

**Rev.1:1** The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John,  
 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

**19** " Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

1. "Write therefore the things which **you have seen**"
  - a. God outlined this book for us – there's no reason to change His outline!
    - i. "have seen"
      1. The glorified Christ
2. "the things which are"
  - a. The church age
3. "the things which shall take place after these things"
  - a. The rest of the book of Revelation **4:1-22:21**

**Rev.4:1** After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."

1. "After these things"... "I will show you what must take place **after these things**"
  - a. Starting in Chapter 4 thru rest of the book the Church is in heaven
  - b. We just saw it on earth – how did it get into heaven?
  - c. μετά ταῦτα – after this or after these things
  - d. After the letters to the seven Churches – the Church age is over!
  - e. No Scripture is so easily divided for us as this book
 

**Rev.1:19** " Write therefore the things which you <sup>#1</sup>have seen, and <sup>#2</sup>the things which are, and <sup>#3</sup>the things which shall take place after these things.
  - f. The rest of the book is about the things which will take place "after these things"
  - g. The preterist interpretation is: most of these things took place w/in 100 years of the time of Christ & mostly in 70 AD when Titus the Roman general destroyed Jerusalem
  - h. I had a man give me his understanding of the outline of Revelation in writing so I could review it. I quickly grew tired of it b/c it didn't address any of the questions I had.
    - i. Here is the problem:

ii. When did the things in **Rev.6** happen?

**Rev.6:12** And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth made of hair, and the whole moon became like blood;

<sup>13</sup> and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind.

<sup>14</sup> And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places.

<sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth and the great men and the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains;

iii. When did the things in **Rev.8** take place

**Rev.8:7** And the first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up.

<sup>8</sup> And the second angel sounded, and something like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood;

<sup>9</sup> and a third of the creatures, which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed.

<sup>10</sup> And the third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters;

<sup>11</sup> and the name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.

<sup>12</sup> And the fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were smitten, so that a third of them might be darkened and the day might not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way.

iv. When was a third of mankind killed world wide?

**Rev.9:18** A third of mankind was killed by these three plagues, by the fire and the smoke and the brimstone, which proceeded out of their mouths.

\*Even the black plague of 14<sup>th</sup> century didn't kill that many people

- v. When were there **2 men** who could **witness to the whole world & no one harm them**

**Rev.11:3** "And I will grant authority to **my two witnesses**, and they will prophesy for twelve hundred and sixty days, clothed in sackcloth."

V.5 And if anyone desires to harm them, **fire proceeds out of their mouth** and devours their enemies; and if anyone would desire to harm them, in this manner he must be killed.

- vi. Who has ever had **total rule over mankind that no one could buy or sell w/out his permission**

**Rev.13:16** And he causes all, the small and the great, and the rich and the poor, and the free men and the slaves, to be given a mark on their right hand, or on their forehead, <sup>17</sup> and he provides that no one should be able to buy or to sell, except the one who has the mark, either the name of the beast or the number of his name.

- vii. Do you know how they explain all these events?
1. They do it by saying these things are allegories
  2. They say, "it doesn't mean what it says – it means something else"
  3. That is a slippery slope b/c you can change Scripture to mean anything you want it to when you start that.
  4. Also it is an insult to God Himself, that He can't say what He means!

**Rev.4:1** x After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet speaking with me, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things."

2. "a door...open in heaven...the first voice...I had heard, like...a trumpet...said, "Come up here"
  - a. This is a picturesque description of the rapture of the Church
    - i. The rapture of the Church is when the Church is taken to heaven
  - b. A college student came up to me & said – "The word 'rapture' isn't in the Bible!"
    - i. I ask him if he knew a word that was in the Bible? – Since it is written in Greek, Hebrew & Aramaic – he didn't know one.
  - c. "Rapture" comes from the Latin word "raptus"
    - i. **Raptus** is the Latin for "seized", from "to seize" - to snatch, grab
    - ii. Not all believers are going to die
      1. Most believers get to heaven by dying
      2. But some will be seized & taken from earth to heaven w/out having to die

**1 Cor.15:50** Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

51 Behold, I tell you a **mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,**

52 in a **moment** <sup>(ἅ τ ὀμιφ)</sup>, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, " DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.

3. This is clearly delineated in 1 Thessalonians to sooth their anxiety about dead believers who wouldn't be here for the rapture

**1 Thes.4:13** But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope.

14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep 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, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep.

16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall 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.

