

Chapter four of the book of Revelation represents a dramatic change. We move now to the third division of the book.

In 1:19, we learned from the Lord Himself the proper divisions of the book. There John the Apostle heard the Lord say to him:

ESV REV 1:19 Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this."

- It is very important to observe these three divisions because they will guide us through this difficult and sometimes hard to understand book.
- **First**, John was told to "write the things you have seen." That covers the vision of chapter one and that would include the gospel of John..
- **Then** he was told to write, "those things that are...what is now." That occupies chapters 2 and 3, the letters to the seven churches, which is a sweeping prophecy of the present age of the church.
- **Then** he was told "write those things that will take place after this." The word church the things which are now...which is so prominent in chapters 2 and 3 is not mentioned again until chapter 22:16 although undoubtedly is referred to as the bride of the lamb in 19:7
- **It is to that division we come in chapter 4, the beginning of what will take place after the church age.** This outlook is not taken by all...but I am going with it ...I recommend you do your own research also...however I do believe this position has good back up scripturally...
- **Now...There is so much in this chapter we will need two weeks...in fact we will only get through the first three verses today...**

and remember this book is given to the church as comfort in our suffering and troubles...with the knowledge God will work all things for Good ...We Win so stay the course...

NLT REV 3: ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown. ¹² All who are victorious will become pillars in the Temple of my God, and they will never have to leave it. And I will write on them the name of my God, and they will be citizens in the city of my God—the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God.

Lets jump in...

ESV Revelation 4:1 “After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”

- **First off ... The same voice and trumpet announcement of Jesus he heard behind him on earth..in chapter one.... He now hears above him and he looks up.....Jesus is speaking from an open door to a place possibly the temple in Heaven...to come up here...**
- **He now joins others in Scripture who have looked into heaven... Ezekiel, Isaiah, and Daniel**
- **But there is something more here, Not only does John see into heaven, but also he is actually summoned into heaven. Only Paul the apostle and John the Apostle in all of Scripture are called into heaven....yet they will both return to earth**
- **The viewpoint of John throughout the rest of the book of Revelation is to be from heaven.**
- **Again It is most noteworthy that from here on in Revelation...**

the church, which has occupied center-stage through the opening chapters, is never mentioned again until the final chapters. There are *saints* referred to throughout the book, but the word *church* does not appear again until the Bride of the Lamb is seen at the end.

- What is he coming up there For?
- Twice in that verse, at the beginning and the end, we are told that John will now be shown what will take place "after this" Meta Tauta—
- Many commentators feel that this is the place in Revelation where what is called the departure, or *rapture*, of the church takes place.
- For here on out we begin to enter into the judgments of God against the wicked in the heavenlies...and on the earth...
- And **We have the promise of Jesus to the churches...they will be kept from this Hour....**

ESV Rev 3: ⁸ “*I know your works. Behold, I have set before you an open door, which no one is able to shut. I know that you have but little power, and yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.*

And They have kept his word This was the secret to their lives and ministry... “Kept” is the Greek “to watch over, protect, keep, preserve” they lived it!

So he will keep them from the Judgment of the wicked world...

Verse ESV Rev 3:10B*I will keep you from the hour of trial that is coming on the whole world, to try those who dwell on the earth.*

- “Kept” and “Keep” is again the Greek word, “to guard, watch over, protect,”, This is important because this same word is used of the promise which follows.

“he will protect you from the hour of trial, or From means ...away... so from It is “the” hour (specific amount of time) of trial ...Here the context shows that of world-wide “trial”...the evil on earth and heavenlies

It is hinted at in the Old Testament a number of places... here are three:

Isa 26:20 Come, my people, enter your chambers, and shut your doors behind you; hide yourselves for a little while until the fury has passed by. ²¹ *For behold, the LORD is coming out from his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity, and the earth will disclose the blood shed on it, and will no more cover its slain.*

And end of that chapter Zephaniah 2 :3

ESV Zeph2: 3 Seek the Lord, all you humble of the land, who do his just commands; seek righteousness; seek humility; perhaps you may be hidden on the day of the anger of the Lord.

and psalm 27:5 seems to have a hint just a hint but an interesting one and

NIV PSA 27: 5 For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his sacred tent, and set me high upon a rock.

Lastly ...John is called up with the trumpet of God...the same voice John heard twice...is the same voice that will call his people up to him...

ESV 1 Thess 4:16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

- the trumpet of God, now that's not the trumpet judgments we're going to encounter as we move forward in Revelation.. those are trumpet judgments ...
- **the term caught up this term translated in the greek is the verb harpazzo (har pahzo) it means to be snatched up forcibly in the latin vulgate it is the proper tense of rapeo which is our english word rapture...**
- **Enoch, Elijah, Jesus, Paul also taken up or caught up,**

ESV Gen5: 23 Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. ²⁴ Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

ESV 2 Kings 2:1 Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal.

