

Ten Proofs the Rapture Takes Place in Rev. Chapter 4 Verse 1

Multiple Passages

GTJ

Greek: meta (G3326) tauta (G5023), after these things (note a, Jn. 5:1). This Greek phrase is used at the beginning and at end of this verse thus: "After these things (after writing the things concerning the churches of Rev. 2--Rev. 3) I looked ... a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice ... said, Come up hither, and I will show thee things which must be after these things," that is, after the churches (Rev. 4:1). This confirms and settles the question as to the time of the fulfillment of all the events of Rev. 4--Rev. 22. They must be after these things of the churches, or after the rapture of the church. The church is no longer on earth when the events of Rev. 4--Rev. 22 take place.

- 1) **Christ said the things of Rev. 4--Rev. 22 "must be hereafter,"** that is, after the churches, as proved above and also in note, Rev. 1:19. If this is true, then the church is raptured before these things of Rev. 4--Rev. 22, and after the things of the churches of Rev. 2--Rev. 3. If the things which are (Rev. 2--Rev. 3) concern the church, then the "things which must be" after "the things which are" must concern events after the churches. The church must be here during the time of the fulfillment of the things concerning the churches, and it must not be here during the fulfillment of the things after the churches. The church then is raptured in Rev. 4:1 between "the things which are" (Rev. 2--Rev. 3) and "the things which must be hereafter," that is, after the churches (Rev. 4--Rev. 22).
- 2) **The word "church" is found 19 times in Rev. 1--Rev. 3 but not once in the third division** of the book which contains "the things which must be" after the churches (Rev. 4:1--Rev. 22:5). The church is found again in the conclusion of the book (Rev. 22:6-21), but only after "the things which must be" are fully revealed.

If the church were on earth during the fulfillment of Rev. 4--Rev. 22 it certainly would be mentioned.

- 3) **The enthroned elders are representative of the raptured saints and they are always seen in heaven after Rev. 4:1.** See note, Rev. 4:4.
- 4) **The 70th week of Daniel will be the last seven years of this age,** during which time all of Rev. 4--Rev. 19; Mt. 24--Mt. 25 will be fulfilled. This week concerns Israel, not the church. Therefore, the church must be raptured before this week. See Rapture and Second Coming.
- 5) **There is no place for the rapture of the church and the Old Testament saints other than in Rev. 4:1.** The man-child and the great tribulation saints are the only ones to be saved and raptured during Daniel's 70th week, and these are distinct groups from the church and the Old Testament saints, as proved in notes on Rev. 4:4. Therefore, the church is either caught up in Rev. 4:1--after the churches of Rev. 2--Rev. 3 and before the events coming after the churches of Rev. 4--Rev. 22--or it is never mentioned in Revelation as to its rapture. If it were to be caught up anytime during this week, it surely would have been mentioned. The church could not be the man-child or the tribulation saints, as proved in notes on Rev. 7; Rev. 12; Rev. 14.
- 6) **In Lk. 21:34-36 we have the promise of Jesus that the saved will be accounted worthy to escape all these things,** and to stand before the Son of Man. The things they will escape are those of Mt. 24:4-26 Lk. 21:4-19 and Rev. 6--Rev. 19.
- 7) **In 1Th. 5:1-11 we have another definite promise assuring us that saints will escape the wrath of God** (of Rev. 6-19). God has not appointed us to this wrath, but to obtain deliverance through Jesus Christ so we can live with Christ (1Th. 5:9-11). How could saints comfort one another (as stated in this scripture and in

1Th. 4:16-17 Tit. 2:13) if the only hope they had was the coming wrath of God in the future tribulation?

- 8) **In 2Th. 2:6-8 it is definitely shown that the rapture takes place before the revelation of the Antichrist and before the 70th week of Daniel.** The events of Rev. 4--Rev. 19 will take place during this week, so the rapture must take place in Rev. 4:1.
- 9) **There is a marked change in God's attitude toward humanity in general,** from that of mercy (Rev. 1--Rev. 3) to that of judgment (Rev. 4--Rev. 19). The seals, trumpets, and vials all picture judgment throughout Daniel's 70th week. If the church does not go through any of these things, as proved already, then the rapture must take place in Rev. 4:1.
- 10) **An individual or a body of individuals can be identified by peculiarities and characteristics.** If the church is to be on earth and is the subject of Rev. 4--Rev. 19 , then its earmarks should be seen. But such are not to be found. On the other hand, earmarks of Israel are seen throughout the book after Rev. 4:1. The earmarks of the church are seen up to this point only. This proves that two different institutions are dealt with in different parts of the book: first, the church until its rapture in Rev. 4:1; second, Israel after the rapture of the church to the second coming of Christ (Rev. 4--Rev. 19).