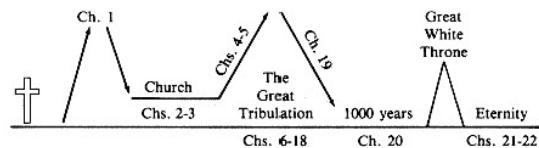


Revelation

Chapter Four

Overview Of The Book Of Revelation



Divinely Inspired Outline

- "Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."--Rev 1:19
- "Write the things which you have seen.." (Ch. 1)
- "Write ...the things which are..." (Ch. 2-3)
- "Write ..the things which will take place after this." (Ch. 4-22)
- "...after this." is literally *meta tauta* "after these things"

The Thrones Of Power In Heaven

- THE THRONE OF GOD THE FATHER
- THE THRONES OF THE TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS



Revelation 4:1

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."

John Is A Type For The Rapture

- Types are pictures or object lessons by which God has taught His redemptive plan. They are a shadow of things to come.(Col. 2:17) Dake Bible



1 Corinthians 15:50-54

- Now I say this, brothers, that flesh and blood can't inherit the Kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will 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 will be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this corruptible will have put on incorruption, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then what is written will happen: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

- But we don't want you to be ignorant, brothers, concerning those who have fallen asleep, so that you don't grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we tell you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left to the coming of the Lord, will in no way precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. The dead in Christ will rise first, 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. So we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

- ENOCH IS A TYPE: HE WAS TAKEN BEFORE THE JUDGEMENT OF THE FLOOD (GEN. 5:24). THE CHURCH WILL BE TAKEN BEFORE GOD'S JUDGEMENT YET TO COME.
- JOHN IS GIVEN A HEAVENLY PERSPECTIVE OF WHAT WOULD COME UPON THE EARTH FOLLOWING THE CHURCH AGE. THERE ARE MANY OTHER VERSES THAT STATE THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH MORE CLEARLY BUT ONE CAN'T HELP BUT SEE THE SIMILARITIES.

RAPTURE EVENT 1 THESS. 4:13-18	JOHN CAUGHT UP REV. 4
At the end of Church age	At the end of the letters to the churches
Trumpet of God	Voice like a trumpet
Believers on earth	John on earth
Immediate translation	Immediately John was in the Spirit
Believers taken into the Lord's presence	John taken into the Lord's presence

Door Standing Open In Heaven

- *Standing open* [ēneōgmenē] , perfect tense: “a door already having been opened.” The door was opened prior to John seeing it and now stood ajar. In Revelation 3:8 Jesus set an open door before the Philadelphian church. This door is not for evangelism, but provides passage for John to heaven to be shown the events recorded hereafter.

Examples Of Heaven Opening In Scripture

- Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth *month*, on the fifth *day* of the month, as I was among the captives by the River Chebar, that the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God. EZ 1:1
- And said, “Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!”- ACTS 7:56
- Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.-REV 19:11

Voice Like A Trumpet

- "I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet.- **Rev. 1:10**
- "Voice like a trumpet said, '**come up here**'" (1 Cor. 15:52: the last trumpet) Shofar



John Is Shown The Events In Heaven

- The purpose of the book of Revelation is to show not just tell
- John was actually there not just a vision
- "What will take place": We are assured that it is going to happen
- This also quoted in Rev. 1:1 "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him **to show** His servants — **things which must shortly take place.**"
- "To show" literally means: "to show by making known, to exhibit by proving".
- God desires that His Revelation be understood

Revelation 4:2

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.

John Is In The Spirit

- The way we are now in our present state cannot be in the presence of God
- Jesus said to His disciples: "'See my hands and my feet, that it is truly me. Touch me and see, **for a spirit doesn't have flesh and bones**, as you see that I have.'" -Luke 24:39
- "'Now I say this, brothers, that **flesh and blood can't inherit the Kingdom of God**; neither does corruption inherit incorruption.'" -1 Corinthians 15:50
- John is immediately or a twinkling of an eye (1 Cor. 15:52) in the spirit .

The Stones Of Heaven

- The stones are given by God which Moses was instructed to make a breastplate for the high priest exactly as God had commanded him. Exodus 39:8-13
- Jasper represented Benjamin which means ("Son of my right hand")
- Sardine represents Rueben which means ("behold a son")
- Emerald represents Judah which means "praise"
- Revelation chapter 1, Christ is also described in terms reminiscent of Israel's High Priest. Hebrews (Heb. 9:11,25 10:11,25) describes Christ as our High Priest, who is at the right hand of God the Father. Here we see Christ in the very role as High Priest seated on the throne.

