

## **THE THRONE ROOM IN HEAVEN**

### **CHAPTER READING: Revelation Chapter 4 (vv. 1-11)**

Revelation chapter 4 shifts dramatically from the letters to the churches (chapters 2–3) into a heavenly vision. The focus moves **from earth to heaven, from churches to God's throne, and from present struggles to eternal sovereignty.**

This chapter answers a crucial question for suffering believers: ***Who really rules history?*** John's answer: ***God is still on the throne!***

Chapter 4 describes John's vision of God's heavenly throne room ... ***shifting focus from the earthly churches to divine sovereignty, depicting God seated on a throne.*** What he sees is rich with symbolic language drawn heavily from the Old Testament (Ezekiel, Isaiah, Daniel).

This chapter sets the stage for the rest of the book, establishing God as the ultimate ruler and creator ... worthy of all praise, inspiring awe and a heavenly perspective.

### ***The Open Door & The Call Up*** (4:1)

***“After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven...”***

#### Meaning:

- Open door → access to divine revelation
- Trumpet voice → authority and divine summons (cf. Sinai, Exodus 19)
- ***“Come up here”*** → prophetic invitation to see history from heaven's perspective

Note: John is not escaping earth; he is being shown God's vantage point. Revelation is not primarily about chaos — it's about control.

**When life feels confusing, we need heaven's perspective. Prayer and worship “lift” us above circumstances.**

***“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.”*** – Revelation 4:1 (NKJV)

## **The Coming Rapture Pictured**

Before focusing on the suddenness of eternity, let's break down this important first verse in Revelation chapter 4. Remember, this is an event that happened to the Apostle John around 95AD. As a very old man, exiled on the prison island of Patmos, **he looked and saw** a door open into heaven.

If that wasn't cool enough, he then heard a voice like a trumpet saying '**come up here**'. Now this was an actual event. Isaiah, Ezekiel and Daniel had all seen visions of heaven... *while on earth*. **But John was actually caught up into heaven** ... and this chapter explains what he saw and heard from that heavenly vantage point.

**Now I believe John also stands as a picture here.** Revelation uses pictures and symbols **and his symbolic rapture into heaven** ... is a pointer to the coming rapture of all believers into heaven. Let's look at the pictures and symbolism given just in this one verse:

### **In What Ways Does Revelation 4:1-2 Picture the Rapture?**

- ***I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven*** - **Heaven is opened only twice in the book of Revelation.** Once here, to receive John, and once in (Rev. 19:11) where Jesus and the saints come out of Heaven to make war against the nations. So the first opening is for the believer going up and the second is for Jesus and believers coming down. **These two openings represent the rapture and the 2nd coming of Jesus Christ.** And let me add ... that if we want to be part of this first open door to heaven we need to have first opened the door of our own heart to the Lord, as indicated in the letter to the Laodiceans! (Rev. 3:20).
- ***And the first voice which I had heard ... speaking with me*** - In Revelation chapter 1 **John sees the Lord Jesus in glory** (Rev. 1:12-20) ... and then here, hears the Lord telling Him to come on up! In like manner, at the Rapture, it is the Lord who personally comes for His bride ... ***“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.”*** (1 Thess. 4:16)
- ***The first voice which I had heard, like the sound of a trumpet*** - **John heard a voice like a trumpet just as believers will hear a trumpet at the rapture** (1 Thess. 4:16, 1 Cor. 15:51). The trumpet will sound ... drawing the congregation of God together ready to set out on a new, very exciting journey!
- ***Come up here*** - John is given the command to '**Come up here**'. At the rapture there will be a loud command from the Lord and it could well be '**come up here**'.

As mentioned earlier Daniel, Ezekiel and Isaiah were all given a vision of heaven ... but only John was actually commanded to 'come up here'. Why? Again, because this is all a picture of *what will happen* to believers at the rapture. ***It will not be some amazing experience while we remain here. We are going up!***

- *And I will show you what must take place after these things* - Revelation 4:1 twice says ... ***'after these things'***. So... what things? And why emphasize and repeat this? The Greek words are ***'meta tauta'*** ... and it is the same exact phrase that Jesus used in (Revelation 1:19) where He gave His outline to the book of Revelation ... ***"Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this."***

1. *'the things which you have seen'* ... **is the Vision of Jesus** (Revelation 1:12-20)
2. *'the things that are'* ... **is the Church age** (Revelation 2-3)
3. *'the things that take place after this'* ... **is that which occurs after the Church age** (i.e: Tribulation, Messianic Kingdom, Eternal State)

**Chapter 4 begins something new in the book of Revelation ... It begins the third part. It is the transition point. There always comes a time when God says enough ... as He did in the days of Noah and the flood, and He will do it again at the end of the Church age!**

## **1. THE SUDDENNESS OF ETERNITY**

***"Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne."*** – Revelation 4:2 (NKJV)

So, miraculously John was taken from earth to heaven ***'at once'***. Most versions say *'immediately'* ... but both picture the suddenness of eternity! John immediately goes from being on the island of Patmos to Heaven ... just like that. Here one moment and in heaven the next!

**It reminds us of course of what will happen to all believers at the Lord's coming.** Speaking of this same event, Paul wrote to the Corinthians ... ***that we will be changed in the twinkling of an eye - in an instant, in a moment of time.*** The Greek word translated moment is ***'átomos'*** from which we get our English word ***"atom"***. This is the smallest possible period of time.

**Paul taught that we will be changed suddenly, instantly!** And he knew how quickly you can go from earth to heaven ... for he had previously had his own personal rapture experience event!

2 Corinthians 12:2-4 ... <sup>2</sup> *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.* <sup>3</sup> *And I know such a man — whether in the body or out of the body I do not know, God knows —* <sup>4</sup> *how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”* (NKJV)

Paul went from earth to heaven in an instant ... being caught up to the third heaven. The word for '**caught up**' here ... is the Greek word '**harpazo**'. It is the same word used in (1 Thess. 4:17) *about the coming 'catching up' of all believers.*

- **It Means:** to 'seize, to snatch away' ... and implies a forceful quick event.

When the Lord comes, it will happen suddenly ... *It will be like a thief in the night!* Jesus will be robbing the earth of its very best ... but unlike most thieves, He will be snatching away (snatching back) that which is already His!

Now you might be thinking – “Yeah but people have been speaking of His coming for a long time. And it hasn't happened.” ... You are right. They have and it hasn't. But it will! Oh, it will! As sure as all the other past prophecies of God have been fulfilled perfectly, so will this one!

If You Are a Believer ... You will go from earth to heaven as quickly as John was taken through that open door into heaven. ***Here one moment, in heaven the next!***

**So that is the first point to take from this chapter - the suddenness of eternity.** We stand literally a moment, an 'atomos' of time, away from eternity. And when that day occurs ... life as we know it will change completely, never ever to be the same again!

And how will it change? What will we experience? Well, let's start with the first things we shall see.

**NEXT: 2. THE SIGHTS OF ETERNITY ...**