

THE UNVEILING OF CHRIST

"The Church In Heaven"

Revelation 4:1-11

INTRODUCTION:

1. Revelation 1:19 is the outline of the entire book.
 - a) We are currently in the Church Age!! Chapters 2-3
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!!

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

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

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) "*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.

a) Chapters 4-19 deal with the Tribulation on earth.

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.

a) BUT in Revelation 4 the Holy Spirit is in Heaven before the throne of God.

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"

D. Fact #4 - CHECKING PARALLEL PASSAGES

1. THE VOICE (Of the Lord)

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 What did John see??? WORSHIP!!!!!!!!!!!!

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

3. Mark 12:28-31

A. WHO IS SEATED ON THE THRONE

1. Vs 2-3

2. 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**"

3. 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**"

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

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

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

C. THE FOUR AND TWENTY ELDERS

1. **Revelation 4:4**

2. **WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE NUMBER 24???**

3. In **1 Chronicles 24:4-5, 7-18** King David had the priests divided into 24 courses.

4. In **1 Chronicles 25** King David organized the Musicians in the same way.

a) They were divided into 24 divisions of musicians in the Temple.

5. Very Important: The number 24 is used in Scripture to speak of **ALL INCLUSIVENESS** of completion and representation of all of God's people!!

6. So in Chapter 4 we are looking at a unified group of 24 Elders representing the Raptured Church who are singing the song of Redemption.

a) **Revelation 5:8-10**

7. **NOW WATCH THIS: 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9**

8. **VERY IMPORTANT:** What we need to know is that there is a definite NUMBER of God's People!!!

a) And every one of them is written in the LAMBS BOOK OF LIFE.

9. **THEY ARE THE REDEEMED**

a) **WE KNOW THIS BY THE PRAISE ON THEIR LIPS**

1) *Revelation 5:8-10*

b) **WE KNOW THIS BY THE CLOTHES THEY ARE WEARING**

1) *Revelation 4:4*

2) *Revelation 19:7-8*

c) **WE KNOW THIS BY THE CROWNS ON THEIR HEADS**

1) *Revelation 4:4*

a) "Crown" - Greek = "stephanos" = Victors Crown

D. **THE SOUND OF JUDGMENT**

1. *Revelation 4:5*

a) *Exodus 19:16-22*

2. *Hebrews 4:16*

3. Once the Church is removed from the earth, the throne of God once again becomes the source of Judgment. **Vs 5**

E. **A SEA OF GLASS**

1. *Vs 6*

2. *Exodus 24:10*

a) *Revelation 21:10-11, 18, 21*

F. **THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES**

1. *Vs 6-8*

2. **Who are they?**

a) *Ezekiel 1:1,4; 10:14-17*

b) **Cherubim** - Are an exalted order of angels frequently associated in Scripture with God's Holy Power.

3. This is without a doubt - God's designed war machine ready to unleash judgment.

4. Cherubim have a major role in protecting the glory of God.

a) And their role is to execute judgment upon the earth.

G. WORSHIP OF THE ONE ON THE THRONE

1. Vs 9-11

2. Not only do the 4 living creatures lead in delivering judgment on the earth, they also lead in WORSHIP.

3. **LISTEN UP:** Whenever the 4 Living Creatures give Glory to God...the 24 Elders join by falling down before the throne to WORSHIP GOD.

4. Vs 11

a) *"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive Glory and Honor and power for you created all things."*

5. WOW!!! Vs 10

a) The rewards we receive @ The Judgment Seat Of Christ we will cast right back @ Jesus Christ's Throne in Heaven.

6. BECAUSE ANGELS are not redeemed from sin, they cannot worship with the Church Vs 11.

a) Cf. Vs 8

7. 1 Peter 1:12

CONCLUSION:

1. We worship in the second person!!!

a) Angels worship in the third person. Vs 8