

“I Get It”
Revelation 4:1

~ READ TEXT ~

AS YOU SETTLE IN...

- Turn to the book of (Rev. 4:1)

~ LET'S PRAY ~

NOTE TAKERS...

- I've titled today's message: **“I Get It”**

~ INTRO ~

IN REVELATION CHAPTER #4...

- We see the church in heaven.

THE SCENE HAS RADICALLY CHANGED...

- And now we begin to look at future events.

AS WE MOVE THRU THESE CHAPTERS...

- It's like **watching a PLAY**...
 - It proceeds in parts / goes forward / it pauses...
 - And then the scenes switch back & forth
 - Between heaven & earth.
- Which is why it can be hard to follow!

SO LET'S GRASP THIS FROM THE BEGINNING!

JOHN WAS COMMANDED TO WRITE...

- In (Rev. 1:19) NKJV
 - About the *past* / *present* / & *future*.

THE *PAST*...

- Reflected on a vision & work of Christ (Rev. 1:5-17)

THE *PRESENT*...

- Was in the form of Jesus speaking to the churches:
 - ✓ In **Ephesus** there was a danger of losing love for Jesus!
 - ✓ In **Smyrna** the suffering church was exhorted – to press on!

“I Get It”
Revelation 4:1

- ✓ In **Pergamos** there was serious doctrinal compromise!
- ✓ In **Thyatira** weak leadership & moral compromise!
- ✓ In **Sardis** the church was caught in spiritual deadness!
- ✓ In **Philadelphia** a breath of fresh air – a church in revival!
- ✓ In **Laodicea** the lukewarm church – indifferent toward God!

~ HISTORY ~

HERE IN (Revelation) THE CHURCH WAS ABOUT...

- 66-years old from its birth in (Acts 2)...
- And it had endured major persecution along the way.

SOME 30-YRS EARLIER (AD 64-67)...

- Emperor **Nero** crucified Christians...
- Fed them alive to wild animals...
 - And even burned them to death as human candles.

UNDER EMPEROR **DOMITIAN** (AD 95)...

- He tortured and killed about 40,000 Christians.
- While John was banished to the island of Patmos.

THEN IN (AD 98) **TRAJAN**...

- Also tried to blot out Christianity across Rome!

POINT BEING:

- There was major persecution from outside the church...
 - AND... inside the church...
 - There was corruption & apostasy!

SO... GOD... GAVE JOHN THESE VISIONS...

- To prepare and steady the church.

TODAY GOD USES TRAILS...

- To do the same thing: To prepare & steady us!

~ STUDY ~

CHAPTER #4...

- Begins the third phase of Revelation with
 - (Rev. 4:1) NKJV *after these things* = (Greek) Meta Tauta

“I Get It”
Revelation 4:1

AFTER WHAT THINGS?

- The things of the church on earth – the age of grace!

IN CHAPTERS 1-3...

- The church was mentioned (19x).
 - Very active AND very present as John wrote.

- But then the church is suddenly GONE!!!

CHAPTERS 4 & 5...

- The church is **NOW** in heaven...
 - And off the earthly scene...
 - And not mentioned again until (Chp. #20).

HERE’S WHAT WE LEARN FROM THIS:

- There’s NO **explicit reference** to the rapture of the church here...
 - But this is where it takes place!

HOWEVER...

- John is the picture of the rapture (Rev. 4:1) “*come up here*”
 - As he’s called up into heaven!
 - Just like the church is called up to meet the Lord.
 - (1 Thess. 4:16-17) NLT

POINT #1 – UNDERSTANDING PROPHECY:

OK...

- Let’s cover a **framework** to help us understand prophecy...
 - So we don’t get lost in **mysticism**...
 - And start making things up as we go.

(Chp.# 4-22)...

- Look into the future... it’s a prophecy!

FIVE INTERPRATIVE KEYS FOR PROPHECY:

1) Interpret literally using...

- Plain use of words & figurative use of words

“I Get It”
Revelation 4:1

- (Including figures of speech).

Example: *If I say my dog kicked the bucket...*

- What does that mean?

- We stick to regular rules of grammar...
- We stick to the historical setting in which it was written...
- We stick to the context (20 verses before / 20 verses after)

2) We understand that symbols refer to something literal.

Two Examples:

- (Rev. 1:13) seven lampstands = (Rev. 1:20) seven churches
- (Rev. 1:16) seven stars = (Rev. 1:20) seven angels

3) We compare parallel passages accurately by applying the 20/20 rule.

- No *proof texting*...
 - Where a word is captured then you try to find it...
 - (Out of context) somewhere elsewhere!

4) Watch out for “*prophetic skips*”

Example:

- (Zech. 9:9-10) NKJV
- Triumphant entry (v.9) followed by second coming (v.10)
 - There’s two thousand years between these verses!

5) Recognize fulfilled & unfulfilled prophecy!

POINT #2 – BIBLICAL KEYS TO PROPHECY:

(Daniel 2:36-43) = ABC’s of prophecy (from man’s point of view)

- These are the world empires throughout history.

(Daniel 7) = Same as chapter 2, but this is from God’s point of view.

(Daniel 9:24-27) = God’s prophetic time clock is the Nation Israel.

"I Get It"
Revelation 4:1

- 69 of the 70 weeks are complete.

*The last 7-yrs starts when the middle-east peace treaty happens with Israel

- (Dan. 9:27) NKJV

(Matthew 24) = Blueprint for end time events

- The disciples asked two questions: When & what (v.3)...

- (vv. 4-8) Covers the 7-yr Tribulation Period as a whole.
- (vv. 9-12) Speaks about the Jewish people & persecution.
- (vv. 15-20) The anti-Christ in the middle of Tribulation.
- (vv. 21-28) Details last half of Tribulation.
- (vv. 29-35) Second coming of Christ & Israel.
- (vv. 36-51) This speaks of the Church & the rapture.

(Revelation 4 – 22) = Tells us how the whole thing ends...

*(Dan. 12:4)NKJV

- Spokes about understanding of prophecy at the end...

- (Eph. 3:5) & (v.9) NKJV

SO HERE'S WHAT WE UNDERSTAND.

- Revelation takes us thru the last events of world history:

- 1-3 Church age
- 4-19 Tribulation age
- 20 Kingdom age (1,000 year reign of Christ on earth)
- 21-22 Eternal age (New heaven & new earth)
 - The plan of God & redemption is complete!

APPLICATION:

THIS IS WHAT WE LEAVE WITH...

- God's on the throne in heaven & He's everything under control!

~ LET'S PRAY ~