



THE BOOK OF REVELATION

THE RAPTURE OF THE REDEEMED

Introduction: Having completed his messages to the churches of Asia Minor, the Apostle John initiates the final section of Revelation in chapter four. The opening verses of this chapter foreshadow the events to come, as referenced in Revelation 1:19: *'things which shall be hereafter.'* This prophetic glimpse primarily concerns the rapture of the redeemed—a distinct event from the subsequent revelation of Christ. It's crucial to emphasize that the rapture is reserved for the saved, not the church as a whole. Additionally, the imminent nature of this event is a cornerstone of biblical teaching, as Scripture clearly states that no one knows the exact day or hour of Christ's return.

REASONS WHY REV. 4:1 DEPICTS THE RAPTURE

- **This chapter and verse begins with the third and final natural division of the book.** (Rev. 1:19)
- **John's vision changes from an earthly scene to a heavenly scene.**
- **The church is not mentioned between Rev. 3:22 and Rev. 22:16.**
- **Christ promised the Church of Philadelphia that they would be kept from the hour of temptation.** (Rev. 3:10; I Thess. 5:9)
- **The twenty-four elders depict a royal priesthood.** (I Chron. 24-25; I Pet. 2:5-9).
 - His church is called:
 - A chosen generation
 - A royal priesthood
 - A holy nation
 - A peculiar people
- **Revelation 4:2-11 depicts the Judgment Seat of Christ**
 - The throne set in heaven (Rev. 4:2)
 - The 24 elders (Rev. 4:4)
 - The victor's crown (Rev. 4:4)
 - NOTE: [Gr. *Stephanos* not *Diadema* – this is indicative of a victor's wreath (*stephanos*) as opposed to a kingly headdress (*diadema*).
 - The seven searching spirits of God (Rev. 4:5)
 - The Sea of Glass (multitudes of people before God)

FIFTEEN EVENTS AT THE RAPTURE

- **The Lord Himself will descend from His Father's house.** (John 14:1-3; I Thess. 4:16)
- **Christ will receive us to Himself.** (John 14:1-3)
- **He will resurrect the "dead in Christ."** (I Thess. 4:14-15)
- **The Lord will shout as He descends.** [*shout* = "A cry of enticement" (I Thess. 4:16)]
- **We will hear the voice of the archangel.** (I Thess. 4:16)
- **We will hear the "last trump of God."** (Not to be confused with the seventh trumpet of Rev. 11:15)
- **The dead in Christ will be raptured first.** (I Cor. 15:51-52; I Thess. 4:16-17)

(CONTINUED)

- **The living saints will be “caught up” (raptured) together.** (I Thess. 4:17).
- **The raptured will be changed to incorruptible and immortal.** (I Cor. 15:51-52)
- **The raptured will meet the Lord in the air.** (I Thess. 4:17)
- **Christ will meet us and take us to the Father’s house: “*that where I am, there you may be also.*”** (John 14:3)
- **The raptured will be ever with the Lord.** (I Thess. 4:17)
- **The raptured will immediately stand before Christ.** (Rom. 14:10-12; II Cor. 5:10; I Cor. 3:11-15)
- **The Marriage of the Lamb to the Church will commence.** (Rev. 19:9)

Lesson Conclusion: While the exact timing of Christ’s return remains a mystery, Scripture clearly indicates we are living in the end times. The stage is set for the rapture of the redeemed. This imminent event underscores the urgency of salvation. Have you placed your faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? If so, are you living a life that glorifies Him and shares His love with others? Remember, the opportunity to accept God's gift of salvation will not last forever. Now is the time to trust in Christ and to share His hope with those around you.