

I. THE COMMAND

A. These are the things that SHALL be – REV. 1:19

1. “After this” (vs.1) – God is a God of ORDER not chaos
 - a. It is TRUE that His ways are above our ways
 - i. But He is not capricious or random or inconsistent
 - ii. He is KNOWABLE and HOLY and PERSONABLE
 - b. The Muslims serve an unknowable “god”
 - i. Buddhists want to be their own god
 - ii. Hindus cannot keep track of all their gods
 - c. But the God of the Bible is a SANE, REASONABLE, ORDERLY GOD!
2. This follows this Age of Churches
 - a. There is NO replacement of the Jewish people with “the church”
 - b. Because I’m saved does not mean there’s a plot of land in Israel
 - c. God dealt with His people in the Old Testament
 - i. Abraham believed GOD and it was accounted...
 - ii. GEN. 22:17 – “That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;”
 - iii. ROM 1:16 – “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.”
 - d. And He will deal with His people again in the Tribulation!
3. From Chapter 4 onward – these things have NOT happened yet!
 - a. When people talk about “blood moons” – don’t listen
 - b. When people talk about “mark of the beast” – don’t listen
 - c. NONE of these things have yet happened – BUT WILL!
 - d. As an aside:
 - i. Mark will be a pledge of allegiance to a world leader)
 - ii. It can’t be “hidden” in a vaccine
 - iii. But not allowed into stores without a “passport”?
 - iv. Wonder where they got THAT idea?

B. “Come up hither” – Picture of the Rapture of the Saints – 1 THESS. 4:13-18

1. There’s that BEAUTIFUL word “asleep” – the saints who are passed
 - a. There’s no call for Christians to act as though we have no hope
 - i. Much cause for the LOST to have no hope – 1 THESS. 4:13
 - ii. Jesus died and rose again – SO WILL THE SAVED!!!
 - iii. This IS the blessed hope!
 - b. Those asleep in Christ are already with Him (see the order)
 - i. Will not “prevent” meaning “be before” or “at same time”

- ii. He will bring them – 1 THESS. 4:14-15
 - iii. We will JOIN them IN THE CLOUDS – (vs.17) Not on Earth!
 - c. And after that, it doesn't matter WHERE we go (vs. 18)
 - 2. Notice the ORDER of the events in 1 THESS. 4:13-18
 - a. The Lord initiates it ("The Lord Himself"
 - b. There's a shout from God – a COMMAND
 - c. There's a trumpet
 - d. The saints go UP!
 - 3. Now compare to REV. 4:1
 - a. God opens the door, there's a commanding voice, and a trumpet
 - i. And John goes UP!
 - ii. This is at LEAST a picture of the Rapture
 - b. But it is important to remember that God CREATED TIME
 - i. He didn't have to play act. He doesn't have to show a film
 - ii. This isn't a "story board" of God's plan
 - c. John was WATCHING events unfold!
- C. John was in the spirit. Paul also had an experience like this – 2 COR. 12:1-4
- 1. Third heaven – not in outer space
 - 2. Saw the glories of heaven and things not lawful to utter
 - 3. REV. 10:4 – "And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write: and I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Seal up those things which the seven thunders uttered, and write them not."

II. THE THRONE

- A. One sat upon the throne
 - 1. We are NOT to be on the throne of our lives (only ONE can sit there)
 - a. Can you imagine someone off the street into Buckingham Palace?
 - b. And trying to push Queen Elizabeth off her throne?
 - c. And that's an earthly monarch. Why do we try this with God?
 - 2. ISA. 6:1 – "In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple."
 - 3. In Isaiah too are the descriptions of the Beasts – ISA. 6:3 – "And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory."
- B. Listen to the description of this throne
 - 1. A Jasper (crystal – clean beauty) – speaks of the GLORY of God
 - 2. A Sardine (blood red) – JUSTICE of God and the Blood of Christ
 - 3. A RAINBOW stone (many colors) – God's MERCY (after the flood)
 - a. The earthly rainbow is a half-circle that reminds of the past
 - b. This HEAVENLY rainbow is a full circle that tells of ETERNITY
 - c. It is related to an emerald – which means LIFE (naturally)
 - d. After all, He is the way, the Truth, and the LIFE!

- C. It is a throne that is set for Judgment
 - 1. Lightnings and thunder – REV. 4:5a
 - a. Think about Paul in the Third Heaven
 - b. In our world, lightning and thunder happen in the 2nd Heaven
 - c. This tells us of the perpetual PEACE in God’s Heaven
 - 2. But JUDGMENT and TRIBULATION on Earth
 - 3. We will be judged, His judgement is by truth, and His WORD is TRUTH!

III. THE ELDERS

- A. Twenty-four seats around the Throne of God
 - 1. 12 to represent the OT with 12 tribes of Israel
 - 2. 12 to represent the NT with the 12 Apostles
- B. Representing the REDEEMED priesthood of all believers
 - 1. There are those that believe that the OT saints were saved by Law
 - 2. Not at all, they looked forward to the Cross
 - 3. We look back to the Cross
 - 4. But it has ALWAYS been the Cross and the Blood of Jesus that Saves!
- C. They were given white raiment which represents RIGHTEOUSNESS
 - 1. Not their own but the IMPUTED righteousness of JESUS
 - 2. They were given the victor’s crown
 - 3. 1 COR. 9:25 – “And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible.”

IV. THE BEASTS

- A. Each represents Christ in 4 aspects of His person
 - 1. The EAGLE – He is SOVEREIGN
 - 2. The MAN – He became as a MAN
 - 3. The CALF – HE was a SACRIFICE
 - 4. The LION – He is KING!
- B. These beasts are singular in their purpose
 - 1. They do not rest in their praise of God – REV. 4:8
 - 2. The Holiness of God PROMPTS them to cry out in worship!
- C. WE must also be singular in our purpose – WORSHIP God!
 - 1. Has the GOODNESS of God? The Holiness of God ever affected you?
 - 2. Has the GREATNESS of God ever prompted you to CRY OUT in Worship?
 - 3. Ponder the scene, consider our God!
 - 4. Christians must worship Him!
 - 5. HEB. 13:15 – “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

V. THE WORSHIP

- A. All the redeemed will worship
 - 1. All the redeemed creatures (vs.9)
 - 2. All the redeemed saints (vs.10)
 - 3. And that includes all of us!
- B. God is recognized and worshipped for His Glory and His Attributes:
 - 1. Omnipotent!
 - 2. Omniscient!
 - 3. Omnipresent!
 - 4. Sovereign!
- C. One question remains – Will YOU be there?