

REVELATION CHAPTER FOUR

Although this fourth chapter shows us a type of the Rapture, that's not the primary type that is shown here, but what is shown here is the Bride being caught up in the Spirit of Revelation after she's called out of the last church age, by Christ, who is shown on the outside of this Laodicean age. (Revelation 3:20)

Verse 1: *"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."*

Once the Laodicean Age is over, then there is a great open door for the Bride, and Christ begins to show the Bride heavenly things. **This is where we are in time.** We are at the time when God is opening a door. Who is He opening a door to? Not to organizations, but to the Bride of Christ.

God now opens the door to the true Bride. This is a door for the Bride's sake, to bring her to complete perfection. It remains to be seen all the great things God will do at this time, and it is being made known in this last day by the ministry of Revelation 10:8-11, which is the restored ministry of Ephesians 4:11.

This Voice began to talk with John. This Voice of a trumpet is the Voice of the Lord Jesus Christ. There is an invitation being given in this hour to the Church, to the real Bride of Christ, to those that are redeemed, to those that have escaped from the curse of denominationalism. **That invitation is to "come up a little higher."** The Voice of the "trumpet" is the last phase of the ministry of Christ, as He makes His descent back to the earth, as is recorded in 1st Thessalonians, chapter four, verses 16 and 17..., let's read it. *"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. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."*

Notice, there's three parts (or phases) of the Voice. First, there's the "**Shout**," part of the Voice. It started immediately after World War II in the mid 40's, as God began to restore His church back to the original Word with a great healing revival spear-headed by the late William Branham; as he took this revival fire around the world seven times in the "shout time period." As we progress further in the Word and Spirit, the shout becomes the "Voice of the Archangel," and then it becomes the last trump (or trumpet) of God, and this is what John saw in the Spirit as he was picked up. Each one of these phases just keeps folding over into the next one; so by the time we get to the trumpet phase, we have the whole. It's all wrapped up into one. An example of that..., is when God restored back the plan of salvation. Under Luther's message it was, "The just shall live by faith," then under John Wesley, sanctification was restored; then in 1906, the baptism of the Holy Ghost was restored. Here we can see a differentiation between the three stages of salvation as it was being restored, but

now; it's accept Jesus Christ and be baptized in His Name, as it was on the day of Pentecost..., **one event, not in three stages.** So is it with John, as he hears the trumpet talking, it was one event. Although, in God's restoration of it, He did it in three stages (or phases..., the shout, voice of the archangel and the trump of God.) So when the trumpet sounds, the other two phases are heard also. One event, the sounding of the trumpet. Paul spoke of this one event, "**Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed. In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump (or trumpet): for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.**" (1st Corinthians 15:51-52)

Notice here, within the trumpet sounding, the message raises the dead and translate the living. It brings to pass all of what Paul wrote about here in 1 Corinthians 15:51-52 and 1st Thessalonians, chapter 4:16-17. Paul separated the phases of His coming in 1st Thessalonians, but he put it together as one event in 1st Corinthians. Which shows clearly that the three phases of His coming, and the message is all wrapped in the sounding of the **last trumpet.** That is the message of Revelation, chapter 10:8-11; which is the total fulfillment of Ephesians 4:11-16. In its conclusion, it will raise the dead and changes the living. This happens after the Bride is called out of the seventh church age and is standing with Christ; not a church system.

Now in the restoration of this, God used first the late William Branham, the messenger to the seventh church age, and then an apostle likened unto Peter, which was the late Raymond M. Jackson that brought further revelation of His coming, now it is all wrapped up in the message of Ephesians, chapter four, with Apostolic leadership.

Having said this, let us continue with Revelation, chapter four, verse two.

Verse 2: *"And immediately I was in the Spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne."*

As you read this message, you can get caught away; you can get caught up in heavenly places. Then you can understand the Book of Revelation as it is being interpreted.

