

The Book Of The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter Four

Welcome To Heaven

Focus Verse: **Revelation 4:11**

“Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

I. Introduction to Chapter Four

What we are dealing with here in this supernatural Book are clear revelations about several things:

- A. Jesus Christ as He is NOW - i.e., He is NOT on any cross, but rather in heaven, and about to come back on earth!
- B. The next thing revealed concerns churches:
 - 1. Historical rebukes concerning churches in existence when the Apostle John was still alive in 95 A.D.
 - 2. Typical representations of seven types of churches that can be found throughout New testament History.
 - 3. Actual Church history being laid-out for us before Church history even takes place.
 - 4. Doctrinally applies to churches that will be in existence during the great tribulation.
- C. When the Lord finishes revealing things about the church, He then in **Chapter 4** turns to the *Rapture*, and the *Tribulation* that follows the age of the Christian Churches.

II. Chapter Four - The Rapture, and the Heavenly Temple (Rev 4:1-11)

A. The _____ of The Church (4:1,2)

- 1. Word meaning of *rapture*: _____
- 2. A door opens... (opens twice in Revelation)
- 3. A voice sounds (I Thess 4:13-18)
- 4. There is the sound of a trumpet (as in “a trump”, Rev 1:10). There will be two soundings - once here, and then another at the end of the tribulation.
- 5. The words, “_____” (Rev 4:1; 11:2; Prov 25:7) - A “calling away” of the Christians
- 6. John IMMEDIATELY was in the spirit in heaven (Rev 4:2; 1 Cor 15:52; “in the twinkling of an eye”). Let’s look at the primary Scriptures:
 - a. 1 Thes 4:13-18 Referred to as being “_____”
 - b. Phil 3:20,21 Called a “changing” of _____
 - c. John 14:1-3 Called a “_____” of the church to Jesus
 - d. Acts 1:11 Only “_____ shall see him...” not everybody
 - e. Titus 2:13 Referred to as “the blessed _____” of the Christian (not something terrifying like the Second Coming will be)
- 7. The “rapture’s” placement Dispensationally:
 - a. What occurs before it? _____
 - b. What happens right after the rapture? _____ (as we shall see)

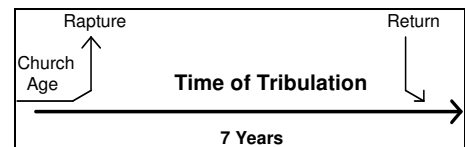


Figure 4 - Rapture/Return of Christ

8. Some other things to note about this event:
- a. Rev 1:10 John was “**in the spirit**” already once before - a spiritual event
 - b. 1 Cor 15:51-52 Called a “changing” of bodies (referring primarily to the resurrection since this includes part of “the” resurrection)
 - c. 2 Cor 12:1-4 This place is the THIRD heaven that believers will go to at the rapture, as well as at normal death.
 - d. 1 Tim 6:14 We are to be pure until the appearing of our Lord Jesus to take us away, like a bride should stay pure for her marriage!

9. This is the fourth of _____ raptures in Scripture:

- a. Gen 5:21-24; Heb 11:5 Enoch
- b. 2 Kings 2:11 Elijah
- c. Matt 27:50-53; Acts 1:9,10 Jesus’ ascension
- d. 1 Thess 4:16,17 The Christian Church
- e. Rev 11:12; Matt 24:36-41 The Two Witnesses
- f. Rev 14:1 The 144,000
- g. Rev 14:17-20 The Damned to Armageddon

10. Types or pictures of the Rapture in Scripture:

Gen 5:21-24	Enoch is the BEST type in the O.T. in how it will occur
Gen 19:22	_____ being pulled out of Sodom before Judgment fell
Gen 7-9	_____ being protected from the judgment of the flood

11. The Rapture involves the following components (as compared to the *Second Coming*):

- a. Listening for a shout/trumpet sound
- b. Looking for Jesus Christ to break through the clouds visible only to Christians
- c. An urgency in soul-winning will be felt by Christians
- d. Personal holiness will be impressed upon Christians (1 John 3:3)

B. The Heavenly _____ (4:1-11; Heb 8:1-3; Heb 9:1-5)

Note the similarities of this temple to the earthly tabernacle as described in Exodus 34.

