

# Wednesday Bible Study – October 29, 2014

## "After the Rapture - What?" – (Revelation 4:1-7)

Read [Revelation 4:1-7](#). ([Listen to Sermon Audio](#))

Where We've Been in the Book of Revelation so far:

- Chapter 1 – Celebrity-ship of the Lord Jesus Christ
- Chapters 2-3 – Characteristics of the Church Age
- First three chapters are an emphasis of the Church Age on earth, with chapters 2 and 3 addressing the seven churches of Asia Minor.

Chapters 4 and 5 emphasize the Church in Heaven; thus tonight's message title: *After the Rapture – What?*

### OUTLINE

- I. We must remember that the book of Revelation is the unveiling of the person of Jesus Christ.
- II. It is a sermon preached to John on the Island of Patmos around 96AD (A one-man congregation).
- III. John is presented in Chapter 4 on a Sunday morning, worshiping. Jesus Christ comes on the scene, and John fainted; he was revived, and then instructed.
- IV. The sermon begins in Chapter 2 and ends with chapter 22. What a sermon from the Lord Jesus Christ!
- V. This wonderful book gives us a dispensational picture:
  1. Chapter 1 – Introduction
  2. Chapters 2 and 3 – The Church on Earth (Church Age)
  3. Chapters 4 & 5 – The Church in Heaven, after the rapture
  4. Chapters 6 & 19 – Tribulation
  5. Chapter 20 – Millennium
  6. Chapter 21 – Eternal State, and Conclusion

John was worshipping, and a door to the heavens opened up, and John fainted. He began to see the difference between *sinlessness* and *sinfulness*. [Revelation 1:17](#) shows us that John experienced fear, terror, and fainted (the scripture says "*as a dead man*").

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(Continued)

### THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN – Revelation 4, 5

What will it be like after the Rapture? We get a tiny glimpse – we see GRACE before JUDGMENT. He always allows an opportunity to change before discipline.

### OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS 4 & 5 (What did John see?)

1. Throne of God – 4:1-3
2. Twenty four Elders – 4:4,5
3. Living Creatures – 4:6-11
4. Seven Seals – 5:1-4
5. Christ: Lion of the Tribe of Judah and the Lamb which slain – 5:5-10
6. Myriads of Heavenly Angels join the song of Praise and Redemption – 5:11, 12 (emphasis is *not* on the notes of music, but the *words*, the *content of the message*).
7. Universal Worship of the Savior and Sovereign of the Universe – 5:13-14

Note some brief exegesis in [Revelation 4:1](#).

META TAUTE (μετα ταυτε) – *After this*

EIDON KAI IDOU (ειδον και ιδου) – *I looked, and behold* (took a *long* look)

We have here a change in the panorama, not chronology; this is a vision of Heaven and not of Earth, as in chapters 1-3. The first vision was of Christ, and the message to the seven churches; the new vision is of the Throne of Heaven.

The word opening Chapter 4 is a particle formed from the aorist active imperative of *HORAO* – a *long* look. It means "*focus your attention, and pay close attention to what is being said.*" A door opened, and John was able to see into heaven. Every person born into God's kingdom will be a part of the body being completed on earth until the time of the rapture. Then this body becomes *the Bride*, prepared in heaven, including the removal of earthly things and the old sinful nature. The door of Revelation 3:8 is the door of service; the door of Revelation 4:1 is the *door of Heaven*. The door presented in Revelation 19 is the door of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Advent of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### "After the Rapture - What?" – (Revelation 4:1-7)

Look now at [Revelation 4:2](#); John saw a throne, and on it, the one visible Member of the Godhead, the Lord Jesus Christ. Isaiah 6:1 is a prophecy that is the same vision: "*I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple.*" The throne is mentioned in every chapter of this book, except chapters 3, 8, and 9, so it must be important. This throne stands for the Members of the Godhead; the Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Deities 1, 2 and 3), who share all the same 10 characteristics. God is the King of the universe, as revealed throughout the book of Matthew; In [Revelation 5:5](#) He is presented as the "...Lion from the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David...", and is also alluded to in [Revelation 4:7](#)

He is presented as the Servant in the Gospel of Mark; In Luke, He is presented as the *Son of Man*, and so revealed in [Revelation 4:7](#), where the word "Ox" is used (or "Calf"), then the *Son of Man*. In the Gospel of John He is presented as the Son of God, and in Revelation 4:7, the description "*Flying Eagle*" is used.