The High Priest Breastplate



- "There is here no description of the Divine Being, so as to point out any *similitude, shape, or dimensions*. The description rather aims to point out the surrounding *glory and effulgence* than the *person of the almighty King*." (Clarke)
- "The jasper and the sardine stone are the first and last of these twelve stones representing the tribes of Israel. The sardine represented Reuben, the first of the tribes, since Reuben was the firstborn of Jacob. The jasper stone represented Benjamin, the youngest of the twelve sons of Jacob. In other words, the two stones represented the first and the last and therefore may be regarded as including all the other stones in between, that is, the whole of the covenanted people." (Walvoord)

The Rainbow

- Noah's covenant not to destroy the earth with water ever again. God in all his sovereignty can do any thing wants but limits Himself to His promises. He is not fickle but absolutely faithful and to be relied upon.
- In the original language in is "IRIS" which can also mean a "halo"
- "I do set My bow..." GENESIS 9:13 It is God's beautiful rainbow for all generations to see
- The Hebrew word for bow is "qesheth" which is an archer's bow
- God is placing His bow, shaped as a weapon of war as a sign of peace to all generations
- In Rev. 10:6, Jesus comes with "the rainbow" upon his head. Jesus bore the wrath of God upon himself and bridged the gap completing peace between man and God. (Eph. 2:11-18)

Revelation 4:4

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.

The Twenty-Four Elders

- **Around the throne were twenty-four thrones:** before the elders caught John's eye, he noticed the **twenty-four thrones** they sat on. These twenty-four elders sat on lesser thrones, **around the throne**. Later John will mention their song of worship (Revelation 4:10-11).
- The Greek word for throne *thronos* means a throne seat

- The number of the elders, *twenty four* is seen by some as symbolizing the twelve tribes of Israel (written on the gates of the new Jerusalem, Rev. 21:12) and the twelve apostles of the Lamb (written on the twelve foundations of the city, Rev. 21:14). Thus, they suggest twelve of the elders represent OT saints and the other twelve NT saints.
- The **ELDERS** REPRESENT THE PEOPLE OF GOD, ESPECIALLY IN THE OLD TESTAMENT. The 24 courses of the priesthood represented all the priests (1 Chronicles 24), and the 12 tribes and the 12 Apostles represent *all* the faithful.

- **Elders**: *presbuteros*, in NT are the highest officials in the church
- They are men not angels, **they wear victory crowns** angels are never crowned nor know redemption
- **White robes**: The clothing the elders wear, "white robes" is the dress of "Overcomers" (Revelation 3:4,5,18; 6:9, 7:9,13,14; 19:14). White robes are promised to the victorious saint.
- "After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude, which no man could number, out of every nation and of all tribes, peoples, and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, **dressed in white robes**, with palm branches in their hands." -Revelation 7:9

- In Revelation 5:9-10, the twenty-four elders sang a song of praise to Jesus, and they cried out: ***for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood, out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation.***
- In this passage the twenty-four elders clearly spoke as representatives of all God's people of the great company of the redeemed.
- Since the elders, the redeemed saints, wear crowns the event known as the "Judgment seat of Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11-15) would probably be represented. This judgment is not for salvation but for rewards. Similar to an award ceremony in the Olympics when the winners are given their "Stephanos" crown of victory.

Revelation 4:5

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.

God Speaks

- John saw and heard thunder, lightning and voices coming from the throne of God
- Whenever God speaks in the Bible people hear thunder.
- "It happened on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain, and the sound of an exceedingly loud trumpet; and all the people who were in the camp trembled."-Exodus 19:16

- "Father, glorify your name!" Then there came a voice out of the sky, saying, "I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again." The multitude therefore, who stood by and heard it, said that it had thundered. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice hasn't come for my sake, but for your sakes.-**John 12:28-30**

The Seven Lamps

- The lamps were previously identified as the Church (Rev. 1:10), these lamps are now in heaven representing the raptured church.
- In Revelation 1:4, the seven spirits of God represented the seven-fold ministry of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah 11:2 lists the sevenfold characteristic of the Holy Spirit.
- Seven is used again here in completeness of the Spirit's activities to the seven churches.
- At the end of each address to the seven churches it states: "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Revelation 4:6-11

- 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."

