

Revelation 4

- **Revelation 1:19 - ¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.**
- **The things which you have seen – Revelation chapter 1 – Heaven and John's commission to write Revelation**
- **The things which are – Revelation 2 & 3 – The Seven Letters to the Churches**
- **The things which will take place after this – Revelation 4-22 – The things which will happen after the Church Age or the Age of Grace.**

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- **After these things or after this (KJV) denotes a passage of time. Most probably in regards to the Book and John receiving this vision.**
 - **John most likely multiple visions as it relates to Revelation, but it is one story or prophecy.**

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- Revelation is not completely linear or chronological. It mostly is, but the chapters 4-10 the focus is what is happening in heaven.
 - Chapter 11 John measures the Temple and then the focus is immediately back in heaven.
 - Chapter 12 the focus begins to shift to the earth and the coming of the anti-Christ and the false prophet.

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- **John is immediately taken up in the spirit, not in his body**
 - **What John sees is the glory emanating from the throne.
What John sees is the glory of God the Father.**
 - **This is why John cannot be in his earthly body; he cannot gaze on the glory of God and live. (Exodus 33:18-20)**

Jasper - Holiness



Crystal Clear Jasper



Yellow Jasper

Sardius - Judgment



The rainbow, is not our rainbow, but is made up of an emerald green. Rainbow can also be translated halo. This speaks of eternal life.

Who are the elders?

- Some say they are angels, but nowhere in the Bible are angels ever called elders.
- Also, as we see in Revelation 5:8-10 the angels are around or outside the ring of elders. Also see Revelation 7:22
- The way the elders are described are that of the saints of God.

White robes are associated with the saints.

- Revelation 3:5 -He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.
- Revelation 7:9 - ⁹ After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,

White robes are associated with the saints.

- Zechariah 3:3-4 - ³ Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. ⁴ Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, “Take away the filthy garments from him.” And to him He said, “See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes.”
- Isaiah 1:18 - ¹⁸ “Come now, and let us reason together,” Says the Lord, “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.”

Nowhere are crowns given to angel, only victorious saints

- **Revelation 2:10 – Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

Nowhere are crowns given to angel, only victorious saints

- **2 Timothy 4:8 - ⁸ Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.**
- **James 1:12 - ¹² Blessed *is* the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him.**

Why 24 elders?

- 24 – There were 24 clerical divisions of the Temple – 1 Chronicles 24:1-19. We are now a royal priesthood – 1 Peter 2:9
- Revelation 1:6 - ⁶... [He] has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.
- Some see these as the twelve tribes and the twelve apostles – meaning both the Old Testament and New Testament saints

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- When we say the saints of God of what time period do they belong?
 - One sticking point is that the word *rapture* does not appear in the Bible.
 - The word *rapture* comes out of the Latin Vulgate Bible.

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- **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17** - ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.
 - The phrase *caught up* In the Greek it is *harpazo* it is translated *raptu* in Latin. It is from there we get our word *rapture*.

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- **There are three interpretations for the Rapture:**
 - **Pre-tribulation**
 - **Mid-tribulation**
 - **Post-tribulation**

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- The post-tribulation looks at Jesus' discourse in Matthew 24 and Luke 21 and says that it is only after all the tribulation is over does Jesus come back and therefore the idea that Jesus would comeback in two parts or twice is scripturally unsound.
 - Revelation only speaks of Jesus' return in regards to setting up His Millennium Reign.

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- **Matthew 24:29-31 - ²⁹ “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰ Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹ And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.**

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- **Mid-tribulation says at the three-and-a-half-year mark, when the Anti-Christ sets up his image in the Temple and demands everyone worship him and take the mark of the beast that Jesus returns just before or after those events and the church is spared from the worse parts of the Tribulation.**

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- **Pre-tribulation says that before the Tribulation and the rise of the Anti-Christ, Jesus will come back to receive His bride and then the Tribulation will start.**
 - **One note, some believe that there could be a time gap between the church being raptured and the Tribulation starting. There is nothing in the Bible to suggest this theory though.**

1. We are not subject to God's wrath because of the blood and sacrifice of Jesus.

- **Revelation 3:10-11 - ¹⁰ “Because you have obeyed my command to persevere, I will protect you from the great time of testing that will come upon the whole world to test those who belong to this world. ¹¹ I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take away your crown.**

1. We are not subject to God's wrath because of the blood and sacrifice of Jesus.

- Revelation 6:12-20 - ¹² I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. ¹⁴ Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, ¹⁶ and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! ¹⁷ For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

1. We are not subject to God's wrath because of the blood and sacrifice of Jesus.

- **1 Thessalonians 5:9-10 - ⁹ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.**

2. The Church is mentioned 19 times in the first three chapters of Revelation but never in chapters 4-18.

- Revelation 19:7-9 - ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.” ⁸ And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Write: ‘Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!’” And he said to me, “These are the true sayings of God.”
- Revelation 19:10-21 tell of Jesus’ return with His Church and the defeat of the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet and the armies of the world.

2. The Church is mentioned 19 times in the first three chapters of Revelation but never in chapters 4-18.

- **1 Thessalonians 3:10-13 - ¹¹ Now may our God and Father Himself, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way to you. ¹² And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love to one another and to all, just as we *do* to you, ¹³ so that He may establish your hearts blameless in holiness before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all His saints.**
- **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 – Christ comes for His Church.**
- **1 Thessalonians 3:13 – Jesus returns to earth with the Church.**

3. The Anti-Christ will be revealed after the Rapture and can only be revealed once the Holy Spirit is removed with the Church.