I want to read in chapter one of Ephesians, verses 15-20. This is Paul speaking to the Church. I want to show you how you have got to get caught away. These verses say, *"Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you **the spirit of wisdom and revelation** in the knowledge of Him: **The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;** that ye may know what is the hope of His calling and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, And what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places,"*

God didn't call you to eat out of the hog trough with the hogs or to live in the

pig-pens; but He called you to be more than a conqueror. He called you to be picked up in heavenly places, to be picked up in the Spirit of the Lord, and He will give you the Spirit of understanding.

God worked a work in Christ when He raised Him from the dead, and we are a part of that work. He wants to give you the Spirit of wisdom and the Spirit of understanding. He wants to give you eyesalve. God said that He would give to the Church eyesalve in this last day. What is eyesalve? **It's the Spirit of wisdom, the Spirit of understanding, the Spirit of knowledge; it is to be picked up in heavenly places in Christ Jesus that you may understand all things that God has ordained for the Bride in this hour.**

Notice that John wasn't picked up in the flesh. We need to get our eyes off human flesh and get them on the Lord Jesus. We need to get our eyes on the inward man; for that inward man is the only one that is going to get picked up in heavenly places until this flesh is changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye. God wants to pick up the inward man, the real you, and set you in heavenly places in Christ Jesus in the revelation of the Word. That's what He did to John.

There was a throne set in heaven. Remember that the promise to the overcomer is that you'll *"sit with Me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne."* (Revelation 3:21)

*"And there was **one** that sat on the throne."* How many did John see, trinity folks? How many did he see, you that believe that there are three in the Godhead? He saw One, not two or three. When he was picked up in heaven and saw a throne, he saw One that sat on the throne. Who was that One? It was the Lord Jesus Christ with the authority of Almighty God invested in Him. **God invested the authority in Jesus Christ and made Him head of the Church.** Why did God invest this in Jesus Christ? Because He overcame.

Verse 3: *"And He that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald."*

This shows God's full power that He had invested in Jesus. The rainbow about the throne shows the covenant. God made a covenant with man and He fulfilled it in and through Christ Jesus. Here Jesus is pictured as being enthroned on the Father's throne.

Verse 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."*

Please picture in your mind a big throne and Jesus sitting on the throne, and all around the throne four and twenty smaller thrones with elders sitting on the smaller thrones. Who are these elders? These elders typify the twelve patriarchs of the Old Testament and the twelve Jewish apostles of the Lamb. This types out the wall and gates of that city in Revelation, chapter 21 and 22, but let us wait and we will read there.

God started delegating His authority in the Old Testament. He started His plan through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, then the twelve patriarchs, and on

down. The authority wasn't only to the twelve patriarchs, nor was it only to the twelve Jewish apostles of the Lamb. This is only a pictorial scene that John saw when he was caught up in the Spirit. In actuality, John is one of those elders.

John saw a great throne, Jesus sitting on the throne, and a rainbow about the throne. Jesus was set in the highest position, and down from that, the twelve patriarchs, and down from that, the twelve apostles of the Lamb. John's vision stopped off at this, but later on God picked up the same thought again in Revelation 20:4. It says, *"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them,"* (given to them to judge). This shows the Gentile Bride as She returns with Christ.

Now who is this judgment of Revelation 20:4 invested in? The Bride of Jesus Christ. **This is a continuation of God's authority being delegated on out into the Gentiles, in the Bride realm.** This wasn't only to the twelve patriarchs or the twelve apostles. The Word says in I Corinthians 6:2-3, Paul writing to the Corinthians, (paraphrasing) – "Can't you judge the smallest matters among you? Know you not that the saints shall judge the world and even angels?" This shows God's authority being delegated.

