

THE REVELATION

a study of the book of Daniel + Revelation

Fall 2014

Session 4:

Revelation 2 & 3 | Church Age

Revelation 4 & 5 | Heaven

a survey of the book of Daniel +
a ten week study of the book of Revelation



Resources

- Holy Bible – NASB, ESV
- The End, Mark Hitchcock
- Bible Knowledge Commentary, Walvoord & Zuck
- Charts and other reference material taken from Dr. Charles Ryrie, Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum and Harold W. Hoehner

Outline of Revelation

“things which you have seen”

Vision of the Glorified Son of Man

Rev. 1

“the things which are”

Message to the seven churches

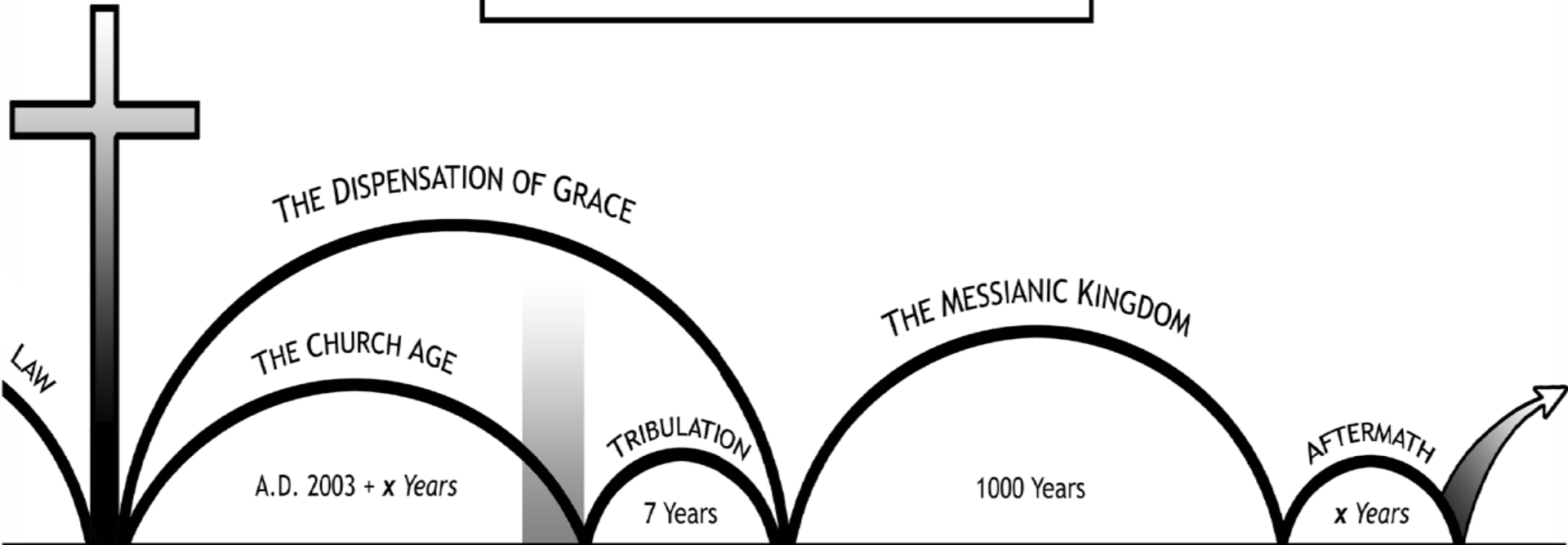
Rev. 2&3

“things taking place after these things”

The future events of.....

Rev. 4-22

Chronology of Eschatology



“The things which are”

Revelation 2-3

The message to the seven churches.

The Things Which Are!

The seven churches Are!

- Ephesus (Rev. 2:1-7)
- Smyrna (Rev. 2:8-11)
- Pergamum (Rev. 2:12-17)
- Thyatira (Rev. 2:18-29)
- Sardis (Rev. 3:1-6)
- Philadelphia (Rev. 3:7-13)
- Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22)

The Things Which Are!

- These seven churches are seven literal local churches of that day in Asia Minor.
- Churches of each type that have existed in every era of church history.

This is the **VISIBLE** church.

Copyright Ted Larson 2004



The Seven Churches

- Churches 1 & 7 are in grave danger
- Churches 2 & 6 are in excellent shape
- Churches 3, 4 and 5 are neither good or bad

