

Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible
Current Book: Revelation – verse by verse

Scripture(s) for Today: Revelation 4:1-11 – Heaven opens and John (the Church) goes up!

Today's Message:

“Caught up to glory”



INTRODUCTION

Last week, we finished the seven letters to seven churches with Laodicea. Jesus Christ was sick over their lack of zeal for His glory and passion to please Him. Lukewarm Christianity was the cover story. Today, we will see heaven **OPEN** for the first time – the first of two major divisions in this blessed book. John will hear a voice as it were of a **TRUMPET** which will say to him, “Come up hither!” And, he will **IMMEDIATELY** be in the spirit and present before the throne of the Lord God Almighty! Wow! There can be no doubt as to what happened. For this is in fact the rapture of God’s church into glory!

LEARNING TOGETHER

1. The Text Rev 4:1-11

#1. The Rapture – Heaven opens and John (Church) goes UP into glory! (vs 1-2)

1. It is SCRIPTURAL

- ✓ “Caught up” is found 4 times in the KJV. **2 Cor 12:2, 4; 1 Ths 4:17; Rev 12:5**
- ✓ “Church(es)” is found 19 times in 18 verses in **Rev 1-3**, then 0 times til **Rev 22:16**
- ✓ **1 Ths 4:13-18** – Jesus descends – a voice, the trump, and then “caught up”
- ✓ **1 Cor 15:51-58** – In a moment, trumpet shall sound, dead shall be raised
- ✓ “Come up hither” is found 3 times in the KJV – the Bible teaches of three raptures!
 - **Prov 25:7 (OT saints); Rev 4:1 (NT church); Rev 11:12 (Trib saints, Rev 11)**
 - **1 Cor 15:22-24 (firstfruits, OT saints; harvest, NT church; gleanings, Trib saints)**

2. It is CONSISTENT

- ✓ **Enoch** is a type of the church – he was translated! **Gen 5:22-24; Heb 11:5**
- ✓ **Lot** is a type of church – removed before Judgment! **Gen 19:16, 22; Lk 17:28-29**

3. It is IMMEDIATE

- ✓ **1 Cor 15:52** – In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye...
- ✓ **2 Cor 5:8** – We are confident...absent from the body... to be present with the Lord.

NOTE Imagine the impact to those left behind! Events after Rev 4 are not in Church Age!

#2. The Throne – John is taken up to the 3rd heaven – God’s THRONE! (vs 2-5)

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 Making disciples and caring for souls!

1. It is **MAJESTIC**

- ✓ *He that sat on the throne was like a jasper and a sardis stone...*
- ✓ *There was a rainbow round about the throne... like unto an emerald...*
- ✓ *Out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices...*
- ✓ *There were seven lamps of fire burning... the seven Spirits of God.*
- ✓ *Before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal...*

2. It is **CROWDED**

- ✓ *Round about the throne were 24 seats with 24 elders sitting...*
- ✓ *They are clothed with white raiment... on their heads crowns of gold...*

NOTE Can you imagine what it is going to be like on this day?!? What a privilege and joy!

#2. The Beasts – there were four beasts ROUND about the throne! (vs 6-8)1. It is **FANTASTIC**

- ✓ *The beasts were like a lion, a calf, a man, and a flying eagle...*
- ✓ *The beasts were like the cherubim that Ezekiel saw... Ezek 1,10; Gen 3:24; Isa 6*
- ✓ *The beasts had six wings and were full of eyes within... Ezek 1:7, 18; 10:14 (ox)*
- ✓ *The beasts rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty...*
- ✓ *The beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne...*

NOTE In Ezek 1, they are flying and carrying the throne. In Rev 4, they are in third heaven. There was 1 cherub missing according to Ezek 28:14! He is Lucifer in Isa 14:10-13!

#4. The Worship – the response is falling down WORSHIP before Him! (vs 9-11)1. It is **HUMBLING** *The 24 elders...*

- ✓ *Fall down before him that sat on the throne...*
- ✓ *Worship him that liveth for ever and ever... Cast their crowns before the throne...*
- ✓ *Saying, "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power..."*
- ✓ *Saying, "for thou hast created all things...for thy pleasure they are and were created."*

NOTE This is why you were created – and you know it! He ought to always get this glory!

2. The Lesson (How can we learn from our passage today?)1. *Our great God is worthy to receive glory, honour, thanks, and PLEASURE!*

- And, all this time, you thought this was all about you! Now we know the truth!

❖ **Question:** "Are you walking worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing?" Eph3:21; Col1:10

2. *The thought of our Lord's return and glory is supposed to keep us PURE!*

- Your real purpose, reason for living is clear! He must increase... you must decrease!

❖ **Question:** "What must you repent of today for Him?" John 3:30; 1 Jn 3:3; Rev 3:19

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