There is a key in Revelation 3:21 where Jesus said that He had overcome and sat down with the Father in His Throne, and that every one that overcomes will sit with Me in My Throne. This does not mean that we will walk up to the throne and say, "Move over Jesus so we can sit with you on your throne." No, but it signifies His authority going on out through His Church in the millennium, where we will sit in positions around the world judging and teaching the mortal people. This is God's authority being delegated out to the overcomers. This means that His authority is delegated out all over the earth. God was showing this to John and it is to be made known in this day by God's ministry.

Now these four and twenty elders had crowns of gold on their heads. What do these crowns represent? **They represent crowns of authority.** They were crowned. They were given a position (Matthew 19:27-28), and that crown of authority just keeps on going; but He delegates it out to His saints. (Daniel 7:27) God let John see this so we would know in this hour what God is going to do.

Verse 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."*

This same thing happened on Mt. Sinai when God came down, but on Mt. Sinai when these lightnings, and thunderings were heard, the people were scared; but here, we see mercy sitting right in the middle of the throne, that lowly Nazarene, the man that God invested all the authority in, this made the difference. The voices of verse five show that every revelation that comes from God originates at the throne.

This is the throne of mercy even though there is lightnings and thunderings which signifies the Great Eternal Spirit, Jehovah God, but not like in the Old Testament. **This is the God-man, Jesus Christ. He can now feel our infirmities**

and show mercy on us. (Hebrews 5:1-6)

Notice, also, *"there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God."* Those seven Spirits of God are mentioned quite often in the Book of Revelation, although Paul himself never did mention them.

In the first chapter of Revelation, Jesus walked among the seven candlesticks, which signified the seven church ages. The seven Spirits in the seven church ages are the seven angels. In each age a candle was lit and it burned for that age, then another one was lit, until here we see all seven lamps or candles have been lit; showing that by this all seven church ages have run their course.

In the Old Testament there were seven candlesticks in the tabernacle to light the shew bread. The priest took the original fire off the altar which fell from God and lit the first lamp, and from the first, all other six were lit. **Watch this, the fire came from God and it fell on the day of Pentecost. The first twenty years the fire just burned on the altar; how beautiful! The fire fell on the altar and burned for a twenty year period from about 33 A.D. to 53 A.D. Then the fire was taken off of the altar before it went out, and a candle was lit. This candle burned for many years in the first church age, then another one was lit and it burned for many years in the second church age, etc., until the seven church ages are now over; which the seven lamps of fire represents.**

This is what John saw in the Spirit even though he bodily never left the Isle of Patmos in his vision. He just got in the Spirit and got a revelation. This is what John saw and I am telling you the revelation of it.

Verse 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."*

This *"sea of glass as clear as crystal"* means something. It is mentioned one more time in the fifteenth chapter of the Book of Revelation, and there it is burning with fire. In the fifteenth chapter we see those saints that have gotten the victory over the beast and over the image of the beast, those who were killed during the tribulation, standing there on the sea of glass burning with fire.

Here in the fourth chapter, the sea of glass is showing the way to the throne and there is mercy. **Being clear as crystal shows you don't have to come through the fires of tribulation to get to Jesus or to get into the kingdom of God, now the way (sea of glass) is as clear as crystal, but there will come a day when you will have to come through the fire in order to be saved,** as is the case in the fifteenth chapter of this book.

Also, these four beasts in verse six are full of eyes. What are these four beasts? They are guards that guard the way to the tree of life. They have been spoken of in the Bible since Genesis, when cherubs were placed in Eden with a flaming sword (Genesis 3:24) to keep Adam and Eve from eating of the tree of life in a fallen state. So, these four beasts guard the way to the tree of life. **In type, it keeps the unclean from just stumbling up to the throne of God and getting eternal life.** Not that there is anything unclean in heaven, this is written for us

here on the earth.

This is typed out in the second chapter of Numbers, where it shows how the twelve tribes of the children of Israel were camped, when they were in divine order. Each of the three tribes on either side had a banner with the likeness of a lion, an ox, a man, and a flying eagle. Every one of those soldiers would have fought and died to guard the Ark of the Covenant before they would let anyone get into the tabernacle where the Ark of the Covenant was. We will deal with this more in Chapter 21 of this book.

