

Revelation 4: "Caught Up to Heaven"

Remember to Lift Up the Lord Jesus Christ

...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. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words. [1 Thessalonians 4:17]

Sequence of Prophetic Events

The Rapture of the Church just preceding the beginning of the Day of the LORD (1 Th. 4:13-17)

The fulfillment of Daniel's seventieth week (Dan. 9:27), the latter half of which is the great tribulation (Mt. 24:21; see Rev. 7:14)

Return of the Lord in glory to establish the millennial kingdom (Mt. 24:29-30)

Destruction of the beast, the false prophet, and their armies, which is the "great and terrible" aspect of the day. (Rev. 19:11-21)

Judgment of individual Gentiles according to their treatment of his brethren, the Jewish people (Zech. 14:1-9; Mt. 25:31-46) and the judgment of Israel (Ezek. 20:34-38)

Millennial reign of Christ on earth (Rev. 20:4-6)

Satanic revolt and its judgment (Rev. 20:7-10)

Resurrection and final judgment of the wicked (Rev. 20:11-15)

Destruction of present earth/heaven by fire for the future "day of God" (2 Pet. 3:10-12)

Creation of the new heavens and the new earth (Isa. 65:17-19; 66:22; 2 Pet. 3:13; Rev. 21:1)

1 After these things...

"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the **things which will take place after this**" [Revelation 1:19]

Have seen: First vision of Jesus as Judge in Chapter 1

Which are: Letters to the Seven churches in Chapters 2 and 3

Things which **will take place after this:** Everything after Chapter 4

1b I looked, and behold, a **door standing open in heaven**. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "**Come up here**, and I will show you things which must take place after this."² **Immediately I was in the Spirit;** and behold, **a throne set in heaven**, and **One sat on the throne**.

John sees a "**door standing open in heaven**" and hears "**come up here**"

Immediately [twinkling of an eye] **John was “in the Spirit”** in front of God and His throne

John 21:1 After these things [Jesus reveals Himself as the Resurrected One] Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:... **20** Then Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following, who also had leaned on His breast at the supper, and said, “Lord, who is the one who betrays You?” **21** Peter, seeing him, said to Jesus, “But Lord, what about this man?” **22** Jesus said to him, **“If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me.”**

In a sense John *did remain* until Jesus came:

Rapture

Jesus said He would leave and come back to “**receive**” us to Himself

John 14:3 ...if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come again and receive you to Myself**; that where I am, there you may be also.

1 Corinthians 11:26 ...as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death **till He comes**.

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him **He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation**.

“Rapture” Latin *rapturo*, translation from Greek verb "caught up" i.e. har-pad'-zo

*Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** [Rapturo, Raptured, Harpadzo] together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words. [1 Thessalonians 4:17]*

Caught up: i.e. “Caught up by Force”

2 Corinthians 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was **caught up** to the third heaven.

Revelation 12:5 She bore a male Child who was to rule all

nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was **caught up to God** and His throne.

Acts 8:39 Now when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord **caught Philip away**, so that the eunuch saw him no more; and he went on his way rejoicing.

Jude 1:23 ...others save with fear, **pulling them out** of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh.

Old Testament Examples

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+5:24&version=NKJV>" Genesis 5:24
And Enoch walked with God; **and he was not**, for God took him.

2 Kings 2:11 Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah **went up by a whirlwind into heaven**. 12 And Elisha saw it, and he cried out, "My father, my father, the chariot of Israel and its horsemen!" So he **saw him no more**.

Purpose 1: Delivered to the Bridegroom

Ephesians 5:30 ...we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."* ³² This is a great mystery, but ***I speak concerning Christ and the church***.

Old Testament Wedding

The first step, the *Ketubah*, or Betrothal, was the establishment of the marriage covenant, usually when the prospective bridegroom took the initiative and negotiated the price (mohair) he must pay to purchase her

Once the bridegroom paid the purchase price, the marriage covenant was established, and the young man and woman were regarded as husband and wife. From that moment on, the bride

was declared to be consecrated or sanctified - set a part - exclusively for her bridegroom. As a symbol of the covenant relationship that had been established, the groom and bride drank from a cup of wine over which the betrothal had been pronounced. After the marriage covenant was established, the groom **left his bride at her home and returned to his father's house**, where he remained separated from his bride for approximately 12 months. This afforded the bride time to gather her trousseau [bridal clothes] and prepare for married life.