NLT Acts 1:9 After saying this, he was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see him.

Paul in ESV 2 Cor 12:13 And I know that this man was caught up into paradise—whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—

- The rapture or caught up, taken up...is believers only and the second coming affects all men on the earth the rapture occurs before the day of wrath
- Jesus comes in the air the second he the second coming he comes to the earth rapture he claims his bride in the second coming he comes with his bride the rapture only his only his own will see him in the
- second coming every eye shall see him it's interesting while he was on the earth after his crucifixion he was only seen by loving eyes and he's only handled by loving hands that will not be the case when he comes to the second coming he'll come for vengeance rapture the great tribulation great tribulation will begin afterwards the second coming the millennium begins the rapture apparently involves only church believers only
- So What John sees in the book from here on forward, is what the church will be kept from, hidden from, and away from.....

And John caught away to be with Christ....and where is that ?
Heaven is another dimension of existence right here and now. It is a realm just slightly beyond our senses today.

When John saw a door opened into heaven he was permitted to see into the supernatural... and then enter into a dimension not visible to the natural eye yet is present all the time and which governs the visible affairs of all God's creation....

As he will witness what is going to happen next...

He is now there...and upon entering the door....

ESV Revelation 4:2 "At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

The first thing he saw was a throne. A Throne is the seat of absolute authority.. the word throne appears 58 times the new testament 43 times just in this book and 14 in this chapter alone ib fact There are only five chapters where the word "throne" is not found.

Now This particular throne is a central theme of the book of Revelation.

- For suddenly John found himself suddenly in the Supreme Headquarters the control center of the universe! Must have blown John's mind

This throne, means there are absolutes which cannot be altered or changed. There will be other thrones ...David's throne that means the throne's going to be reestablished on earth... now the 12 apostles are also going to sit on thrones we're going to sit on 12 thrones and judge the 12 tribes and Paul tells us in first corinthians 6 we will judge angels and of course the great white throne which will occur in revelation 20

- **He saw, too, that the throne was occupied. Someone was sitting on it.... At last, we are going to find out what God looks like!**

ESV Revelation 4:3 And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

- . John saw a figure seated upon the throne but he could not see his features through the dazzling lights that danced about the throne. What he sees are incredible colors -- colored lights, flashing like jewels -- flashing, pure colors
- **Ezekiel saw the same thing. The first chapter of his prophecy records a vision very similar to this one. He**

manifests Himself in these wonderfully significant colors, and the colors are full of meaning.

- **Perhaps it was to protect John...as he was still a living human from earth.. just as God said to Moses**

Moses was told, ESV Exodus 33: ²⁰ But, ” he said, “you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live.” ²¹ And the LORD said, “Behold, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, ²² and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by. ²³ Then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be seen.”

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- **No one has ever seen God at any time; all that man may see are manifestations of his Being, the incredible colored lights tell out his attributes and glory.**
- There are three gemstones mentioned here: **The first one is "jasper," which is really a diamond**, the most beautiful of all gems because it has the ability to capture the light and flash it in brilliant displays of color.
- **Just as diamonds are graded for purity, here is a perfect diamond reflecting the perfection of the Father, the incredible balance of attributes in His being**
- **The diamond speaks of the Father -- the holiness of God the Father, His holiness, His perfection.**
- **Perhaps that is why John in his Gospel describes the Father this way...**

1 John 1:5b ESV ..."God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all,"

- **The second stone is the carnelian, or sardius, which was blood red in color -- a glowing, beautiful, blood-red stone. That,**

of course, immediately suggests the Son. His major characteristic is Jesus' willingness to shed His blood on our behalf, to give Himself in redemptive atonement for our sins.

- **It is the wonder of the ages. He is the Lamb of God, slain for all of us. The Red identifies Jesus works. also on the throne..**
- **God the bears witness to Jesus...even on the Throne...**

*ESV John 8:18 I am the one who bears witness about **myself**, and the **Father** who sent me bears witness about me."*

The third color was the emerald. John saw a great rainbow circling the throne, green as an emerald. **Green is the color of nature, of creation.** God's grace shown in the natural world.

This rainbow with various shades of green circling the throne speaks of the Holy Spirit administering the holiness and the redemption of God to all creation.

NLT Rom 8:19 For all creation is waiting eagerly for that future day when God will reveal who his children really are. ²⁰ Against its will, all creation was subjected to God's curse. But with eager hope, ²¹ the creation looks forward to the day when it will join God's children in glorious freedom from death and decay.

- ***I cant wait to see these things personally....it is so true what Paul says...***

NLT 1 Cor 2:9 That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love him." ¹⁰ But it was to us that God revealed these things by his Spirit. For his Spirit searches out everything and shows us God's deep secrets.

The Spirit has given us today a taste...but there is more, going on in that throne room...next week

What are we to do in the mean time... *NLT REV 3: 11 I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have...what we have is our Faith!!!*

Its all going to work out!

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