- iii. There will be a group of people who will go to heaven w/out having to die. They are **caught up!**

d. Some believe the rapture & 2<sup>nd</sup> coming will happen at same time

- i. In other words – we meet Christ in the air & then come back to earth w/ Him
- ii. This cannot be true
  - 1. **First:** Those caught up to go to heaven – have 2 things that stand out
    - a. **#1.** They are heaven bound – go to heaven w/ purpose
    - b. Believers go to heaven to receive their rewards
    - c. They also go to heaven for the great wedding of the Lamb
    - d. It is a time of rejoicing for the Church
    - e. WE receive our rewards
    - f. The wedding appears to take place before Christ return to earth
      - Rev.19:7(NIV)** Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.
      - 8 Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear." (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of the saints.)
  - g. **#2.** The entire atmosphere is different
    - i. It is a time of glorious **celebration** A time of **feasting & joy & pageantry**
    - 1 Cor.15:54** But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory
    - 1 Thes.4:17** 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.
    - Jn.14:1** " Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me.
    - <sup>2</sup> "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.
    - <sup>3</sup> "And 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.<sup>(Marriage proposal)</sup>

**Col.3:4** When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

**Jude 1:24** Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,

iii. The second coming of Christ is not a celebration – it is a time of judgment

1. They are not heaven bound but earth bound

**Zech.12:9** "And it will come about in **that day** that I will set about to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem.

10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him, like the bitter weeping over a first-born.

**Zech.14:2** For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

3 Then the LORD will go forth and fight against those nations, as when He fights on a day of battle.

4 And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west by a very large valley, so that half of the mountain will move toward the north and the other half toward the south.

**V.7** For it will be a unique day which is known to the LORD, neither day nor night, but it will come about that at evening time there will be light.

**V.9** And the LORD will be king over all the earth; in that day the LORD will be the only one, and His name the only one.

**V.12** Now this will be the plague with which the LORD will strike all the peoples who have gone to war against Jerusalem; their flesh will rot while they stand on their feet, and their eyes will rot in their sockets, and their tongue will rot in their mouth.

13 And it will come about in that day that a great panic from the LORD will fall on them; and they will seize one another's hand, and the hand of one will be lifted against the hand of another.

**Rev.19:11** And I saw heaven opened; and behold, a white horse, and He who sat upon it *is* called Faithful and True; and in righteousness He judges and wages war.

<sup>12</sup> And His eyes are a flame of fire, and upon His head *are* many diadems; and He has a name written *upon Him* which no one knows except Himself.

<sup>13</sup> And *He is* clothed with a robe dipped in blood; and His name is called The Word of God.

<sup>14</sup> And the armies which are in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white *and* clean, were following Him on white horses.

<sup>15</sup> And from His mouth comes a sharp sword, so that with it He may smite the nations; and He will rule them with a rod of iron; and He treads the wine press of the fierce wrath of God, the Almighty.

**V.19** And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth and their armies, assembled to make war against Him who sat upon the horse, and against His army.

- iv. At the rapture the Church meets the Lord in the air
- v. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming the Church rides triumphant w/ Him into battle

- e. At the rapture – the believers are taken off the earth
- f. At the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – the lost are taken off the earth
  - i. **#1.** By Christ making war w/ the armies of the world
  - ii. **#2.** By being taken away, awaiting judgment

**Mat.24:37** "For the coming of the Son of Man will be just like the days of Noah.

<sup>38</sup> "For as in those days which were before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark,

<sup>39</sup> and they did not understand until the flood came and took them all away; so shall the coming of the Son of Man be.

<sup>40</sup> "Then there shall be two men in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left.

<sup>41</sup> " Two women *will be* grinding at the mill; one will be taken, and one will be left.

\*That can't be talking about the rapture – the lost are taken away

- g. There are no signs concerning the rapture –

- i. It is called the doctrine of imminence – Christ could come back at any time
- ii. If HE is coming back in 5 minutes we wouldn't know any more than we know right now!
- iii. Concerning the rapture there is no warning only joy & expectation  
**1 Cor.1:7** so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
**Phil.3:20** For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;  
<sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.  
**Titus 2:13** looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Christ Jesus;

h. The second coming has many signs

- i. There are all kinds of signs
  1. The Antichrist will make a peace treaty w/ Israel & break it half way thru – the days can be counted
  2. The tribulation is exactly 7 years long
  3. You can find all kinds of signs in O.T. and N.T. concerning 2<sup>nd</sup> coming – Daniel is a great book to study those
  4. We just looked at in **Zech.14** is perfect example  
**Zech.14:1** Behold, a day is coming for the LORD when the spoil taken from you will be divided among you.  
 2 For I will gather all the nations against Jerusalem to battle, and the city will be captured, the houses plundered, the women ravished, and half of the city exiled, but the rest of the people will not be cut off from the city.

- i. What does all this mean to us?
- j. This is our future!
- k. Christ can come in any minute
- l. We are going to live it out!

**Phil.3:20(NIV)** But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ,

<sup>21</sup> who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.