#### REVELATION – John's Peek into Heaven

After the Church is in Heaven (Rev.4:1-5:14) He sees 7 things:

- I. He saw, first, the members of the Godhead, represented by the one visible Member of the Trinity – Jesus Christ ([Revelation 4:2, 3](#)).
- II. Then He saw the 24 elders (ruling angels with victors' crowns; this means *reward* crown (στέφανος) – *PRESBUTEROS* (πρεσβυτέρος – [Revelation 4:4](#))
- III. Thirdly, He saw the two signs of Judgment – ([Revelation 4:5](#)) Nature gives a warning of the coming storm and (Revelation 4:5b) the 7 seven lamps of fire – revealing that this is light before darkness – GRACE before judgment.
- IV. Fourthly, John sees the Church at REST – ([Revelation 4:6](#)) pictured by the "*sea of glass like unto crystal*"; The sea on earth can be, and often is, turbulent, unpleasant, and stormy! Heaven is neither stormy, unpleasant or turbulent.
- V. The fifth thing John saw were the four Living Creatures ([Revelation 4:6b-11](#)) = Angelic, brilliant, a combination of cherubs and seraphs – A seraph is a reflector-type angel; a Cherub is a glamorous type angel, meaning the Person of Christ is a *glory reflector*.
  1. Jesus Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Judah – Jesus the *KING* in Matthew.
  2. Jesus Christ is the calf (ox) *MOSCHOS* – μόσχος = fattened calf – *SERVANT* in Mark.
  3. "*face of a man*" – Luke presents Christ as the SON OF MAN.
  4. The fourth *glory reflection* is the Flying Eagle, depicting Jesus Christ as *DEITY* as per *SON OF GOD* in John's Gospel.

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(Continued)

- VI. John Sees a Library in Heaven – [Revelation 5:1-4](#)
- Study: 3 categories of Books – Book of Life; Book of Works; Book of Judgment (presented as seals – Chapter 6 – judgments of the Tribulation).
- VII. John Sees Christ as Judge ([Revelation 5:5-14](#)) vs. 5-Judge presented; verse 6 – Person of the Judge; in verse 7 – Work of the Judge; now John gets some REST (Revelation 5:8-14).

The life of Jesus Christ is presented in the Bible throughout the Harmony of the Gospels; in the following points we focus on the Book of Matthew:

1. Matthew presents Jesus as a king. He does not relate the birth of Christ, since a king does not have a lowly birth.
2. Rather, Matthew traces Jesus royal descent back to Abraham and David, through Solomon.
3. He is presented as the *Lion of the Tribe of Judah*, the promised ruler of Israel (in [Revelation 5:5](#)); the Book of Matthew clearly affirms this Kingship throughout.
4. He has a king's name – *Immanuel* ([Matthew 1:23](#)).
5. He has a king's position (*governor, or ruler* – [Matthew 2:6](#)).
6. He has a king's announcement (*make straight His paths* – [Matthew 3:2, 3](#)).
7. He has a king's coronation (*This is My beloved Son, in Whom I am well pleased* – [Matthew 3:17](#)).
8. He has *due respect* (*You shall worship the Lord God and serve Him only* – [Matthew 4:10](#)).
9. He has a king's proclamation (*He was teaching them as One having authority* – [Matthew 7:29](#)).
10. He has a king's loyalty (*"He who is not with Me is against Me..."* – [Matthew 12:30](#)).
11. He has a king's enemies (*He would suffer many things* – [Matthew 16:21](#)).
12. He has a king's love (*giving His life, a ransom for many* – [Matthew 20:28](#)).
13. He has a king's glory ([Matthew 25:31-34](#)).
14. He has a king's sacrifice ([Matthew 27:35-37](#)).
15. He has a king's victory ([Matthew 28:6](#)).
16. Matthew tells of the royalty of the wise men coming to see Jesus ([Matthew 2:1-6](#)).