

THE UNVEILING OF CHRIST

"The Church In Heaven"

Revelation 4:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

1. **Revelation 1:19** is the outline of the entire book.
2. The scene now in chapter 4 shifts *from earth to heaven*.

I. WHERE'S THE CHURCH?

1. Between Chapter 3 and Chapter 4 we have a change of location of the Church from earth to Heaven.

2. **QUESTION:** How did this happen? The Rapture of the Church!!

3. FIVE FACTS HELP US ESTABLISH THIS TRUTH

A. Fact #1 - THE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

1. Vs 1

a) "*After this*"

2. After what??? 1:19

a) "*The things which thou hast seen*"

1) **Chapter 1:1-18**

2) A portrait of the glorified Christ.

b) "*the things which are*"

1) **Chapters 2 & 3**

a. The seven churches.

c) Therefore "*and those that are to take place after this*"

1) **Sequentially** - this is after the Church Age.

3. Now look @ the phrase "*After this*" in 4:1

a) "*after this*" - Gk is "*meta tauta*"

b) **AND 1:19** - "*those that are to take place after this*"

4. **THERE IS A CONNECTION** - there is a grammatical link between **1:19** and **4:1**

a) **AND** John clearly says that Heaven now becomes the focal point.

5. Revelation 4:1a

a) "After this I looked and behold a door standing open in heaven"

B. Fact# 2 THE ABSENCE OF THE CHURCH ON EARTH

1. In Chapters 4-19 the Church is not mentioned one time.

2. **IF THE CHURCH** was on earth during the Tribulation, you would think it would be mentioned.

3. **Now watch this:** A phrase John uses 7 times in chapters 2&3.

a) "*He who has an ear to hear let him hear what the Spirit says to the Churches.*"

b) Seven times - "*what the Spirit says to the Churches*"

4. **NOW IN 13:9** deep in the Tribulation period - "*If anyone has an ear, let him hear*"

5. Another CLUE that the Church is gone from the earth.

a) The name by which Christians refer to God - "Father".

1) *Matthew 6:9*

6. **AND IN Revelation Chapters 4-19** God is never called "Father".

a) During the Tribulation God is referred to as "**God**", "**Lord Almighty**", and other names by which He is called in the OLD TESTAMENT.

C. Fact #3 - THE LOCATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Holy Spirit takes up permanent residence in the body of the believer.

a) *1 Corinthians 6:19-20*

b) *Romans 8:15-17*

2. In **Revelation chapters 2-3** the Holy Spirit was in the midst of the Churches on Earth.

3. **2 Thessalonians 2:6-8**

a) Vs 7

1) "*Only he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way*"

4. **Revelation 4-19** describes a time when, literally, all hell breaks loose upon the earth.

D. Fact #4 - CHECKING PARALLEL PASSAGES

1. THE VOICE

a) *Revelation 4:1*

1) Cp. *1 Thessalonians 4:16*

2. THE TRUMPET OF GOD

a) *Revelation 4:1*

1) Cp. *1 Thessalonians 4:16*

2) *1 Corinthians 15:52*

3. A CHANGE TAKES PLACE

a) *Revelation 4:2*

b) *1 Corinthians 15:52-53*

E. Fact #5 - JOHN'S CALL TO HEAVEN

1. *Revelation 4:1a*

a) "*Come up here*"

II. AN INSIDE VIEW OF HEAVEN

1. Vs 1

a) "*a door standing open in Heaven*"

2. **WOW, WOW, WOW**

a) What did John see??? **WORSHIP!!!!!!!!!!!!**

1) ***Worship will be the primary activity in Heaven!!!***

3. *Mark 12:28-31*

4. The KEY Word in **Chapter 4** is "*Throne*"

A. WHO IS SEATED ON THE THRONE

1. Vs 2-3

2. Remember God's promise **Revelation 1:3**.

3. Vs 3

a) **Jasper & Sardine**

1) Were the first and last stones on the High Priests breastplate.

b) Cf. *Exodus 28:15-21*

- 1) **Jasper** - Is Crystal Clear like a Diamond
 - a. First stone on the breastplate Represented Reuban Jacobs Firstborn
 - b. means "**Behold a son**"
- 2) **Sardine** - Deep Dark Ruby Red Color
 - a. The last stone on the breastplate which represented Benjamin Jacobs last born.
 - b. means "**son of my right hand**"

4. Jesus was and is the First and Last...

- a) **Revelation 3:21**
- b) **Revelation 1:17**

B. THRONE SURROUNDED BY A GREEN RAINBOW

1. Vs 3b

a) "**and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald**"

1) The emerald was green in color - Green is the color of life.

2. The rainbow takes us back to God's promise of MERCY in **Genesis 9:13-16**.

a) Never to destroy all things again.

3. **WHILE ALL HELL** breaks loose on earth during the Tribulation, the Church is safe in HEAVEN.

a) A reminder of God's promise by the Emerald rainbow circling the throne.

4. The rainbow provides a balance to the fiery flashings of judgment around God's throne.

a) **Genesis 9:13-17**

1) God's faithfulness mercy and grace.

C. NEXT WEEK: THE FOUR AND TWENTY ELDERS