emphasis in Greek on Zōa – life) – **What do the eyes and the wings represent?**

Lion	Matthew	King (Genealogy)	Wild Beast
Ox –beast of burden	Mark	Servant	Domestic Animals
Man	Luke	Son of Man/human	Head of Animals
Eagle	John	Deity	birds

Rev 4:9-11 *“Whenever the living creatures give glory, honor and thanks to him who sits on the throne and who lives for ever and ever, the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship him who lives for ever and ever. They lay their crowns before the throne and say:*

“You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being.”

Worship is non-ceasing – full time. Living creature worship because of who He is and the Church or Elders because of what he has done.

Crowns – How would you feel wearing a crown in front of Jesus at the Throne of God? Is it any wonder they lay the crowns at His feet?

How do you like worship? How will it be in Heaven?