

Revelation— a Preview of Heaven!

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This study: **A glimpse into Heaven
Revelation 4:1-11**

1 Thessalonians 4:16 *The Lord himself shall descend from Heaven...*
Hebrews 11:5 *Enoch was translated*
Matthew 24:40 *Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken...*
2 Corinthians 12:2 *caught up to the third heaven*
Luke 19:13 *Occupy till I come*
Galatians 5:16 *Walk in the Spirit*
Amos 3:3 *Can two walk together except they*
1 Thessalonians 5:4 *we are not in darkness*

Jesus says to the church of Laodicea AV Rev. 3:20 *“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.”*

Anyone can accept the invitation—just be willing to believe; to accept Jesus as Supreme Ruler of our life; and allow Him to change our heart.

NKJV Rev. 4:1 *“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.’*

2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.”

The rapture is mentioned AV 1 Thessalonians 4:16 *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the*

archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air.”

Others were caught up in like manner; AV Hebrews 11:5 *“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death; and was not found, because God had translated [raptured] him.”* Elijah went to Heaven by a whirlwind 2 Kings 2:11.

Jesus explained this sudden disappearance—AV Matthew 24:40 *“Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.*

41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

42 Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.”

Those ready are the ones who allow God to prepare them by trusting Him every day to do the spiritual work needed.

The rapture could happen at any moment, so we must be of a repentant attitude and should examine our heart on a regular basis—asking God to reveal any hidden sin, any rebellion, or any stubborn attitude within us.

AV Revelation 4:3 *“And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine [sardius NKJV; carnelian NIV, deep red] stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*

4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.”

Sardius and jasper are the first and last stones on the breastplate of the high priest. A jasper is clear as a crystal Revelation 21, and sardius is deep ruby red.

The Truth given by Jesus is *clear as a crystal* if we are willing and ready to learn; and the Blood that He shed for us was *deep red like a ruby.*

The twenty-four elders could refer to the twelve patriarchs from the Old Testament and twelve apostles from the New Testament.

The Greek for *elders* is a word meaning leadership in English. *White robes* tell of forgiveness and the *crowns* signify rewards for faithful service.

Jesus promises a *“Crown of life”* to the church at Smyrna Revelation 2:10, and the apostle said if we endure through temptations, we receive the *“Crown of life”* James 1:12.

As the apostle John goes through the door into Heaven, what he saw would be difficult to describe in words.

AV Revelation 4:5 *“And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.”

The Bible mentions three *Heavens*. AV 2 Corinthians 12:2 the apostle was *“caught up to the third heaven.”* He added 4 *“I Was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”*

The **1st Heaven** is the sky—atmosphere and clouds; the **2nd Heaven** is everything in the cosmos—beyond Earth’s atmosphere—including sun, moon, stars, and galaxies. The **3rd Heaven** is the actual dwelling place of God Himself.

Where that is located no one really knows. The *lightnings and thunderings*—along with voices and lamps of fire—all denote *judgment* in Scripture. The apostle is viewing the Tribulation unfolding on earth.

Jesus said to the church in Philadelphia NKJV Revelation 3:10 *“Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the*

hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

Believers go through many trials and tribulations while on earth but will not face the outpouring of God’s wrath on a wicked world that has totally rejected His Son.

AV Revelation 4:7 *“And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.*

8 *And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.”*

The apostle watches what is going on around him and is amazed as anyone would be. This continual worship in Heaven is wonderful to envisage and to anticipate—with no pain, no tears, and no sorrow of any type.

It is just continual worship of Almighty God. NKJV 1 Corinthians 2:9 *“As it is written: ‘Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.’”*

Both Scripture and recent world events point to the soon return of the Lord Jesus for those who are prepared and ready to go with Him.

While we wait for that marvelous event, we are to do what the nobleman’s servants were to do AV Luke 19:13 *“Occupy till I come.”*

And what the apostle told us to do AV Galatians 5:16 *“Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.”*

To walk in the Spirit is to be in harmony with the Word. AV Amos 3:3 *“Can two walk together, except they be agreed?”*

We are often late for appointments, and we blame the traffic or interruptions.

It was once said *Early is on time; on time is late; and late is never acceptable.*

We would never want to be late for an appointment with God—especially when we think who He is and what He has done to save our soul.

Keeping an appointment with God is starting each day in the Word; being ready to hear what the Holy Spirit is saying and praying in all sincerity. We should consciously focus on God throughout the day; seeking His counsel from His Word; and thanking Him for many blessings already enjoyed.

AV Revelation 4:9 *“And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,*

10 *The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,*

11 *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”*

Every day we pray AV Matthew 6:9 *“Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.”*

God is in Heaven and everything we do on earth is to bring glory to Him—the way we work; the attitudes we have; how we treat those around us; the music we sing; and bringing glory to God with everything else we do or decide each day.

AV 1 Corinthians 10:31 *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”*

Jesus will surely return so the disciples definitely asked NLT Matthew 24:3 *“When will all this take place? And will there be any sign ahead of time to signal your return and the end of the world?”*

Jesus replied AV Matthew 24:4 *“Take heed that no man deceive you.”*

Multitudes will turn away from faith in God because of false teaching and spiritual blindness.

When the leaves of a tree begin to bud the rapture is about to happen—similar to *“lightning that comes from the east is visible even in the west”* Matthew 24:27 NIV.

The world today is filled to the brim with wickedness, hatred, rebellion, and unbelief, but if we keep our faith and trust on the Blood of Jesus, we will be ready.

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you” 1 Peter 1:3-4 NIV.

When we keep our faith in the power of God we are **watching**; and when we keep our trust on the Atonement cleansing Blood of Christ we are **preparing**.

We do not know the hour, but we do know He stands at the door.

God has given His Spirit to enlighten us to the situation. NKJV 1 Thessalonians 5:4 *“You, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.”*

We must repent of sins; be willing to forgive everyone; and to keep trusting in faith on the atoning Blood of Christ.

If we do that—that Day will not overtake us!



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