

The REVELATION of Jesus Christ

Chapter 4

“After These Things . . . Heaven!”

Review Revelation 1:19 is the key verse to understand the order of *The Book of Revelation*: “Write the things which you have seen (*pertains to Ch. 1*), and the things which are (*pertains to Ch. 2 & 3*), and the things which will take place after this (*pertains to Ch. 4 - 22*)” (*after this- Gk. “meta tauta” also found at the beginning of Chapter 4:1*).

I) After These Things! (v1)

After these things- Gk. *Meta Tauta* (same as Rev. 1:19)- After what things? The things of the church (Rev. 2 & 3, church history)—after the church has finished her testimony upon the earth and God is through with us, then the rapture will take place: **1Thess 4:13-18-** *But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

1Cor 15:50-53- *Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.*

John 14:1-3- *“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*

When will this happen? Mt. 24:32-51; 2 Thess. Ch. 2; Rapture Parable “The Ten Virgins”- Mt. Ch. 25:1-13

II) Heaven! (v2-11)

(v2-3) What will we see? The throne of God- Like a **Jasper stone-** Diamond like, clear, crystal stone with a purple hue. Like a **Sardius stone-** Blood red in color, a ruby.

The **Sardius stone** was the first stone and the **Jasper stone** was the last stone that the high priest in the Old Testament wore on his breastplate (Ex. 28:17-20). There were actually twelve stones on the breastplate representing the twelve tribes of Israel—the sardius represented Reuben, his name means *Behold a Son*; the jasper represented Benjamin, his name means *Son of my Right Hand*.”

We also discover a rainbow around the throne with an appearance as an emerald—the emerald stone represented Judah, his name means *Praise*. Could the rainbow be the promise of no further judgment, as in Noah's time.

(v4-5) The twenty-four elders probably represent the Church- **C.I. Scofield writes,** “The very word “elder” has church significance (1 Tim. 5:17; Titus 1:5). Crowns throughout the NT are exclusively presented as rewards for the faithful in the Church. These elders sit on thrones which are associated with the central judgment throne of God (vv. 2-4; cp. 1 Cor. 6:2-3; 2 Tim. 2:12). The appearance of these elders, already glorified, crowned, and enthroned before the opening of the sealed book of judgment (ch. 5:8-12) and before the end-time judgments are loosed upon the world (chs. 6—18), reaffirms that the Church is not to be subjected to the judicial wrath and judgments of that time (cp. Jn. 5:24; Rom. 5:9; 1 Th. 1:10; 5:1-11; Rev. 3:10).”

(v7-9) The four living creatures- Some Bible scholars see these creatures as manifestations of Christ in the Gospels. In the first Gospel, Matthew presents Jesus as the **lion** of the tribe of Judah. Mark presents Him as a **calf**, a beast of burden representing a suffering servant. Luke presents Him as the **Son of man**. John presents Him as the **Son of God**, the eagle representing the Divinity. It is believed that the creatures are angels of the class known as *Seraphim* (cp. Is. 6:2) or the *Cherubim* (Ez. 1:4-14; 10:20-22). These creatures declare who God is: He is **HOLY**; He is **ALMIGHTY**; He is **ETERNAL!** True worship of God is when we give Him “**glory and honor & thanks.**”

(v10-11) Observe the worship of the twenty-four elders: God created all things & by His will they continue to exist! **Rom 8:18-25-** *I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.*