During this period of separation, the groom prepared a dwelling place in his father's house to which he would later bring his bride. At the end of the period of separation, the bridegroom came - usually at night - to take his bride to live with him. The groom, the best man, and other male escorts left the father's house and conducted a torch-light procession to the home of the bride. Although the bride was expecting her groom to come for her, **she did not know the time of his coming**. As a result, the groom's arrival was preceded by a shout, which announced her imminent departure to be gathered with him

Revelation 19:7 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!'"

Revelation 21:9 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls filled with the seven last plagues came to me and talked with me, saying, "Come, **I will show you the bride, the Lamb's wife.**" ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God... [C.f. Pillars in the temple of My God]

Revelation 22:17 And the **Spirit and the bride say, "Come!"** And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. [Note: "say come" present tense]

Genesis 24:63 And Isaac went out to meditate in the field in the

evening; and he lifted his eyes and looked, and there, the camels *were* coming. ⁶⁴ Then Rebekah lifted her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from her camel; ⁶⁵ for she had said to the servant, "Who *is* this man walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It *is* my master." So she took a veil and covered herself. ⁶⁶ And the servant told Isaac all the things that he had done. ⁶⁷ Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent; and he took Rebekah and she became his wife

Abraham [Father] sent the Servant [Spirit] to a distant place to find a bride [Bride/Church] and brought her to His Son Isaac [Jesus] who brought her back to the Abraham's place [Heaven]

Purpose 2: Delivered *from* God's Wrath

1 Thessalonians 1: 9 ...they themselves declare... how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and **to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

Isaiah 26:19 **Your dead shall live;** Together *with* my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew *is like* the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead. ²⁰ **Come, my people, enter your chambers, And shut your doors behind you; Hide yourself, as it were, for a little moment, Until the indignation is past.** ²¹ For behold, the LORD comes out of His place To punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity; The earth will also disclose her blood, And will no more cover her slain.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20Thessalonians+5:9&version=NKJV>" 1 Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ...

Result: We will be Changed

Our bodies are not yet redeemed; i.e. made perfect; complete

Romans 8: 22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the **redemption of our bodies.**

1 John 3:1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him. 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.** 3 ***And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.***

1 Corinthians 15:19 If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable. 20 But now Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each one in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming ...**31 I affirm, by the boasting in you which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily. 32 If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"...35 But someone will say, **"How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?"** 36 Foolish one, what you sow is not made alive unless it dies. 37 And what you sow, you do not sow that body that shall be, but mere grain—perhaps wheat or some other grain. 38 But God gives it a body as He pleases, and to each seed its own body. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of animals, another of fish, and another of birds. 40 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. 42 **So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.** 43 It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. 44 **It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body.** There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body. 45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a

living being.” The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man was of the earth, made of dust; the second Man is the Lord from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are made of dust; **and as is the heavenly Man, so also are those who are heavenly.** 49 **And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man.** 50 **Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.** 51 **Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—** 52 **in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.**

Twinkling of an eye: See Revelation 4:2 **“Immediately I was in the Spirit”**

For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. 58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, ***be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.***

Response:

Steadfast

Immovable

Abounding in the Lord’s work

Hope [see also v.19]

Rapture i.e. Blessed Hope and Redemption **vs.**
Day of the LORD; i.e. Vengeance of God

“Day of man” or “Time of the Gentiles” **Now**

“Day of the LORD” or “that Day” **Next**

“Day of God” Eternity

Day of LORD: 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ; Day of Vengeance

God's wrath was poured out on Jesus for the **whole worlds sins**

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%20John+2:2&version=NKJV>" 1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the **propitiation for our sins**, and not for ours only but also for the whole world. [Propitiation: Completely satisfying God righteous anger toward man's sin against Him]

Only those who receive this gift are spared God's eternal wrath:

Revelation 6:15 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?"

Isaiah 61:1 [c.f. Luke 4] "The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, Because the LORD has anointed Me To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives, And the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD**And the day of vengeance of our God**

Not a 24 hour day, but a period of time as is the present "day of man" Jesus touches down on the same mountain [Olivet] He ascended from [Acts 1]

Zechariah 14:3 Then the LORD will go forth And fight against those nations, As He fights in the day of battle. ⁴And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the **Mount of Olives** shall be split in two, from east to west...

Day of the LORD is a day of **Judgment**:

Malachi 3:2 " But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand

when He appears? For He is like a refiner's fire And like launderers' soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, And purge them as gold and silver, That they may offer to the LORD An offering in righteousness. 4 " Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem Will be pleasant to the LORD, As in the days of old, As in former years. 5 And **I will come near you for judgment**

Day of the LORD is **dreadful**:

Malachi 4:5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the **coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD**. 6 And he will turn The hearts of the fathers to the children, And the hearts of the children to their fathers, Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse."

