

CHAPTER 4

4:1 = **After This I Looked and Behold a Door...**

When we study this sacred document, chapter four seems to be the place where the whole scene and theme of the book change. Here are some important facts that must be revealed about this chapter.

- Revelation 4-22 has not yet occurred.
- Chapter 4-22 are a summary of the prophet's end time predictions.
- Revelation 4 begins the final seven years of time called the *Tribulation Period*.

Most scholars agree that there is some dramatic event that seems to take place in the beginning of this chapter; however, there is disagreement as to what that event might be. There are four primary reasons that I believe that this great event is none other than the _____ of the church.

1. The _____ of this event is right for the Rapture. – Chapter 4-5 starts with an open door and a heavenly vision; yet Chapter 6 introduces the Tribulation Period. If this is not the Rapture, what does Revelation 3:10 mean?
2. After Chapter 3, the _____ is not mentioned at all until Chapter 19. – The rest of Revelation indicates that the church is not on earth during the Tribulation.
3. The extensive use of Old Testament Language and symbols – Chapters 4-18 are an indication of Israel, not the church. Most scholars agree that the Church Age is the Time of the Gentiles, whereas the Tribulation is the time of Jacob's Trouble or Daniel's 70th Week.
4. The similarity between the events of Revelation 4 and other *Rapture* scriptures – We will discuss this later in detail.

Unfortunately, there is a variety of views concerning the Rapture. Some views deny that there is such an event. Others disagree on the time of the event. I want to discuss these views and prove why I believe that the Rapture should occur before the _____.

Rapture definition – The *Rapture* is a gathering together. (Eph. 1:10) The word *Rapture* (_____) is not in the Bible but comes from a Latin word found in the Latin translation of the Bible. This was a revelation given to the apostle Paul and is recorded in several places within the New Testament:

- Ephesians 1:10
- 1 Thessalonians 4:17
- 2 Thessalonians 2:1
- John 14:1-3
- 1 Corinthians 15:52-55

1 Thessalonians 4:17 – *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; 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.*

- **Note: *Caught up*** is *harpazo*, meaning to *snatch out by force*.

VIEWS OF THE RAPTURE

- _____ = The Rapture (catching away) will occur before the Tribulation Period.
- _____ = The Rapture will occur in the middle (31/2) of the Tribulation Period.
- _____ = The Rapture will occur at the conclusion of the Tribulation Period.
- _____ = An amillennialism sees the 1,000 years as spiritual and non-literal, as opposed to a physical understanding of history. Although the prefix *a-* would typically signify a negation of a word, the amil position sees the millennium as “realized,” or better explained as “millennium now.” To simplify, amillennialism sees the first coming of Christ as the inauguration of the kingdom, and His return as the consummation of the kingdom. John’s mention of 1,000 years thus points to all things that would happen in the church age.

Revelation 4 vs. other Rapture scripture – Discovering the timing of the Rapture:

When we compare Rapture scripture with Revelation 4, we can get an idea of the timing of the Rapture—pre, mid or post. We can do this by studying three primary categories.

1. The _____ of the Text

- In verse one, we see these words—*after this, a trumpet and a door*.
- *After this* alludes to the Church Dispensation (Ephesians 1:9-10 and 3:1-5)
- *A voice like a trumpet* (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 and 1 Corinthians 15:52)
- *A door open in heaven* (The Greek word for *open* means *a literal opening*.)
- A saying *Come up hither* is also seen in Revelation 11:12.

All of these agree with 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 – A voice, a shout and a trump...

2. The _____ found in the Old Testament:

- A pattern for the Rapture can be seen in Exodus 19 when Moses met with God. On the third day, there was *thunder, lightning, and thick clouds* (Exodus 19:6)
 - *The voice of the trumpet waxed louder and louder* (Exodus 19:16)
 - *The Lord came down upon the mountain and Moses went up* (Exodus 19:20)
- A pattern for the Rapture can be seen in the silver trumpets in Numbers 10:1-4.
 - Two trumpets sounded for *calling the assembly* and the *journeying of the camps*.
 - First blast they shall *assemble themselves at the door*. (Numbers 10:3)
 - Second blast is for the *gathering together* of the congregation (Numbers 10:7)

3. The Patterns of the _____ of Israel

- **Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Feast of Trumpets**
- Prophetically speaking, Christ and the church have fulfilled four of the seven feasts: Calvary (Passover); Burial (Unleavened Bread), Resurrection (First Fruits); Holy Spirit outpouring (Pentecost).
- The next feast that is to be prophetically fulfilled is the _____.
- Paul said that the *trump* of God would sound at the *catching away*. (1 Thessalonians 4)
- Paul said that we *shall be changed* at the *last trump*. (1 Cor. 15:52)
- Paul wrote about the *last trump* in 60 A.D. but never explained what he meant. Why? He did not have to explain this term to the **Jewish culture because every Jew knows that the *last trump* deals with Rosh Hahanah which is the Feast of Trumpets.**
 - o During the Feast of Trumpets, there are four blasts that occur.
 - o *Tekiah* (means *awakening*)
 - o *Shevarim* (means *to be broken*)
 - o *Teruah* (means *to sound an alarm*)
 - o *Tekiah Hagadolah* (*the great trump or last trump*) = *The Great Trump* is the *last trump* and is the longest sounding blast. This trump is alluded to in Matthew 24. When Christ comes to earth, He will gather His elect with the sound of a great trump!
- This could imply that He will rapture the church on or near Rosh Hashanah and return back to earth seven years later on Rosh Hashanah.

Why doesn't the church appear again until Revelation chapter 19? **Right after the Feast of Trumpets, the high priest would separate himself for _____ in a chamber.** There will be seven years of tribulation upon the earth. — Note: Look at Isaiah 26:19-21 and 1 Thessalonians 5:9.

Time will not allow me to cover thoroughly all scripture that alludes to the pre-tribulation rapture of the church. In my mind when we consider the whole counsel of God, however, it is impossible to view the rapture in any other manner. There is one scripture that really stands out to me on this subject.

- In 2 Thessalonians 2:7, who is the one restraining and keeping the anti-Christ from moving onto the scene? Some say that it is the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus made it clear, however, that the Holy Spirit will remain forever upon the earth.
- Also, if the Holy Spirit is gone, how are people getting saved during the Tribulation Period? Drawing people to Jesus is the work of the Holy Spirit. It is the church that is removed! We are the restraining force in the earth.
- The only thing that stands between this world and the Tribulation Period is the _____; and, one glorious day, we will be snatched out by force. As John said, *even so, come, Lord Jesus.*

ORDER OF EVENTS OF BIBLE PROPHECY

