

REVELATION CHAPTER 4

Vs 1 Having concluded the "things which are", ch.2 & 3 –
after these things, we must now consider events which will take place
after the church has been removed (raptured).
Chapters 4 & 5 are what the "raptured" John sees upon arriving in
heaven, while ch. 6 & following describe that which takes place upon the
earth.

NOTE: The church is not mentioned again by name in the book until Rev.22:16,
and by description in Rev.19:7-9.

This would argue that the church is not involved in the events between these
two passages.

Heaven – describes 3 different "places":

1) air above the earth – where birds fly
- dew comes from
- winds, rain, etc...

2) stellar space – Deut.17:3

3) The "abode of God" - a place, not a state of being: "third
heaven" – 2 Cor.12:2.

a) Jesus came down from heaven

Jn.6:38.

b) He taught us to pray "Our Father who art in heaven"

Mt.6:9.

c) Our reward comes to us in heaven

Mt.5:12.

d) Joy is experienced by those in heaven

Lk.15:7.

e) Angels are in heaven

Mk.13:32.

f) A "place" awaits the believer after death

Jn.12:2-3.

g) Jesus called it Paradise – Lk.23:43, so also Paul

2 Cor.12:1-4.

h) As the heavenly Jerusalem, it's appearance is described

Rev. 21 & 22. Note the tree of Life – Rev.22:2; 2:7, with Lk.23:43.

i) Heb.12:22-24.

The first voice I heard – Rev.1:12; 1:10

Come up here – I Thess.4:13-17

Verses 2 & 3 - The very first thing the Christian sees upon entering heaven is the throne
of God.

Vs. 2 – 3 – Immediately John was transferred from this realm to the next. The first thing he sees is God upon His throne and that which strikes him first is the color he sees.

1) jasper stone – crystal clear – Rev.21:11 (diamond)

2) sardis – red (ruby) – the jasper and the sardis were the first and last stone on the high priest's breastplate (reverse order) Ex.28:15-21.

The first stone represented Reuben, while the last, Benjamin. Both stones are used to describe the majesty of Lucifer as originally created – Ezk.28:13.

3) a rainbow around the throne.

NOTE: John's vision of the one sitting on the throne is not one of a "form", but rather an awareness of color. The glory of God appears to have been the intent of the vision.

Vs 4 The twenty four elders upon their own thrones

Who do the elders represent?

1) It is a matter of Revelation that God's purpose in saving man is that he might minister before Him as Priests, along with reigning with Him

Rev.20:6

2) The O.T. Priesthood was divided into 24 divisions

I Chr.24:7-18.

(The musicians as well – I Chr.25:8-31).

Each division was headed by a man who represented it. When these priests met together, even though there were only twenty four, they represented the entire priesthood. In the same way these 24 in Revelation represent a body.

3) To further understand who they represent, they are said to be clothed in white garments

Rev.19:8,

and are wearing a "stephanos" (not a diadem) on their head

Jms.1:12, I Pet.5:4, etc...

4) The Church has already been raptured at this point, while O.T. believers have not!

Is.26:19-21.

5) They cannot be angels either because angels have not yet been judged at this point I Cor.6:3 (Because their work is not yet finished as the church has been. In Rev.5:11, they are part of a heavenly group which includes angels which are said to be distinct from the angels.

Vs 5 Lightening and thunder are experienced

Rev.8:5; 11:19; Ex,19:16-17.

Seven lamps of fire – the seven Spirits of God

Is.11:2-3; Rev.1:4; 3:1.

These seven lamps are the means by which John is informed of the presence of the Holy Spirit.

(done Mt.3:16; tongues of fire Acts 2:1-4
speaking in non-learned languages Acts 2:7-8).

Vs. 6 – 9 A sea of glass like crystal – Ezk.1:22; Rev.22:1.

John appears to pass over the sea and is captivated by the four living creatures.

1) full of eyes – in front and behind – Ezk.1:18; 10:12. God sees
everything in His creation – never sleeps.

2) lion, calf, man, flying eagle – Ezk.1:4-14.

3) six wings – Is.6:2-3.

4) never ceasing to declare the holiness of God.

Glory – very great praise or distinction bestowed by:

Common consent

Admiration

Adoring praise

Honor – high respect, esteem

Recognition of a high rank with distinction conferred.

Thanks – a grateful feeling or acknowledgment as for a gift, favor,
service: gratitude, appreciation, acknowledgment.

To Him – who sits on the throne Rev.4:2; 5:1,6-7.

Who lives forever and ever – Rev.1:18.

Vs. 10 – 11 The 24 elders (church) join the living creatures in worshipping He who sits upon the throne.

They cast their crowns before the throne acknowledging that their rewards in heaven are also a gift from the God they are worshipping Eph.2:10.

When all is right in the universe – all glory, honor, and power are recognized as coming from God and are the result of His created purpose Col.1:12-17; Rom.9:16, 18, 21-23; Eph.1:11; Rev.10:5-7.