Day of the LORD [Tribulation] is God's wrath poured out on sinful man:

Romans 1:18 ...the **wrath of God is revealed from heaven** against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness...

Romans 2:5 ...in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are **treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation** of the righteous judgment of God, ⁶ who "*will render to each one according to his deeds*": ⁷ eternal life to those who by patient continuance in doing good seek for glory, honor, and immortality; ⁸ but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath, ⁹ tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek

Tribulation Saints [not the church] will be overcome for a time:

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+13:7&version=NKJV>"

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

Daniel 7:25 He [AC] shall speak pompous words against the Most High, Shall persecute the saints of the Most High, And shall intend to change times and law. Then the saints shall be given into his hand For

a time and times and half a time. [3.5 years]

The time of the 2nd Coming will be known:

Daniel 7:26 'But the court shall be seated, And they shall take away his dominion, To consume and destroy it forever. 27 Then the kingdom and dominion, And the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven, Shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And all dominions shall serve and obey Him.'

2nd Coming of Jesus will be 3.5 years after the Abomination of Desolation

1 Thessalonians 5:3 ...when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that **this Day** should overtake you as a thief.

Revelation 13:5 [the Anti Christ] was given a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies, and he was given authority to continue for **forty-two months**. [3.5 yrs]

We will **return** with the LORD

Revelation 19:11 Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. 12 His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. 13 **He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. 14 And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses.**

Rapture: Blessed Hope and Glorious Appearing of Jesus

The Rapture is a day of **Hope** for the Bride

Titus 2:11 ...the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to

all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age, 13 **looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing** of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works. 15 Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.

Blessed Hope and Glorious Appearing

Response:

Live Godly, Soberly, Righteously as we wait

Result of redemption:

Purify us to be Special and His

Exemplified by zealousness to do His will

God tells us to exhort [urge], Rebuke [firm correction] in this area not letting anyone steal our "Blessed Hope" of complete redemption at the "Appearing of our God and Savior Jesus Christ"

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that **we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.** 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. ¹⁸ *Therefore comfort one another with these words.*

Note: Jesus *does not* touch the earth as He will at His 2nd coming to earth

Response:

Hope v 13

Encouragement

The Rapture is the Bride's escape from God's **wrath** on earth:

1 Thessalonians 5:9 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. 11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Response:

Continue comforting others

Continue edifying other

2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the **coming of our Lord Jesus Christ** and our **gathering together to Him...**

2nd Coming; Day of the LORD; i.e. God's wrath

Rapture: Gathering together

...we ask you, ² not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the **day of Christ had come**. ³ Let no one deceive you by any means; for **that Day will not come** unless the **falling away** comes first, and the **man of sin is revealed**, the son of perdition, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, **showing himself that he is God**. ⁵ Do you not remember that when I was still with you I told you these things? ⁶ And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time

The Rapture [Day of Christ] **will** happen **before** the anti-Christ is revealed v 3

Falling away/Apostasy as many follow the AC v3

Anti-Christ revealed at the Abomination of Desolation 3 ½ years into the Tribulation

⁷ For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; [see 1 John "many anti-Christ's"] only He-who now **restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way**. ⁸ And **then the lawless one will be revealed**, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

As the Holy Spirit is "taken out of the way" ["He"] i.e. His post Pentecost work; i.e. convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment along with the church as salt and light
Restraint on man's sin and all hell and sin let loose v.7

The Rapture brings **comfort** to believers:

⁹The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, ¹⁰ and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. ¹¹ And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, ¹² that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. ¹³ **But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, ¹⁴ to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.** ¹⁵ Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle. ¹⁶ Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given *us* everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, ¹⁷ ***comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work.***

Response:

Comfort
Good Works

The Church will *not* be overcome as are the tribulation saints:

Matthew 16:18 ...on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades *shall not prevail against it*.

NOTE: World not left without a witness: 2 witnesses. 144,000, Angel preaching "Eternal Gospel"

The time of the Rapture will be known generally, not

specifically:

Time of the Rapture *Before* the Time of Jacob's Trouble and *After* the Fulfillment of the Gentiles

Romans 11:11: "...have [the Jewish people] stumbled that they should fall? Certainly not! But through their fall, to provoke them to jealousy, salvation has come to the Gentiles. 12 Now if their fall is riches for the world, and their failure riches for the Gentiles, how much more their fullness! 13 For I speak to you Gentiles; in as much as I am an apostle to the Gentiles, I magnify my ministry, 14 if by any means I may provoke to jealousy those who are my flesh and save some of them. 15 For if their being cast away is the reconciling of the world, what will their acceptance be but life from the dead? 16 For if the firstfruit is holy, the lump is also holy; and if the root is holy, so are the branches. 17 And if some of the branches were broken off, and **you, being a wild olive tree, were grafted in among them,** and with them became a partaker of the root and fatness of the olive tree, 18 do not boast against the branches. But if you do boast, remember that you do not support the root, but the root supports you. 19 You will say then, "Branches were broken off that I might be grafted in."