- **2 Thessalonians 2:3-8** - ³ Don't be fooled by what they say. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. ⁴ He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God. ⁵ Don't you remember that I told you about all this when I was with you? ⁶ And you know what is holding him back, for he can be revealed only when his time comes. ⁷ For this lawlessness is already at work secretly, and it will remain secret until the one who is holding it back steps out of the way. ⁸ Then the man of lawlessness will be revealed, but the Lord Jesus will slay him with the breath of his mouth and destroy him by the splendor of his coming.

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⁶ And you know what restrains him now [from being revealed]; it is so that he will be revealed at his own [appointed] time. ⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness [rebellion against divine authority and the coming reign of lawlessness] is already at work; [but it is restrained] only until he who now restrains it is taken out of the way.
(AMP)

3. The Anti-Christ will be revealed after the Rapture and can only be revealed once the Holy Spirit is removed with the Church.

- If the Holy Spirit, through His own power and prayers of the saints is currently restraining the Anti-Christ, and if the Holy Spirit is removed and His ministry in the church ends without the church being raptured, then Jesus is a liar.
- John 14:16-18 - ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

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- Also, Jesus' promises of answered prayers would not be so. Every Christian would pray against the Anti-Christ and those prayers would be ignored.
- *Please note, the Holy Spirit will not be inactive during the Tribulation. He will be with the Two Prophets and the 144,000. However, His work will mirror His work in the Old Testament rather than the New Testament where every believer is filled and sealed.

4. The Anti-Christ will prevail against the saints during the Tribulation.

- **Revelation 13:7 - ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation.**

4. The Anti-Christ will prevail against the saints during the Tribulation.

- Revelation 6:9-11 - ⁹ When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” ¹¹ Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both *the number of* their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they *were*, was completed.

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- Revelation 20:4 - ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I *saw* the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received *his* mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

4. The Anti-Christ will prevail against the saints during the Tribulation.

- **Matthew 16:18 - ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.**
- **Matthew 24:29-31**

5. We could figure out Jesus' return

- **Matthew 24:36 -³⁶ “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.**
- **³⁶ “But of that [exact] day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son [in His humanity], but the Father alone. (AMP)**

5. We could figure out Jesus' return

- From the moment the Anti-Christ is revealed, or at least once he sets up his image in the Temple, we could figure out the day of Jesus' return.
- Daniel 9:24-27 lets us know that this will happen halfway through the Tribulation and there are exactly three-and-a-half years left.

6. Pre-tribulation rapture is more aligned with God's love, mercy and grace towards His people.

Verse 5

- Exodus 19:16-18 - ¹⁶ Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thunderings and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who *were* in the camp trembled. ¹⁷ And Moses brought the people out of the camp to meet with God, and they stood at the foot of the mountain. ¹⁸ Now Mount Sinai *was* completely in smoke, because the Lord descended upon it in fire. Its smoke ascended like the smoke of a furnace, and the whole mountain quaked greatly. (Exodus 20:18-19)

The Seven Spirits of God – The Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:2-3)

- The Holy Spirit is seen both with the Father here and with Jesus in Revelation 5:6 –
- ⁶ And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

The Crystal Sea

- Some see the sea as a type of bronze laver (Exodus 30:18-21 & 2 Chronicles 4:2-6) where the priests would wash and be cleansed before entering the sanctuary. – Stanley Horton
- Others see it as the water of the Word (Ephesians 5:26) – Daymond Duckworth

The Four Living Creatures

Beasts in the KJV but living creatures or living beings would be a better translation.

Eyes all over represents intelligence, alertness, understanding and awareness of what is going on in all directions – Stanley Horton

The Four Living Creatures

- Two thoughts to the natures of the four angels:
- First: They represent all creation
- Lion – King of wild animals
- Calf – King of domesticated animals
- Man – King of creation
- Eagle – King of birds

The Four Living Creatures

- **Second: They represent the nature of Jesus as presented in the Gospels**
- **Matthew – Jesus is the Lion of the Tribe of Judah – The One true king of Israel**
- **Mark – Jesus is presented as the Son of Man**
- **Luke – Jesus is the humble servant sacrificed for us (Ox or calf)**
- **John – Jesus is presented as the King of Heaven (Eagle)**

The Four Living Creatures

- Each angel has six wings as the seraphim. Seraph means *the burning one*.
- Isaiah 6:2-3 - ² Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. ³ And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy *is* the Lord of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!”

The Four Living Creatures

- The repetition of the word *holy* may signal God's complete or total holiness or some scholars take it that they speak of each person of the Godhead. (Father, Son & Holy Ghost)
- Holiness – It includes both separation from and separation to. To put it another way, the two aspects may be characterized by the two words *difference* and *dedication*. God is totally separated from sin ...He also completely dedicated to the carrying out of His great will and plan [for His people and the world]. – Stanley Horton

The Four Living Creatures

- He is almighty – He is omnipotent. Nothing and no being can go against His will and His power.
- Who was, is and is to come. He is eternal.

Verses 9-11

- **As the angels worship so do the redeemed of the Lord.**
- **Cast their crowns – What are we truly worthy of? What do we have or what have we accomplished, even for Christ, that was not done without the power of the Holy Spirit at work in us?**

Verses 9-11

- ¹¹ “Worthy are You, our Lord and God, to receive the glory and the honor and the power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they exist, and were created *and* brought into being.” (AMP)
- God is worthy because He alone is the Creator. *Please note I am not taking away the Son and Holy Spirit’s part in creation. Remember They are Three-in-One.

Verses 9-11

- Note also, the angels always give praise to God, however this wording in verse 9, whenever and gives glory and honor and thanks, suggests that the church joins in at different times and is not a constant refrain.
- “Thou art worthy” was used in the cult of the emperor and the readers in John’s Day would have understood the significance of this being attributed to the One True God.