

Important note to Chapter 4: As in all Scripture, we must pay careful attention to: (22)

① The audience: (Miles Coverdale instruction for interpretation-tweaked)
"It shall greatly help you to understand Scripture if you mark not only what is spoken, or written, but also of whom, and by whom, with what words, where, at what time, to what intent with what circumstances, considering what preceeded it and what follows it." For example: In all of Jesus' earthly ministry He came to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" (Matthew 15:24) and His ministry was to get Israel to recognize, and accept Him as king. No where did He mention, "The age of Grace". He couldn't have because that did not come in to play until Israel had so firmly rejected Him that He turned to Saul/Paul to get the message of the "finished work of the Cross; the Body of Christ, the age of grace, out to any and all, who would believe. This will become clear as we feast on Matthew 24:3-31 which is one of the necessary parallel Scriptures to the Book of Revelation. In Matthew 24, and all the Gospels, the focus is on Jesus setting up His Kingdom; the 1,000 year reign. (see printout Matthew 3, 4 and Mark 1).

So when we look at the Gospels we see: of whom: Israel ^{immediately} by whom: Jesus, where: at the temple in Israel, what time: after Jesus rebukes the Scribes and Pharisees ("You cleanse the outside of the cup and dish, but inside they are full of extortion and self-indulgence," "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets...", "You shall see Me no more till you say, 'Blessed is He who comes in the name of the LORD.'" - this does not happen until the tribulation (with the exception being Messianic Jews), Why? "For I do not desire, brethren (the church brothers and sisters in Christ), that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise

in your own opinion, that blindness in part (excluding (23) Messianic Jews) has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles (I believe the last believer is born) has come in (upon which time the Church will be removed so as not to be subject to God's wrath). And so all Israel will be saved." When? During the Tribulation period everyone left behind will understand that Jesus Christ is Lord! There will be no atheists! There will be three groups of people: (1) the Jews who's eyes have now been unblinded and recognize Jesus as Messiah (2) non-Jews who repent and turn to Jesus and are almost immediately martyred (probably beheaded), and (3) those that have had their hearts hardened by God for a life long rejection of Jesus. We will see them rewarded properly by Jesus when they shake their fists at God.

"All who", "Any one",
(B) Specific words that a power words: "But God", "Because of this", "Therefore", "Assuredly", "Woe to...", and in this opening of Chapter 4, "After these things", ("After this").

Revelation 4:1. When the Godhead says, "After this", He is opening a new scene for John because the old scene (I believe) is gone or been removed. Which makes sense since we are about to witness the Throne room and Jesus loosing the first cataclysmic seals of God's wrath on the non-believing world. And since we know that believers are not appointed to God's wrath by both Scriptures and by His actions (the Ark, Sodom and Gomorrah, Nineva to some extent) it makes perfect sense that those who are indwelt by the Holy Spirit will not be subject to the greatest wrath ever poured out on mankind by God Almighty.

4:1 (con't) In this opening scene John is given, as are we, a glimpse in to the throne room. Notice the voice

that is speaking to John is like a "trumpet." And so (24) if we apply all the rules just mentioned (to whom, by whom, what time, what came before, what comes after, to what intent, what circumstances, ...) we understand that John is best describing what He sees in the best way he can considering he is writing in the 1st Century A.D.. And we will notice him faithfully recording what he is shown even though it is utterly impossible to happen that way 2,000 years ago. His faith in God's ability to make all things happen exactly as he said it would happen is why God chose him to document the closing chapter of history! The trumpet of John's day alerted the recipient of a call to action, or to take special notice or pay special attention to something. (Paul also when he writes, "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. (1 Thessalonians 4:16-17))

So here the voice (Jesus, the Holy Spirit? Both? All Three?) trumps the proclamation, "Come up here, and I will show you what (is going to happen next)."

Revelation 4:2-6 (The throne and surroundings): Please note that God the Father's glory and brilliance is being described in mortal words, using precious commodities and here on earth and as such **CAN NEVER EVER EVEN TOUCH ON DESCRIBE HIS TRUE GLORY!!** We are told that around the throne were seated "24 elders", who have been rewarded, or anointed, with 24 crowns. That is all we are

told about these elders. Most likely because they are 24 faithful and righteous people of God and identifying them by name would most likely lead to people worshipping them as god like humans like to do. Any speculation is just that, speculation. Some have thought that they might be the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 disciples - again, only speculation. (Later on, as for the "12 gates around the city" and "the wall of the city had 12 foundations" we are clearly told that they are the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles respectively Rev. 21:12-14). (25)

Now, from the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder (God is not happy! Like on Mt. Sinai). Again, we have to look at all the rules of unpacking Scripture. In the past we have seen God the Father angry with Israel like on Mt. Sinai and there to were lightning, and thunder and a loud voice from heaven. But we have also seen God the Father sitting on the throne ruling in Grace. And since the Age of Grace had its completion, its fulfillment, with the rapture of believers His countenance has once again turned to anger. Which makes total sense since all the peoples that are left going in to the Tribulation period are Jesus rejecting Jews and Jesus rejecting "every one-else" people.

Around the throne are also the "seven Spirits of God" which is the complete presence of the Holy Spirit*. Before the throne is a "sea of glass, like crystal." * (see ^{Scriptures from Day 1 of this study} Revelation 4:6B-11) These 4 creatures are most likely angels poised to execute God's judgement on the earth AND also 4 heavenly host's who bring forth a glorious chorus of praise in heaven. Notice how they are described: (see printout)