

"Heaven is opened"

Revelation 4:1-11

Introduction: Today in our study of the book of Revelation we are going to step into chapter 4 and it is in this chapter where we will be privileged to see into the Throne Room of Heaven. But before we get into this chapter there are a few thoughts which we need to consider.

✓ **The Outline for the Book**

In the very first chapter of Revelation Jesus Himself gave to us an outline for the entire letter.

Revelation 1:19

¹⁸ I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

¹⁹ Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Here in verse 19 we can see the book can be divided into 3 sections:

I. **The things which thou hast seen.**

Revelation 1:10-20

II. **The things which are.**

Revelation 2:1-3:22 (The letters to the 7 churches)

III. **The things which shall be hereafter.**

Revelation 4:1-22:21

Notice Revelation 4:1

Here we can see in this verse that Jesus tells us that we are about to enter into the 3rd section of this letter and it will be the section which is prophetic.

✓ **The Privilege**

Before we step into this chapter there are some thoughts which I need to make very clear. There have been many people who have claimed to have died and then came back to life and many of them wrote books concerning their experience.

There have even been people who have claimed to have died and went to hell and came back to write a book on their experience. That is a topic for another sermon. By the way there is NOT ONE person who has died and went to hell and then come back!

There are some accurate records of 3 men people who were permitted to see the splendors of heaven and even wrote concerning their experience. Who were the 3 people?

1. **Jesus**

John 14:1-3

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.

² *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

³ *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

2. **The Apostle Paul**

2 Corinthians 12:1-4

It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

² *I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.*

³ *And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)*

⁴ *How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.*

When Paul was caught up to heaven he heard words that were UNSPEAKABLE and he also heard things and saw things which it was NOT LAWFUL to even speak about.

I find it very interesting that Paul was able to hear and see things which were NOT LAWFUL to speak but the people who have claimed to have died and went to heaven were permitted to return and write books and make thousands of dollars from them.

3. John

John is the 3rd man who had been permitted to enter into heaven and then to give to us some detail. This is what we are about to study in this chapter.

Now let me just say that all those who claim they have died and went to heaven and then returned and wrote a book, their stories are NOT ACCURATE. You see if they did go to heaven and return and then write of teach about their experience then their words would be NEW REVELATION.

Revelation 22:16-19

¹⁶ I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.

¹⁷ And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

*¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, **If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:***

¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Where do these stories come from?

- a. Imagination
- b. Satan for he is a great counterfeiter.

I. The Open Door

Notice Revelation 4:1

Notice that John refers to the voice he hears as "THE FIRST VOICE". This is pointing us back to chapter 1.

Revelation 1:10-11a

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

¹¹ Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last:

So the voice speaking to John in Revelation 4:1 is the voice of Jesus. Jesus then called John into heaven.

Some see this as a picture of the Rapture.

1 Thessalonians 4:14-16

¹⁴ *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.*

¹⁵ *For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.*

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:*

This then could represent the Rapture but that is not the focus of the text.

However there is no mention of the church in chapters 4-18 and we know that the church will NOT go through the Tribulation. I believe this is just an invitation for John at this time and I also believe the church is already there when John gets there.

Let me get you back to the focus of the chapter before us.

As we step into this chapter we are stepping into the CONTROL ROOM of all the events which will take place on earth during the Tribulation.

II. The Focus

Notice Revelation 4:2

The moment John steps into heaven his focus falls upon a THRONE. This THRONE is mentioned 12 times in this chapter. John does not mention loved ones who have passed before him, nor does he speak in detail of the angels. His focus is on the THRONE and the ONE WHO is seated on the THRONE.

Notice Revelation 4:3a

John does not give us a bodily description of God for God is a Spirit. But instead John describes God the Father by comparing Him to 2 stones. The one stone is JASPER and the other is a SARDIUS.

There is a message in these stones.

Revelation 21:11

¹¹ *Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;*

The JASPER stone is like a diamond. This stone would reflect and represent the HOLINESS of God. This reflection is so important with what we are about to see as we enter into Revelation 6. As the WRATH of God and the JUDGMENT of God are poured out upon the earth there will be those who question WHY? The answer is seen in the HOLINESS of God. Because He is HOLY God cannot and will not ignore sin. If people believe they can enter into heaven without their sin being paid for then they do not understand the cross.

Isaiah 53:4-6

⁴ *Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.*

⁵ *But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.*

⁶ *All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.*

The other stone is a Sardius stone and it is the color of a RUBY which would be RED in color. The color would speak of the BLOOD of Jesus Christ and the salvation available to the entire world.

This too is very important as we move ahead in the book of Revelation. There will be those who claim the wrath and the judgment poured out are not fair. But this SARDIUS is a reminder of the love which God has for all sinners. He had made salvation available to the entire world.

1 John 2:1-2

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

² *And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.*

Hebrews 2:9

⁹ *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.*

There will be people who see the events of the Tribulation as unfair and cruel but in the color of these 2 stones we see 2 things:

1. The Holiness of God.
2. The Salvation made available by God.

III. The Conditions

Notice Revelation 4:3b

The next thing we see in heaven is a RAINBOW. But it is not a RAINBOW as we know them today. This RAINBOW is a full circle which speaks of PERFECTION.

The rainbow was given by God as a reminder of His promise to never again destroy life on the earth with a global flood.

Genesis 9:9-13

⁹ *And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;*

¹⁰ *And with every living creature that is with you, of the fowl, of the cattle, and of every beast of the earth with you; from all that go out of the ark, to every beast of the earth.*

¹¹ *And I will establish my covenant with you, neither shall all flesh be cut off any more by the waters of a flood; neither shall there any more be a flood to destroy the earth.*

¹² *And God said, This is the token of the covenant which I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for perpetual generations:*

¹³ **I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth.**

Today when we see a rainbow it is typically a sign that the STORM is over and there will now be calmness.

The RAINBOW in Heaven tells us that the storm is over for you and me. There will be a PERFECT calm. Here on the earth we know that after one storm ends there will eventually be another. But when we get to heaven all the storms are past and there will be something which we have never experienced before and that is a PERFECT REST and PEACE. The battles will be over and the storm clouds will forever be gone.

But there is yet one question, "Why is the RAINBOW green in color?"

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AM Service

GREEN pictures LIFE, NEWNESS and FRESHNESS. Now let me tell you what that means for you and me who know Jesus Christ. The PERFECT REST and PEACE will be fresh and new at all times. It will never go away. There will be no more anxiety or stress.

Revelation 21:4-5

⁴ And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

⁵ And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.

Conclusion:

This is but a small glimpse into our eternal home. We cannot even begin to imagine what it will be like in our new bodies as we surround the Throne of God.

But if you are not saved this will never be experienced by you if you die in your sins. You need Jesus Christ.