So, not just anyone could come through and go look into the Ark of the Covenant. Not just any straggler, and **not just any denominational man can stumble through and come into this revelation of the Word of God. There are guards and you have got to come God's way.**

The eyes before and behind show that you have to come God's way, (Acts 2:38) or you can't get by those guards in this hour when God is revealing the full truth of His Word.

Verse 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."*

These beasts are very important. They guard and keep out all those who don't want to come God's way, but opens the way for those who will come by the Word. If you'll come by the blood, by the five-fold ministry and hear the Word, **then you can get by those guards to the mercy seat**, which is the throne that Jesus is sitting in.

They believed the apostle's doctrine in the Book of Acts. What's wrong with believing the apostle's doctrine and walking right on by those guards right into the heart of God, into the throne of God, and come into what God is doing today? This is all a pictorial scene showing what is taking place in the Spirit.

When Jesus Christ came to earth, there were four Gospel writers: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. They were guards who guarded the Book of Acts where Christ was enthroned in the hearts of the believers. The book of Matthew represents the lion, the book of Mark, the calf; the book of Luke, the man; and John represents the flying eagle with a prophetic writing. We arrive at this conclusion by the nature of each of their writings.

Matthew was like a lion. He went into the deep revelation showing how Christ was born and the water baptism. That's the reason that many take Matthew 28:19 and won't accept Acts 2:38, but Matthew was the guard, and Matthew 28:19 is the same thing as Acts 2:38.

A lot of people can't get by that guard that says, *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."* They get tripped up right there and can't get by the guard, but once they look into the revelation of God and get a revelation of what Matthew 28:19 means, they don't have a bit of trouble with Acts 2:38. They walk right on by the guards and get baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. This is the lion guarding the Book of Acts.

One side is guarded by three tribes on the north, likewise on the south, on the east, and on the west. You can get it in Numbers chapter two. But here, Christ's plan of salvation is guarded to keep out those that want to come to God by their church creeds, which denies the Word as brought by the apostles.

Verse 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."*

These beasts also praise God day and night and recognize the fullness of God in Christ. The fullness of the Godhead bodily is in Jesus Christ, because they call Him here, *"Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."* **They recognized that it was invested in Christ Jesus to serve in this position.**

Verse 9: *"And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to Him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,"*

Verse 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,"* (these twenty-four elders are the twelve Patriarchs, and the twelve apostles to Israel).

Verse 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."*

Notice these twenty-four elders. **You can't tell them that there are three persons in the Godhead. Here's why: They had the revelation. The apostles of the Lamb had the revelation. The twelve patriarchs had the revelation.** None of them would believe in three gods. They threw their crowns down before the throne. This shows how humble they felt in this position. They said the Lord was the One worthy, and that they weren't worthy of this position that He gave them. Today a lot of people want to get high-minded, because God gives them a little position. But let's look at these elders and let them be our example of humbleness. This was a pictorial scene. John saw this, but in actuality he is one of the elders, being one of the twelve apostles.

What is the fourth chapter of the Book of Revelation? It's a type of the rapture, but primarily it shows a door opened for the Bride to get the revelation. It shows Christ sitting on the throne. It shows how we can come to Christ and how we have got to come right. It shows the four beasts, the guards, that guard the way to the tree of life and nothing can come except it comes God's way.

Notice also, that there was One on the throne. The sea of glass was clear, showing that you can come to Christ, but you have to come the right way.

There were twenty-four elders, showing that God would delegate His authority through man. He delegated His authority from Christ on down through men as they prove themselves faithful in this life. **The seven lamps burning shows the fire has been lit for each of the seven church ages,** it also signifies the seven workings of God's Spirit in the plan of redemption. Amen.