

The Book Of Revelation - Chapters Four & Five

CHAPTER FOUR

After this I looked, and, behold, a door [was] opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard [was] as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. **2** And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and [one] sat on the throne. **3** And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and [there was] a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. **4** And round about the throne [were] four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. **5** And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and [there were] seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. **6** And before the throne [there was] a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, [were] four beasts full of eyes before and behind. **7** And the first beast [was] like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast [was] like a flying eagle.

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about [him]; and [they were] full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. **9** And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, **10** The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, **11** Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

CHAPTER FIVE

And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book written within and on the backside, sealed with seven seals. **2** And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? **3** And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. **4** And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. **5** And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.

6 And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth. **7** And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat upon the throne. **8** And when he had taken the book, the four beasts and four [and] twenty elders fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints. **9** And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; **10** And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth. **11** And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; **12** Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing. **13** And every creature which is in heaven, and on the earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, Blessing, and honour, and glory, and power, [be] unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever. **14** And the four beasts said, Amen. And the four [and] twenty elders fell down and worshipped him that liveth for ever and ever.

- "Church" not mentioned again until 22:16 - NOT ON EARTH
- purpose of Rapture - not mere escape, but translation of body!
- elsewhere only "come hither" (Rev. 17:1, 21:9) - RAPTURE
- throne room - similar arrangement to Tabernacle, with Throne in place of the mercy seat and other "furniture" in front of it
- jasper (crystal) - holiness; sardine (blood red) - wrath; emerald (predominant color of RAINBOW) - mercy at this throne!
- circle arrangement of Sanhedrin, no one closer than anyone else
- 24 elders - not angels (5:11), 24 priestly orders (1 Chron. 24:4); symbolic completion of 12 tribes + 12 apostles (Rev. 21:12,14)
- crowns - "stephanos" (victor's crown); lightnings & thunderings - Sinai (Ex. 19:16 - God's presence coming near in judgement)
- 7 Spirits (Zech. 4:6,10 - omnipresence and omniscience of God)
- not literal - appearance! / glass dull in John's day (1 Cor. 13:12)
- unceasing watchfulness; CHERUBIMS - highest rank of angels
- "zoa" (living creature), not "therion" (vicious wild beast)
- symbolic of God's creation and His covenant with Noah (man), fowl (eagle), cattle (calf), beasts (lion) - Genesis 9:9-10
- 4-fold portrait of Christ in gospels (Lion / Calf / Man / Eagle)
- similar to visions of Ezekiel (1:5,10,28) and Isaiah (6:2-3)
- primary function of cherubim is WORSHIP of Almighty God
- elders worship in a way that even Cherubim cannot worship!
- "proskuneo" (prostrate) - to kiss, like dog licking master's hand
- CROWNS AWARDED: Victor's Crown of Life (James 1:12), Faithful Saint's Crown of Righteousness (2 Tim. 4:8), Elder's Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4), Soul Winner's Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thess. 2:19), Martyr's Crown of Life (Rev. 2:10)
- Saints cast their crowns before throne in ultimate act of worship!

- right hand symbolizes power and authority (Ex. 15:6, Psa. 17:7)
- scroll full - nothing can be added to God's Last Will & Testament
- sealed like Roman will - only to be opened by appointed heir
- Who is worthy (righteous enough) to loose the plagues in this "Title Deed to the Universe" and reclaim the earth for God?
- "wept much" - mourning as for a dead loved one in Bible times
- Lion of the tribe of Judah - image from Genesis 49:9-10
- Root of David - image from Isaiah 11:1,10 (as HUMANITY, His roots were IN David; as DEITY, He was the root OF David)
- "How can Messiah be both David's Lord & son?" (Mt. 22:41-46)
- "Lamb" = "a little pet lamb" / "slain" = "violently killed"
- 7 horns - complete power; 7 eyes - complete knowledge
- Lamb - 1st coming (redemption); Lion - 2nd coming (judgement)
- This scene describes what John sees as happening in the SPIRITUAL REALM - Jesus is not literally a Lamb or a Lion, just as He is not literally approaching a throne to obtain a literal book
- Revelation 5:7 is a fulfillment of what Daniel saw in Dan. 7:13-14
- prayers are preserved in Heaven as incense! (Psalm 141:2)
- new (kainos) - new in quality (never existed before - 2 Cor. 5:17)
- Redeemer had to be near of kin (humanity of Christ), willing to redeem (God's love), and able to redeem (Calvary's provision)
- saints from every kindred (ancestry), tongue (language), people (race), nation (government) have been redeemed by His blood
- "we shall reign on the earth" - will happen in the Millennium
- 10,000 - largest single number used in Greek ("innumerable")

That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of [things] in heaven, and [things] in earth, and [things] under the earth; And [that] every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ [is] Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:10-11)

- Christ now ready to open seals that begin the Great Tribulation

Seven Reasons Why A Pre-Tribulation Rapture Is Biblical

1. It is the only view that clearly and logically untangles the contrasting details of Christ's Second Coming by taking Scripture in its literal sense whenever possible.
2. It is the only view that properly distinguishes between Israel and the church, thus avoiding the most common error in Bible interpretation.
3. It is the only view that truly gives the church a blessed hope by taking God at His Word when He promises to save His church out of the wrath to come.
4. It is the only view that preserves the motivating power of imminency teaching that was such a challenge to the early church, and keeps Christians in anticipation of the Lord's coming.
5. It is the only view that clearly and literally fits the flow of the Book of Revelation, and explains why the church is not mentioned as being on earth during the Tribulation period.
6. It is the only view that explains the questions troubling the young Christians at Thessalonica and maintains 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 as a comfort passage.
7. It is the only view that explains why there is absolutely no Bible instruction on how the church should prepare for the Tribulation.

SCRIPTURE VERSES TO CONSIDER

1 Thess. 4:13-18 - Rapture (Lat) = harpadsō (Gr) = "snatched up"
 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. **14** For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. **15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. **16** For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: **17** Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **18** Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

1 Thess. 5:9 - We are appointed to suffering, but not God's wrath
 For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,

1 Cor. 15:51-52 - Paul uses "we" because he expected Rapture
 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, **52** In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

Revelation 3:10 - We are kept from ("out of" - ek) the Tribulation
 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 6:16-17 - God's wrath at beginning of Seven Years
 And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: **17** For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Revelation 13:9 - Word "church" not mentioned as in Rev. 2 & 3
 If any man have an ear, let him hear.

Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; (Titus 2:13)