The Four Living Creatures

- This scene is similar to what happened to Isaiah and Ezekiel
- See Ezekiel 1:4-25
- "This is the living creature that I saw under the God of Israel by the river Chebar; and I knew that they were cherubim."-**Ezekiel 10:20**
- In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!"-Isaiah 1:1-3

Isaiah Saw Jesus In His Glory

- "But although He had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in Him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"! Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: "He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, Lest they should see with *their* eyes, Lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, So that I should heal them." These things Isaiah said when he saw His glory and spoke of Him." John 12: 37-41

The Cherubim Protect Man

- The Cherubim stand between God and man in order to protect man from dying in the presence of God.
- The living creatures lead heaven in giving praise to the Lord God and his work. They are proclaiming the reality of God's being. They are the choir directors of heaven leading the saints and angels in praise.
- From comparison with Ezekiel 1:4-14 and 10:20-22, we understand these creatures to be *cherubim* the spectacular angelic beings surrounding the throne of God

The Cherubim On The Mercy Seat



Mercy Seat

"And the cherubim shall stretch out their wings above, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and they shall face one another; the faces of the cherubim shall be toward the mercy seat. You shall put the mercy seat on top of the ark, and in the ark you shall put the Testimony that I will give you. **And there I will meet with you, and I will speak with you from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubim** which are on the ark of the Testimony, about everything which I will give you in commandment to the children of Israel."--Ex. 25:20-22

The Four Living Creatures

- These four living creatures have similarities to Ezekiel's four living creatures but they are also different.
- They are like Ezekiel's in that they are winged and have four faces.
- However, Ezekiel's living creatures have four wings these have six.
- Ezekiel's living creatures have eyes on the wheel but these are full of eyes within themselves.
- It should not be a surprise to us for there are different angels with different roles.

The Four Faces Of The Living Creatures

- One had a face like a Lion
- One had a face like a Calf
- One had a face like a man
- One had a face like a flying Eagle

• “As we discuss elsewhere, the interpretation of symbols can often lead in unbiblical directions especially to the degree that non-biblical sources provide the source for their interpretation. When other passages within Scripture are taken into consideration it seems the likeness of these four creatures reflect the four primary roles of Messiah Jesus revealed in the four gospels: King (Matthew) Servant (Mark) Man (Luke) God (John)” [Garland]



The Camp of Israel

The Camp of Reuben (Man)		The Camp of Ephraim (Ox)	
Reuben	46,500	Ephraim	40,500
Simeon	59,000	Manasseh	32,200
Gad	45,600	Benjamin	35,400
	151,400		108,100
SW		NW	
S	Camp of Reuben (151,400)	Man	Ox
SE		Levi	Eagle
NE			Camp of Dan (157,600)
E			N
The Camp of Judah (Lion)		The Camp of Dan (Eagle)	
Judah:	74,600	Dan	62,700
Issachar	4,400	Naphtali	53,400
Zebulon	57,400	Asher	41,500
	186,400		157,600
SW		NW	
S	Camp of Judah (186,400)	Levi	Eagle
SE			Camp of Dan (157,600)
NE			N
E			

Rabbinical Tradition

“The Talmud saw in these four creatures the four primary forms of life in God’s creation. It also noted that the twelve tribes of Israel camped under these four banners; some with Reuben (symbolized by a man), others with Dan (symbolized by an eagle), others with Ephraim (symbolized by the calf, or ox), and the rest with Judah (symbolized by a lion).” - MaCarthur

A Pattern For Heaven

- “It is interesting to note that these four primary tribal standards--the lion, the man, the ox, and the eagle--are the same as the four faces of the cherubim. Each time we encounter a view of the throne of God, we notice these strange living creatures, somehow associated with the protection of His throne, His holiness, etc.”
- “It would seem that the camp of Israel--with the tabernacle in the middle--seems to be a model of the throne of God: His presence in the center, represented by the tabernacle, encircled by the four faces, all surrounded by His people.”-[Dolphin]

Continual Worship

- The living creatures do not rest but continually praise He who sits on the throne.
- The content of the living creatures praise is God’s holiness and His coming redemption.
- “For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy *to be compared* with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected *it* in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God. For we know that **the whole creation groans and labors** with birth pangs together until now.”-Romans 8:18-22

The Casting Of Our Crowns

- As the living creatures worship it prompts the worship of the twenty-four elders who cast their crowns before the throne.
- We will one day understand fully that all of the work that we do for the Lord was prompted and fulfilled by Him.
- “For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for *His* good pleasure.”-2:13
- The crowns are a symbol of our rewards that come through the heart of God’s grace.
- We are jars of clay called by God to do His heavenly work upon earth.

The Twenty-four Elders Worship

- The theme of the twenty-four elders’ worship is creation and redemption (5:9).
- In creation we see the hand of God. In redemption we see the heart of God.
- They praise God for being created by His will.
- He alone is the only creator.
- “Lift up your eyes on high, And see who has created these things, Who brings out their host by number; He calls them all by name, By the greatness of His might And the strength of His power; Not one is missing.”-Isa 40:26

God As Creator Challenged

- Today, more than any other time in history, people are trying to replace God as creator with theories and studies.
- Peter tells us they “willfully forget” making a choice to be **exalted for their great wisdom** instead holding to biblical creation.
- “For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Professing to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and **worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator**, who is blessed forever. Amen”