

After These Things

Rev 4: 1-11

After These Things

- You will notice the title our our message is...
 - “After these things”
 - This is a phrase or a variation of it that is used throughout the book of Revelation
 - Note....Rev 7: 1; 14: 1; 15: 1; 16: 1; 19: 1; 20: 1; 21: 1
 - The reason for this phrase is to introduce another series of events
- It is important for us to remember chapters 4 & 5 describe what John saw in heaven
- Chapters 6-18 show the wrath of God being poured out

After These Things

- If you will remember John is not the only author of Scripture to view heaven
 - II Cor 12: 2-4.. I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a man was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man—whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows—was caught up into Paradise, and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.
 - You will note that Paul was not permitted to speak

After These Things

- However, John is told to write about 3 things
 - Rev 1: 19....
 - The things which you have seen (Rev 1: 9-18)
 - Risen Christ and (Vs 11) letters to the churches
 - Things which are....
 - Chapters 4 & 5 things which are in heaven
 - Rev 1: 19....
 - Things which will take place after these things
 - Rev 6-22.....things in the future
 - Tribulation, Millennium, new Heaven and Earth

After These Things

- Rev 4: 1...."looked and behold an open door"
 - This is the opposite of the church of Laodicea
 - Rev 3: 20....the door is closed to Christ
 - This open door tells us two things
 - First....Heb 4: 16..... "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need."
 - Second....the open door allows us to see a throne
 - The word throne or thrones is used 13 times in 11 verses
- Why?
 - This is to show Who is in control of all things
 - Note it is "standing in heaven"....unmovable

After These Things

- Not only was the throne stupendous but....
 - There was One sitting on the throne....
 - It is vital for us to know that He who sits on the throne is steadfast and unmovable
 - Why?
 - Because the things which are to take place are by His design and will be carried out by His authority.....
 - Rev 5: 1; 7; 13; 7: 10
 - It is important for us to know this today as well
 - Isa 6: 1-7...."In the year King Uzziah died".....

After These Things

- Rev 4: 3-8....the scene unfolds.....
- What we see now in Vs 3-8 is also found in Ezek 1: 4-28
 - Vs 28...."I fell on my face" (Ezekiel)
 - Rev 1: 17....."I fell at His feet like a dead man" (John)
- “Like a jasper stone and sardius in appearance”
 - Jasper stone (Rev 21: 10-11) crystal clear..."diamond"
 - First stone in the breastplate of the High Priest
 - Sardius....a blood red ruby stone found near Sardis (the dead church)....the last stone in the breastplate
 - This speaks to us of perfect blazing wrath of God....
 - And it also speaks to us of the cost of perfect salvation

After These Things

- However, there is a rainbow around the throne
 - Gen 9: 9-16
 - Vs 16...."an everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh"
 - This rainbow is a reminder of the promises of God...
 - II Cor 1: 20.... For as many as may be the promises of God, in Him they are yes; wherefore also by Him is our Amen to the glory of God through us.
 - However, this rainbow is emerald in color???
 - A very deep green in color.....
 - Wrath still tempered in mercy (Matt 24: 21-22)

After These Things

- Vs 5.....out from the throne
 - Flashes of lightning and peals of thunder
 - This throne does not introduce a time of tranquility.....
 - Daniel 7: 9.... I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment *was* white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool: his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened.
 - Rev 16: 18...And there were voices, and thunders, and lightnings; and there was a great earthquake, such as was not since men were upon the earth, so mighty an earthquake, *and* so great.

After These Things

- Why is this important for us to know?
 - Because the church is not mentioned again in this book until the marriage supper of the Lamb.
 - Some erroneously equate the Tribulation saints with the church....they are not the same.
- Consider with me the grace of God.
 - It is only His grace (unmerited favor) that stands between us the wrath of God
 - Should we not then praise Him????
 - Should we not then worship Him in spirit and in truth?