Romans 11:25 ...I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the **fullness of the Gentiles has come in.**

Daniel 9:24 "Seventy weeks are determined **For your people and for your holy city,** To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

God's dealing with Israel: 70 weeks of years total

²⁵ "Know therefore and understand, *That* from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, *There shall be* **seven weeks and sixty-two** weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

7 + 62 weeks of years = 69 weeks of years

26 "And after the **sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off**, but not for Himself; And the **people of the prince who is to come** Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

After 7 + 62 [69] weeks of years from the decree to rebuild Jerusalem Jesus will give His life as a sacrifice [cross]

Church in between 69th week and 70th [2000 yrs and counting]

And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear My voice; and there will be one flock and one shepherd. [**HYPERLINK** "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+10:16&version=NKJV>" [John 10:16](#)]

70th week [Tribulation] "people of the prince" i.e. anti-Christ is revealed 3.5 yrs in beginning the "**Great Tribulation**" and martyrdom 70th week is the "**Time of Jacob's [Israel's] Trouble**

*"For thus says the LORD: ' We have heard a voice of trembling, Of fear, and not of peace. 6 Ask now, and see, Whether a man is ever in labor with child? So why do I see every man with his hands on his loins Like a woman in labor, And all faces turn e d pale? 7 Alas! For that day is great, So that none is like it; And **it is the time of Jacob's trouble, But he shall be saved out of it.***
[Jeremiah 30:5]

27 Then he [anti-Christ] shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; [seven year covenant between Israel/Palestinians and others i.e. many] But in the middle of the week [Tribulation 3 ½ years] He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate."

Mark 11:12 Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. 13 And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season

for figs. 14 In response Jesus said to it, "Let no one eat fruit from you ever again." **[Cleansing of the Temple] ...20** Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. 21 And Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away."

Matthew 24:32 "Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near"

God will now begin to deal with His people Israel once again!
God will deal with a Christ rejecting world
John is caught up to Heaven seeing God and His Throne

The Rapture

Church both dead [asleep] and alive meet the Lord in the air; Holy Spirit's restraint of man's sin "taken away"; i.e. Church in Heaven as all hell breaks loose on earth

Day of the Lord see Isa. 13:6, Isa. 13:9, Isa. 58:13, Jer. 46:10, Ezek. 13:5, Ezek. 30:3, Joel 1:15, Joel 2:1, Joel 2:11, Joel 2:31, Joel 3:14, Amos 5:18, Amos 5:20, Obad. 15, Zeph. 1:7, Zeph. 1:14, Zech. 14:1, Mal. 4:5, Acts 2:20, 1Cor. 5:5, 2Cor. 1:14, 1Ths. 5:2, 2Ths. 2:2, 2Pet. 3:10.

That Day (which refers either to an impending or a final judgment when God intervenes) see Deut. 31:17, Deut. 31:18, 1Sam. 8:18, Isa. 2:11, Isa. 2:17, Isa. 2:20, Isa. 3:7, Isa. 3:18, Isa. 4:1, Isa. 4:2, Isa. 7:18, Isa. 7:20, Isa. 7:21, Isa. 7:23, Isa. 10:20, Isa. 10:27, Isa. 11:10, Isa. 11:11, Isa. 12:1, Isa. 12:4, Isa. 17:4, Isa. 17:7, Isa. 17:9, Isa. 19:16, Isa. 19:18, Isa. 19:19, Isa. 19:21, Isa. 19:23, Isa. 19:24, Isa. 20:6, Isa. 22:8, Isa. 22:12, Isa. 22:20, Isa. 22:25, Isa. 23:15, Isa. 26:1, Isa. 27:1, Isa. 27:2, Isa. 27:12, Isa. 27:13, Isa. 28:5, Isa. 29:18, Isa. 30:23, Isa. 31:7, Isa. 52:6, Jer. 4:9, Jer. 30:8, Jer. 48:41, Jer. 49:22, Jer. 49:26, Hosea 2:16, Hosea 2:21, Joel 3:18, Amos 2:16, Amos 8:3, Amos 8:13, Amos 9:11, Micah 2:4, Micah 4:6, Micah 5:10, Micah 7:11, Micah 7:12, Zech. 2:11, Zech. 3:10, Mark 2:20, Luke 6:23, John 14:20, John 16:23, John 16:26.