- 1. The Door to the Tabernacle (Rev 4:1; Cf Ex 26:36,37)
- 2. The Throne (4:2,3) - And on it sits God the Father!
 - a. He who sits upon it has an appearance like unto Jasper and Sardine stone - a semi-transparent crystal. Jasper and Sardine are **the last and first stones** listed in the high priests Breastplate in Exod 28:17,20; 39:10-13. In Ezek 28:13 the devil is described as having these two precious stones worn on his breast as well!

Sardius	Topaz	Carbuncle
Emerald	Sapphire	Diamond
Ligure	Agate	Amethyst
Beryl	Onyx	Jasper

- b. An eternal rainbow surrounds it (Ezek 1:28)
- c. This is the Mercy Seat in the Temple in heaven (Ex 25:17-20)
- 3. The Twenty Four Elders (4:4) - Present around the Throne
 - a. They wore white raiment (Cf 4:4; Isa 61:10), and had crowns
 - b. These are not angels. They were redeemed by the **blood** of the Lamb (5:8-10). And not just ANY blood (Cf Heb 9:12), and for that matter, not just the DEATH of the Lamb, but **the BLOOD** of God (Acts 20:28)!!!
 - c. They were not pictured in Moses’ earthly Temple, so they had been added since Mt Sinai.

- d. They were not present, or at least visible when Isaiah saw heaven in Isaiah 6.
 - e. These are probably the elders of the Old and New Testament saints in heaven
4. The Seven Lamps (4:5) - The _____
 - a. Called the seven Spirits of God (Cf 1:4; Isa 11:2)
 - b. This is the golden candlestick (Ex 25:31-38)
 5. The Sea of Glass (4:6; Cf Rev 21:2)
 - a. A very important KEY to understanding Heaven:
 - 1) It is like unto "crystal"
 - 2) Cf Job 38:28-33; Gen 1:2
 - 3) So, eternity begins where time and motion stops!
 - b. This is the brazen laver filled with clear water, of the Temple (Ex 30:18-21; 1 Kings 7:23-27)
 6. The Four Living Creatures (4:6-9)
 - a. There are _____ sets of 4 living creatures:
 - 1) Isa 6:1-4 (_____, the highest order of angels) - 4 wings
 - 2) Ezek 1:4-28;10:1-22; Gen 3:24 (_____, second under the Seraphs) - 6 wings
 - b. Characteristics of these four cherubims:
 - 1) Each had four faces: _____, _____, _____, _____ (Cf Gen 9:9,10)
 - 2) Each had six wings
 - 3) Full of eyes - eight to be exact - two on each face
 - 4) Primary purpose for existence is to give glory and honor to Him that sat upon the throne!
 - c. There once were _____ cherubims (Ezek 28:11-17; Isa 14:10-13). The fifth cherub was knocked out of heaven (the number five always refers to death). Who was he? _____

C. The Worship Around the Throne (4:9-11)

1. When you close to the Almighty, there is nothing else to do but **worship!**
2. These elders, that have been saved, and are in the very presence of God, fall down prostrate before God and cast back their crowns to Him saying that it is only God that is worthy of any praise.
3. The elders had obtained crowns as rewards for lives lived for God, but they realised that it was more than they deserved - only the Lord is worthy!
4. This is just how all Christians will feel - we will no longer deceive ourselves about how "worthy" we are, and how much we hope to "get" in heaven - even in heaven, it will be more blessed to give than to get!

III. Conclusion

Notice how that everything being described is all centered around ONE object in the universe - God the Father on His throne!!! The Mastermind of all creation, the

QUESTION: What One of the trinity have we not dealt with yet here in the Temple in heaven? That One will be dealt with explicitly in our next lesson!

IV. Some Questions

- A. The word "rapture" means: _____
- B. What words are we Christians to be listening for just prior to the Rapture? _____
- C. Write out the verse and its address that most closely describes the events of the Rapture: _____
- D. How many sets of four living creatures are there? _____, and what are they called: _____ and _____
- E. Who was the fifth cherub according to Ezek 28? _____
- F. How many elders are there around the throne? _____
- G. What are the Seven Lamps representing in heaven? _____