

This is the future – what Jesus says “will take place later.”

Ch. 4

The World of Heaven – Heaven would not be heaven without the presence of Jesus. That makes it heaven. Have you ever thought of heaven in this way?

The Rapture of the Church

Rev. 4:1 – “After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven!” Jesus then calls out to John and tells him to **“come up here”**. What does this tell you about heaven?

The Trumpet – **“Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.”** Where do we also read of the trumpet? **Thess. 4:16-17** – “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.” The Greek word “Harpazo” meaning “caught up” is where we get the word “rapture” via Latin.

The Throne – one throne, 24 thrones surrounding with 24 elders, 7 burning torches of fire, a sea of glass, 4 living creatures with many eyes (like a lion, an ox, face of a man, an eagle) and 6 wings. They are always saying, “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!” God dwells in “unapproachable light whom no one has seen or can see.” The number 24 is often associated with the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 disciples of Jesus Christ.

What other symbolism do you see in the description of the throne? (note that they are saying “is to come!”.)

The Four Heavenly Creatures – The faces of the heavenly creatures represent the different attributes of Jesus as described in the 4 gospels.

Mathew – Jesus is described as the King, the lion of the jungle. **Mark** – Jesus is described as the servant, the ox. **Luke** – Jesus is described as the son of man, the face of man. **John** – focuses on the deity of Jesus soaring over his kingdom like an eagle. Have you ever thought of the 4 descriptions of Jesus?

The Doxologies – These songs of praise build upon themselves throughout Revelation.

Rev. 1:6 – “glory and honor”, Rev. 4:11 – “glory and honor and power”, Rev. 5:13 – “glory and honor and power and majesty”, Rev. 7:12 – “glory and honor and majesty and power and praise”.

Why do you think the scripture is written this way? Does it tell us of what is to come?

Ch.5

No one is worthy to be the kinsman/redeemer who can open the scroll with seven seals. Only Jesus is willing and worthy to open the forfeited inheritance of mankind. Have you thought of the scroll in this way and the tie between a “go’el” in redeeming property in Jewish law?

Luke 21:28 – “When these things begin to take place, stand up and lift up your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” John weeps when the angel says no one is qualified to take the scroll. Why?

Our redemption occurs when Jesus takes this scroll with seven seals. The slain Lamb who is worthy takes the scroll from the right hand of the One who is on the throne. Thousands upon thousands of and 10,000 x 10,000 of angels, the living creatures, and the elders (us) shout:

“Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!”

Every creature in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and all that is in them sing: “To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!” What does this tell us of who is looking forward to the return of Christ? Why?