Day of Christ 1 Cor. 1:8 and Phlp. 1:10 and 2:16

I. A Throne Set in Heaven

¹ After these things I looked, and behold, a **door standing open in heaven**. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "**Come up here**, and I will show you

things which must take place after this.”² **Immediately I was in the Spirit;** and behold, **a throne set in heaven,** and **One sat on the throne.**

Immediately: “in the twinkling of an eye” or 1/1000th of a second

In the Spirit: Discerning the things of the Spirit

2 Kings 6:17 And Elisha prayed, and said, “LORD, I pray, open his eyes that he may see.” Then the **LORD opened the eyes** of the young man, and he saw. And behold, the mountain *was* full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.

The ancient Hebrew scholar Nachmonides, writing in the 12th century, concluded from his studies of the text of Genesis that the universe has ten dimensions: that four are knowable and six are beyond our knowing. Particle physicists today have also concluded that we live in ten dimensions. Three spatial dimensions and time are directly discernible and measurable. The remaining six are "curled" in less than the Planck length (10^{-33} centimeters) and thus are only inferable by indirect means. (Some physicists believe that there may be as many as 26 dimensions. Ten and twenty-six emerge from the mathematics associated with superstring theory, a current candidate in the pursuit of a theory to totally integrate all known forces in the universe.) [Quantum Physics: The Boundaries of Reality, Missler]

John sees God on a throne *set in heaven*

Throne represents God's Universal:

Sovereignty: Supreme authority

Rule: Reigning power

Isaiah 6:1 ...I saw the Lord **sitting on a throne**, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple

Daniel 7:9 “I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. **His throne was a fiery flame**, Its wheels a burning fire...

gr. Throne lit. “*being set*” in the heavens *near earth* for **judgment**

³ And **He who sat** there *was* like a **jasper** and a **sardius** stone in appearance; and *there was* a **rainbow around the throne**, in appearance like an **emerald**.

...He Who sat: **Throne of the Godhead**; i.e. here Father v.3, Son v.5 ch.5 and Holy Spirit vv. 2,5

1 Timothy 6:16 [God] who alone has immortality, dwelling in **unapproachable light**, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.

He Who sat on the throne had an appearance like:

Jasper: Jesus at the **Father's right hand**:

Last stone identified on the breastplate of the High Priest: [Exodus 28:20] and represented Benjamin; “*the son of my right hand*”

First in the foundation of the New Jerusalem and first in it's walls [Rev 21]

Many colored but predominantly purple; some identify it as a diamond

Mark 16:19 ...after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the **right hand of God**.

Isaiah 41:10 Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your **God**. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My **righteous right hand**.'

Acts 5:31 Him **God** has exalted to His **right hand** to be Prince and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

Acts 7: 55 [Stephen], being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God, 56 and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the **Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!**"

Sardius: or "Sardine" stone: Jesus the ***First-born from the dead***
First stone in the breastplate of the High Priest representing Reuben,
first-born of Jacob

Sixth stone in the foundation of the New Jerusalem[Rev.21]

Discovered in Sardis and bright red

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Colossians+1:18&version=NKJV" Colossians 1:18 And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the **firstborn from the dead**, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

HYPERLINK "http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+1:5&version=NKJV" Revelation 1:5 [Grace and peace] ...from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the **firstborn from the dead**, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Rainbow around the Throne: gr. "*Iris*" also translated "*Halo*" [see 10:1]

Ezekiel 1:28 [The Lord had] ...the appearance of a *rainbow in a*

cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD.

Not ROY G BIV but "green" i.e. Emerald colored [Earth]...God's focus here

After the flood, a reminder of God's covenant not to destroy the earth by flood ever again:

Genesis 9:13 I set **My rainbow in the cloud**, and it shall be for the sign of the covenant between Me and the earth. 14 It shall be, when I bring a cloud over the earth, that the rainbow shall be seen in the cloud; 15 and I will remember My covenant which is between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh.

God keeps His promises both to **bless** and to **curse**; to **save** and to **judge**

God *sat enthroned* over judgment *previously*:

Psalms 29:10 The LORD **sat enthroned at the Flood**, And the LORD sits as King forever.

God will *sit enthroned* during judgment *again*:

2 Peter 3:3 ...scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." 5 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, 6 by which the **world that then existed perished, being flooded with water**. 7 But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are **reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men**.

⁴ Around the throne *were* **twenty-four thrones**, and on the thrones I saw **twenty-four elders** sitting, clothed in **white robes**; and they had **crowns** of gold on their heads.

