

Revelation 4

Introduction:

There can be no doubt, the "...things which must be hereafter..." commences here. The main body of the Book is future. Note: It is a certain future – "must be"!

I. The Rapture of the Saints – vs. 1-2

a. "After This" – vs. 1

This has reference to the messages to the 7 churches.

The Rapture will occur at the end of the Church Age.

There is no mention of any church between Revelation 3:22 and Revelation 22:16

Another proof of the Pre-tribulation Rapture

In Revelation 4:1-2 the believer is transported to heaven. The events prophesied in Revelation 6 and following relate to the earth (Revelation 6:4).

Christians will not pass through the Tribulation Period! (However, they will always be subject to tribulation – John 16:33).

b. A Door Opened in Heaven – vs. 1

Three doors are mentioned in Revelation:

The Open Door – Revelation 3:8 – Christ Seeking.

The Closed Door – Revelation 3:20 – Christ Pleading.

The Heavenly Door – Revelation 4:1 – Christ Receiving.

c. The Call from Heaven – vs. 1

The Voice of the archangel and the trumpet – I Thess. 4:16

The call, "...come up hither..." is the call of the resurrection.

I Corinthians 15:51-52; John 11:43

The Rapture distinguished from the Second Coming.

At the Rapture, the Lord Jesus does not return to the earth – the saints are "caught up" to meet the Lord in the air.

At the Second Coming, the Lord Jesus Christ will actually set foot on the earth. – Zechariah 14:4

d. The Destination of the Saints – vs. 2

The flight of the saints is instantaneous (I Corinthians 15:52), when the rapture takes place, we will be immediately ushered into the presence of God and before His throne.

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- II. The Throne in Heaven – vs. 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 11
- a. The Location of the Throne – vs. 2 – Heaven
- b. The Description of the Throne
- i. Surrounded by an emerald rainbow – vs. 3
The rainbow is a pledge of God’s mercy and faithfulness (Gen 9:13-17).
- ii. Set over a sea of crystal glass – vs. 6
This relates to the sea (laver) in the Jewish temple – Ex 30:18-21; I Kings 7:23-27. It was for cleansing, and is a type of the Word of God – John 15:3; 17:17; Ephesians 5:26.
- iii. The Occupant of the Throne – vs. 3, 9, 11
The one Who sits on the Throne is the Eternal Godhead.
- God the Father
Because He is differentiated from the Son (the Lamb) in 5:1.
- God the Son
Because He sits with His Father. Rev 3:21; Heb 10:12
- God the Spirit
Because the seven Spirits of God proceeded. – vs. 5
- He is Brilliant – vs. 3
Jasper would be like a diamond – multifaceted.
Sardine would be like a ruby – blood red.
This represents His Glory (Ps 104:2) and His covenant relationship with His people.
- The Lightnings, Thunders, Voices – vs. 5
Representative of God’s righteous judgments – Ex 19:16; Rev 1:15; Dan 10:6; Ez 43:2.
- III. The Four and Twenty Elders – vs. 4, 10-11
- Who are they?
- Vs. 4 – they were sitting – cf. Rev 3:21
Vs. 4 – they were clothed in white raiment – cf. Rev 3:4-5; 7:9, 13-14; 19:8, 14
Vs. 4 – they had crowns – The Greek word for ‘crown’ is “stephanos” rather than “diadema”, indicating these were rewards.
- What do they do with their crowns?
- Vs 10 – they cast them before the throne
- What is their occupation?
- Vs. 10-11 – they praise the Lord on the throne

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IV. The Four Beasts – 6-9

In contrast to the 24 Elders, these beings are not human. They are angelic beings six winged as the Seraphim on Isaiah 6:1-3. (There are also similarities to the Cherubim of Ezekiel 1:4-25; 10:1-22).

a. Their Position – vs. 6

In the midst and round about the throne of God.

b. Their Description – vs. 8:6-8

- i. Full of eyes – ascribing omniscience to God.
- ii. Six Wings – Isaiah 6:2 – Ascribing holiness to God

c. Their Representation of Deity – vs. 7-8

The description here and in Ezekiel seems to have significance as a portrayal of Jesus Christ. Not the following chart:

Christ in the Four Gospels

Book	Matthew	Mark	Luke	John
Theme	Jesus is King	Jesus is Servant	Jesus is Man	Jesus is God
Presented	To Jews	To Romans	To Greeks	To World
Ancestry	To Abraham and David	None	Adam	God
Traced	To Royalty	(Anonymity)	To Humanity	To Eternity
Symbol	Lion	Ox (Calf)	Man	Eagle
Emphasis	What He Taught	What He Wrought	What He Sought	What He Thought
Provision	Righteousness (3:15)	Service (10:45)	Redemption (19:10)	Life (10:10)
Key Word	Sovereignty	Ministry	Humanity	Deity
Pictured As	Promised Savior	Powerful Savior	Perfect Savior	Personal Savior

d. Their Performance – vs. 8-9

Incessant praise to God. Revelation 5:8, 11, 14