

3-29-20
Revelation Chapter 4

Chapter 4 "After these things"

Today we begin Chapter 4 of the Book of Revelation.
This starts the third and final section of the book according to the outline
Jesus gave us:

Rev 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "*Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.*"

Rev 1:18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Rev 1:19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. (*meta tauta*)

The Things which you have seen:

Chapter 1:9-20

The Things which are:

Chapters 2-3, Letters to the 7 Churches- the Church Age

The things which will take place after this:

Chapter 4 forward...

Rev 3:21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

Rev 3:22 "**He who has an ear**, let him hear what the **Spirit says to the churches**." ' '

Rev 4:1 After these things (*meta tauta, after What 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."

Where is John in vs 1? On earth.

What is he looking at? An open door.

Where is the door? In heaven.

Joh 10:1 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who does not enter the sheepfold by the door, but climbs up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

Joh 10:2 But he who enters by the door is the shepherd of the sheep.

Joh 10:3 To him the doorkeeper opens, and the sheep hear his voice; and he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

Joh 10:4 And when he brings out his own sheep, he goes before them; and the sheep follow him, for they know his voice.

Joh 10:5 Yet *they will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers."*

Joh 10:6 Jesus used this illustration, but they did not understand the things which He spoke to them.

Joh 10:7 Then Jesus said to them again, *"Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.*

Joh 10:8 All *who ever came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them.*

Joh 10:9 *I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.*

Joh 10:10 *The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.*

Jesus IS the door!

John is standing on Earth, looking at an open door in heaven; watching, wondering, and waiting to see what happens next.

Continuing vs 1.

*...And the **first voice which I heard** was like a trumpet speaking with me*

Rev 1:10 *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,*

Rev 1:11 *saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."*

...., saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne.

NOW where is John?

In the Throne Room of Heaven!

From this point on, John's perspective is from Heaven's vantage point. He's watching things that take place in Heaven that affect things on Earth.

"Control Room Perspective"....

The glorious vision:

Rev 4:2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. **"Throne" used 14 times...**

Rev 4:3 And He who sat there was like a jasper (**crystal clear per 21:11**) and a Sardis stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

Interesting side note: For an earthly perspective looking into heaven read Ezekiel chapter 1...

Rev 4:4 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.

Who are these elders?

They are seated on thrones- *rulership and authority...*

Clothed in white robes- *they've been redeemed...*

Crowns of gold on their heads- *they've been rewarded...*

Are they OT saints? *No, Daniel 12:1-3 says Israel will be resurrected after the great tribulation for entry into the Millennial Kingdom.*

Are they Israel? *No, Israel is not saved until the very end of the Tribulation.*

Are they Tribulation saints? *No, they aren't resurrected until all the tribulation martyrs are complete.*

Are they Angels? *No, Angels don't rule and reign with Christ, they are NOT redeemed, and they don't wear crowns...*

Only the Church meets all the criteria for the 24 Elders.

Rev 4:5 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.
Lightnings, thunderings, and voices...

Rev 4:6 Before the throne *there was* a sea of glass, like crystal (***Exodus 24:10, Ezekiel 1:22***). And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, *were* four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back.

Rev 4:7 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.

**4 facets of Christ,
4 Gospel Displays,**

Rev 4:8 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!"

Rev 4:9 Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

Rev 4:10 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, saying:

Crown for running the race- 1Cor 9:25

Crown of evangelism - Philippians 4:1, Thess 2:19

Crown of Righteousness - 2Tim 4:8 (*also to all who have loved His appearing*)

Crown of life - James 1:12 (*which the Lord has promised to those who love Him*), Rev 2:10

Crown of perseverance- Rev 3:10-11

Rev 4:11 "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."

Everything we do for Christ will have a reward (Gold, Silver, Precious Stones, - 1Cor 3:9-15) but even the purpose of those rewards is to glorify Jesus!