24 elders wearing **24 gold crowns** on **24 thrones** sitting *around God's throne*

White robes: Pure/Undefined [c.f. requirements for earthly elders 1 Tim 5, Titus 1, etc.]

Gold: Good works not burned in the fire of judgment

Ephesians 2:10 ...we are His workmanship, **created in Christ Jesus for good works**, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

1 Corinthians 3:11 ...no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will **be revealed by fire**; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.

Elder: 24 Representatives [later]

Crowns:

Incrruptible Crown: 1 Cor. 9:24, 25 i.e. "*Imperishable Crown*"; Believers who faithfully run the race; crucify flesh desire and point men to Jesus

Crown of Rejoicing: 1 Thess. 2:19, 20. & Dan 12:3; i.e. "*The Winners Crown*"; Faithful witnesses to the saving grace of God and leads souls to Jesus.

Crown of Life: James 1:12; i.e. "*Crown of the Martyrs*"; Believers who endure trials, tribulations, and severe suffering, even unto death

Crown of Righteousness: 2 Tim. 4:8; To those who love the appearing of Christ

Crown of Glory: 1 Pet. 5:1-4; "Elder's, Pastor's and/or Teacher's Crown"; Given to the ministers who faithfully feed the flock of God:

Count the cost:

James 3:1 My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that **we shall receive a stricter judgment.** 2 For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body.

5 And from the **throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire** were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Lightning, Thunderings and ...Voices **proceeded from the throne:**
Before the giving of the Law:

Exodus 19:16 ...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.

God will judge those who are guilty of breaking his law; the standard is **perfection:**

James 2:10 For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is **guilty of all.**

Occurrence Intensifies in Revelation signifying important events

connected to the Heavenly Temple [c.f. 8:5, 11:19,16:18]

Revelation 8:5 Then the angel took the censer, filled it with fire from the altar, and threw it to the earth. And there were noises, **thunderings, lightnings, and an earthquake.**

Revelation 11:19 Then the temple of God was opened in heaven, and the ark of His covenant was seen in His temple. And there were **lightnings, noises, thunderings, an earthquake, and great hail.**

Revelation 16:18 And there were **noises and thunderings and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake**, such a mighty and great earthquake as had not occurred since men were on the earth.

Lamps of Fire before the throne: Seven Spirits of God v 5; i.e. the Holy Spirit also known as the **"eyes of the Lamb"** [c.f. Rev. 1:14]

Revelation 5:6 [John saw]...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.**

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.
2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.**

Old Testament Types:

Exodus 25:37 [Golden Lampstands] You shall make **seven lamps** for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it.

Zechariah 4:2 ..."I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand **seven lamps** with seven pipes to the seven lamps.

Revelation Old Testament Earthly Temple Types/ Heavenly Temple Anti-Types:

Lamps

Altar [Rev.6:9]

Altar of Incense [Rev 8:3]

Arc of the Covenant [Rev. 11:19]

II. Sea of Glass

⁶ Before the throne *there was* a **sea of glass**, like crystal. And **in the midst of the throne, and around the throne**, *were* **four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.**

Before the throne a Sea of Glass and Crystal; I.e. all sides / around the throne

Anti-Type; i.e. fulfillment of the Old Testament Type; used for the cleansing of the priests before their ministering work to the Lord:

Exodus 30:18 "You shall also make a laver of bronze, with its base also of bronze, for washing. You shall put it between the tabernacle of meeting and the altar. And you shall put water in it, ¹⁹ for Aaron and his sons *shall wash their hands and their feet in water from it.* ²⁰ *When they go into the tabernacle of meeting, or when they come near the altar* to minister, to burn an offering made by fire to the LORD, they shall wash with water, **lest they die.** [c.f. 2 Chronicles 4:2]

Victorious believers will stand on the Glass Sea as they are:

Already cleansed by Jesus **blood**

Can approach God freely by God's **grace**

Revelation 15:2 And I saw something like a **sea of glass mingled with fire**, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, **standing on the sea of glass**, having harps of God.

John 15:3 You are already **clean because of the word** which I have spoken to you.

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and **cleanse her with the washing of water by the word**, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

Believing we are clean is a **faith** issue:

Acts 10:15 ...a voice spoke to [Peter] again the second time, "**What**

God has cleansed you must not call common [unclean]."

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Hebrews+4:16&version=NKJV>" **Hebrews 4:16** Let us therefore come **boldly to the throne of grace**, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Interesting:

Exodus 24:9 Then Moses went up, also Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel, ¹⁰ and they saw the God of Israel. And *there was* under His feet as it were a **paved work of sapphire stone**, and it was like the **very heavens in its clarity**. ¹¹ But on the nobles of the children of Israel He did not lay His hand. So they saw God, and they ate and drank.

III. 4 Living Creatures

In the "midst of the throne" and "Around" were **4 living Creatures**

⁷ The first living creature *was like a lion*, the second living creature *like a calf*, the third living creature had a face *like a man*, and the fourth living creature *was like a flying eagle*. ⁸ *The four living creatures*, each having **six wings**, were **full of eyes** around and within. And they **do not rest** day or night, saying: "**Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!**"

Living Creatures or "Beasts" gr. *Zoa* or *Zoon* lit. Zoo; different word than the beast in Chap. 13 and a different meaning. Emphasis is on the word "living" not "creatures"

Book of Revelation: 4 Living Creature Activities

Revelation 4:7 Do not rest but continually praise the LORD

Revelation 5:6 In the midst of the throne w/ elders *around the wounded Lamb*

Revelation 6:1 One of the 4 creatures calls John to see Jesus open the first seal

Revelation 6:6 A voice is heard in there midst giving instruction for earths commodities regarding worth

and cost

Revelation 7:11 Worshiping with elders and angels

Revelation 14:3 Listening to the song of the 144,000 Jewish witnesses

Revelation 15:7 One of the living creatures gives to the seven angel's seven golden bowls full of the
wrath of God

Revelation 19:4 Fall down and worship with the 24 elders

Revelation's 4: 4 Living Creatures *each with a different face*; like a:

Lion
Calf
Man
Eagle

Ezekiel Chapter 1: Each of 4 Cherubim had all 4 Faces:

Man
Lion
Ox
Eagle

Ezekiel Chapter 10: Each of 4 Cherubim had all 4 Faces:

Cherub
Man
Lion
Eagle

Isaiah's Chapter 6 Seraphim EACH had six wings as Revelation 4

Isaiah 6:2 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!"

Lion: *Gospel of **Matthew***

Born, Lived, Died, coming back a king. Tribe of Judah "like a lion"; Messiah would come from Judah

Calf [Ox]: *Gospel of **Mark***

Beast of burden; i.e. Servant

Man: *Gospel of **Luke***

Luke presents Jesus as the "Son of Man"

Eagle: *Gospel of **John***

Deity of Christ

Jewish tradition: Heads of the four tribes representing the 12 when in formation:

HYPERLINK "<http://www.bible-history.com/tabernacle/TAB4untitled00000135.htm>" \I "67071590" **Judah** East **Lion**

HYPERLINK "<http://www.bible-history.com/tabernacle/TAB4untitled00000102.htm>" \I "9b5644a4" **Ephraim** West

Ox

HYPERLINK "<http://www.bible-history.com/tabernacle/TAB4untitled00000165.htm>" \I "911bf891" **Reuben** South **Man**

HYPERLINK "<http://www.bible-history.com/tabernacle/TAB4untitled00000096.htm>" \I "eabbb3dd" **Dan** North

Eagle

Living Creatures were “full of eyes” around and within; i.e. guided and moved by God’s omniscient Holy Spirit [c.f. Ezekiel’s Cherubim]

Living Creatures: Closer in vicinity than any other of God’s creatures

Speak as a Unit: Revelation 4:9, 5:14

Speak Individually: Revelation 6:1,3,5,7

Ezekiel 10:20 This is the living creature I saw under the God of Israel by the River Chebar, and I knew ***they were cherubim.***

Who are these 4 Living Creatures? These Living Creatures are the Highest Rank in God’s Hierarchy of **angelic beings; Cherubim** with immediate access to the throne and ready for God’s every command. They are the same creatures seen by **Ezekiel**

Rational:

4 Creatures w/Same Likenesses as Ezekiel’s vision

Same location as Ezekiel’s vision

Ezekiel specifies them as “cherubim” 10:20

Firmament above their head in Ezekiel and the Glass Sea in Revelation:

Ezekiel 1:22 The likeness of the firmament **above the heads of the living creatures was like the color of an awesome crystal, stretched out over their heads.** ²³ And under the firmament their wings *spread out* straight, one toward another...**25** A voice came from above the firmament that *was* over their heads; whenever they stood, they let down their wings. ²⁶ And **above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone;** on the likeness of the throne *was* a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it.

Not Hallmark Cherubs:

Genesis 3:24 [God] drove out the man; and He placed **cherubim** at the east of the garden of Eden, and a **flaming sword** which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life.

HYPERLINK "<http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Revelation+7:1&version=NKJV>" Revelation 7:1 After these things I saw **four angels standing at the four corners of the earth**, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, on the sea, or on any tree.

The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: “ Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!”

Holy, Holy, Holy: Trinity

Full of eyes: Led by the Holy Spirit [c.f. Ezekiel 1 and 10]

Lord God Almighty: Was, is, and is to come; expansion of the Divine Name:

Exodus 3:14 ...God said to Moses, **“I AM WHO I AM.”** And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, **‘I AM** has sent me to you.””

IV. 24 Elders

⁹ Whenever the living creatures give **glory and honor and thanks** to Him who sits on the throne, who **lives forever and ever,** ¹⁰ the **twenty-four elders fall** down before Him who sits on the throne and **worship Him who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne,**

Who are the 24 Elders? They are representatives and recipients of Gods Salvation by Grace [undeserved kindness] through Faith from both Old and New Testament period [Jews and Gentiles]; i.e. *the elders of ALL humanity*. They are real men as later we hear them speak individually [c.f. Rev. 5:5, 7:13]

Rational: It is what they are doing that is the key; **whenever the living**

creatures worship the elders respond in:

Worship

Humility

Gratitude

24 Elders cast crowns back to God the Giver

Old Testament Saints -12 Tribes

New Testament Saints - 12 Apostles

2 Timothy 1:9 [God has] ... has saved us and called *us* with a holy calling, **not according to our works**, but according to His own **purpose and grace** which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began, ¹⁰ but has now been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, *who* has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel...

No division between Jew/Gentile in Christ

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands— 12 that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. 14 **For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation**, 15 having abolished in His flesh the enmity, that is, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making peace, 16 and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. 17 And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. 18 **For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.**

ALL believers one in the New Jerusalem

Revelation 21:2 Also she [New Jerusalem] had a great and high wall with twelve gates, and twelve angels at the gates, and names written on them, which are the **names of the twelve tribes** of the children of Israel...**14** Now the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the **twelve apostles of the Lamb.**

Grace through Faith

Romans 4:3 For what does the Scripture say? **"Abraham believed God** and it was accounted to him for **righteousness."**

Saving Faith Commonality: Abraham and Thief on the Cross

Faith	Abraham	Thief on the Cross
God has Power over Life and Death	"The boy and I will be <u>back</u> "	"Remember me after we <u>die</u> "
Sacrifice of the Innocent	"God will provide Himself a <u>Lamb</u> "	"He is <u>innocent</u> , we are not"
Everlasting Life with the King	Looking for a "Heavenly <u>Kingdom</u> "	"Remember me in <u>Your</u> Kingdom"
Believing God's Promise	Land, Inheritance... <u>Isaac</u>	" <u>Today</u> you will be with Me in Paradise"

Galatians 3:8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would **justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel** to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed."

Also, no difference between Men, Women, Nationalities, etc.; i.e. **One in Christ**

Colossians 3:10 [we]...have put on the new man who is renewed in knowledge according to the image of Him who created him, 11 where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised nor uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave nor free, **but Christ is all and in all.**

V. Heavenly Worship

11 [The elders were saying] "**You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created.**"

Worthy to receive:

Glory
Honor
Power

Elders worshiped God for being **Creator** and **Sustainer** of life
Creation demands worship of the Creator:

Revelation 10:6 ... [the angel] swore by Him who lives forever and ever, **who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it** ...

Revelation 14:7 [The angel preaching the everlasting gospel said in a loud voice] "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and **worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.**"

Acts 14:15 and saying, "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men with the

same nature as you, and preach to you that you should turn from these useless things to the **living God, who made the heaven, the earth, the sea**, and all things that are in them...

Romans 1:18 ...the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, ¹⁹ **because** what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. ²⁰ For since the creation of the world **His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made**, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse

Aerial View: Revelation Chapters 1-4

Chapter 1: **Person of Jesus Christ [The Judge]**

Chapter 2, 3 **Possession of Jesus Christ [The Church on Earth]**

Chapter 4 **Program of Jesus Christ [Church in Heaven/Judgment on Earth]**

The Rapture

Those "in Christ" both dead [asleep] and alive meet the Lord in the air; Holy Spirit's restraint of man's sin "taken away"; i.e.

Church in Heaven as all hell breaks loose on earth

"Open Door to a Majestic Scene in Heaven"

A Throne Set in Heaven

Sea of Glass

4 Living Creatures

24 Elders

Heavenly Worship

"I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. [John 15:5]

Salvation by GRACE through FAITH

Four wings

Four wings

Six wings

God is in control