The Seven Letters

Basic Outline

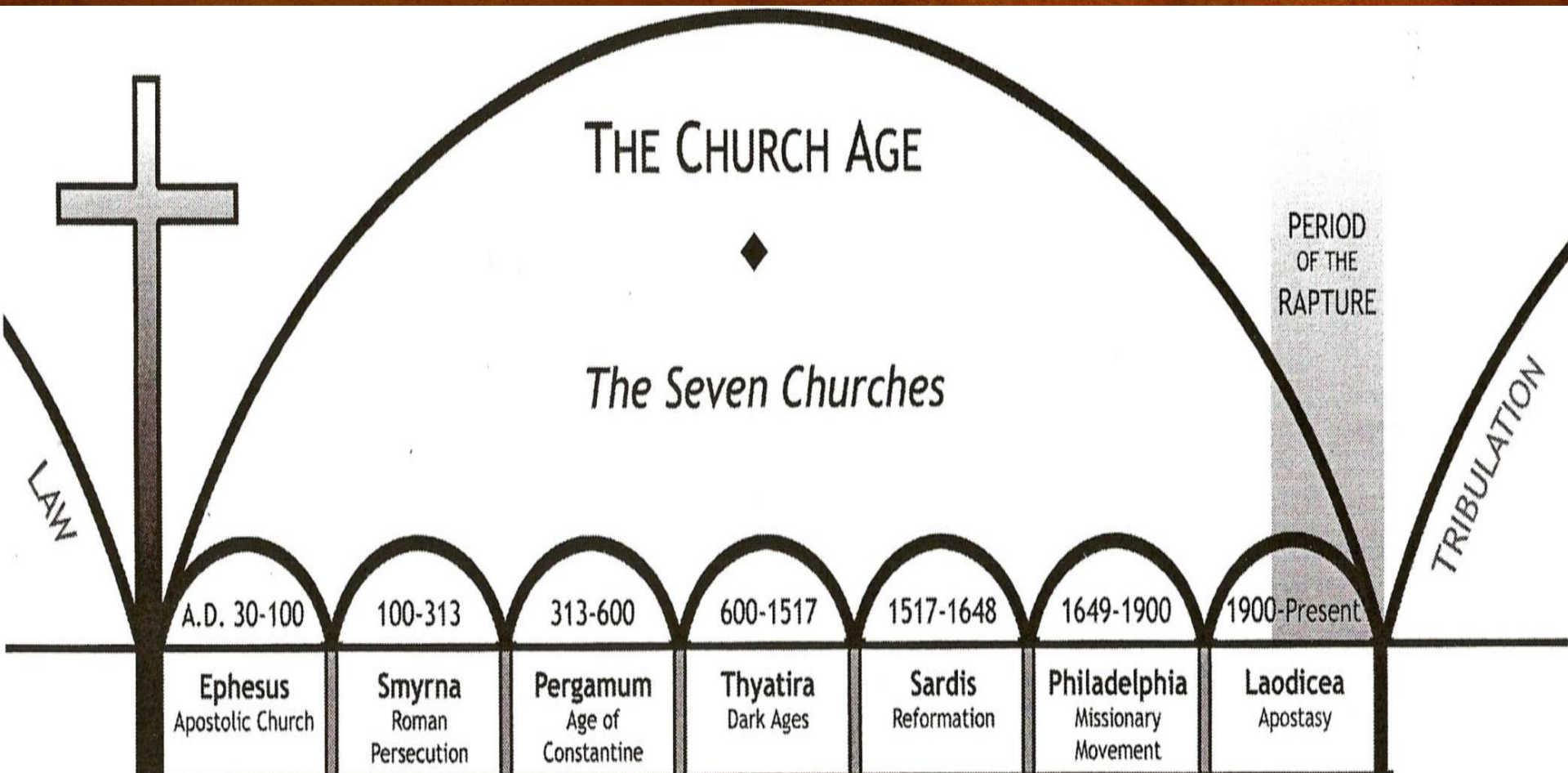
- City / Church
- Commendation
- Rebuke
- Exhortation
- Promise

Application Point

- Each letter is applicable today
- Local churches may find themselves in similar situations

An Interesting Parallel

- Parallel between these seven local churches and successive era of history from the first century to the twenty first (one type dominates an era).
- Their order is “prophetically interesting” though there is no statement in the text that God intended them to be prophetic in this sense.



The Prophetic History of the Church in Revelation 2 and 3				
DESIRED	2:1-7	Ephesus	Apostolic Era	ca. A.D. 33-64
MYRRH	2:8-11	Smyrna	Period of Persecution	ca. A.D. 64-313
THOROUGHLY MARRIED	2:12-17	Pergamum	Era of Official Patronage	ca. A.D. 313-606
CONTINUAL SACRIFICE	2:18-29	Thyatira	Middle Ages	ca. A.D. 606-1520
THOSE ESCAPING	3:1-6	Sardis	Protestant Reformation	ca. A.D. 1520-1750
BROTHERLY LOVE	3:7-13	Philadelphia	Missionary Era	ca. A.D. 1750-1900
PEOPLE RULING	3:14-22	Laodicea	Modern Period	ca. A.D. 1900-???

7 Churches of the Apocolypse	Commendation	Rebuke	Exhortation	Promise
Ephesus (2:1-7)	Rejects evil, perseveres, has patience	Love for Christ no longer fervent	Do the works you did at first	The tree of life
Smyrna (2:8-11)	Gracefully bears suffering	None	Be faithful until death	The crown of life
Pergamum (2:12-17)	Keeps the faith of Christ	Tolerated immorality, idolatry, & heresies	Repent	Hidden manna & a stone with a new name
Thyatira (2:18-29)	Love, service, faith, patience are greater than at first	Tolerates cult of idolatry and immorality	Judgment coming; keep the faith	Rule over nations and receive morning star
Sardis (3:1-6)	Some have kept the faith	A dead church	Repent; strengthen what remains	Faithful honored & clothed in white
Philadelphia (3:7-13)	Perseveres in the faith, keeps the word of Christ, honors His name	None	Keep the faith	A place in God's presence, a new name, & the New Jerusalem
Laodicea (3:14-22)	None	Indifferent	Be zealous and repent	Share Christ's throne

The Church at Thyatira

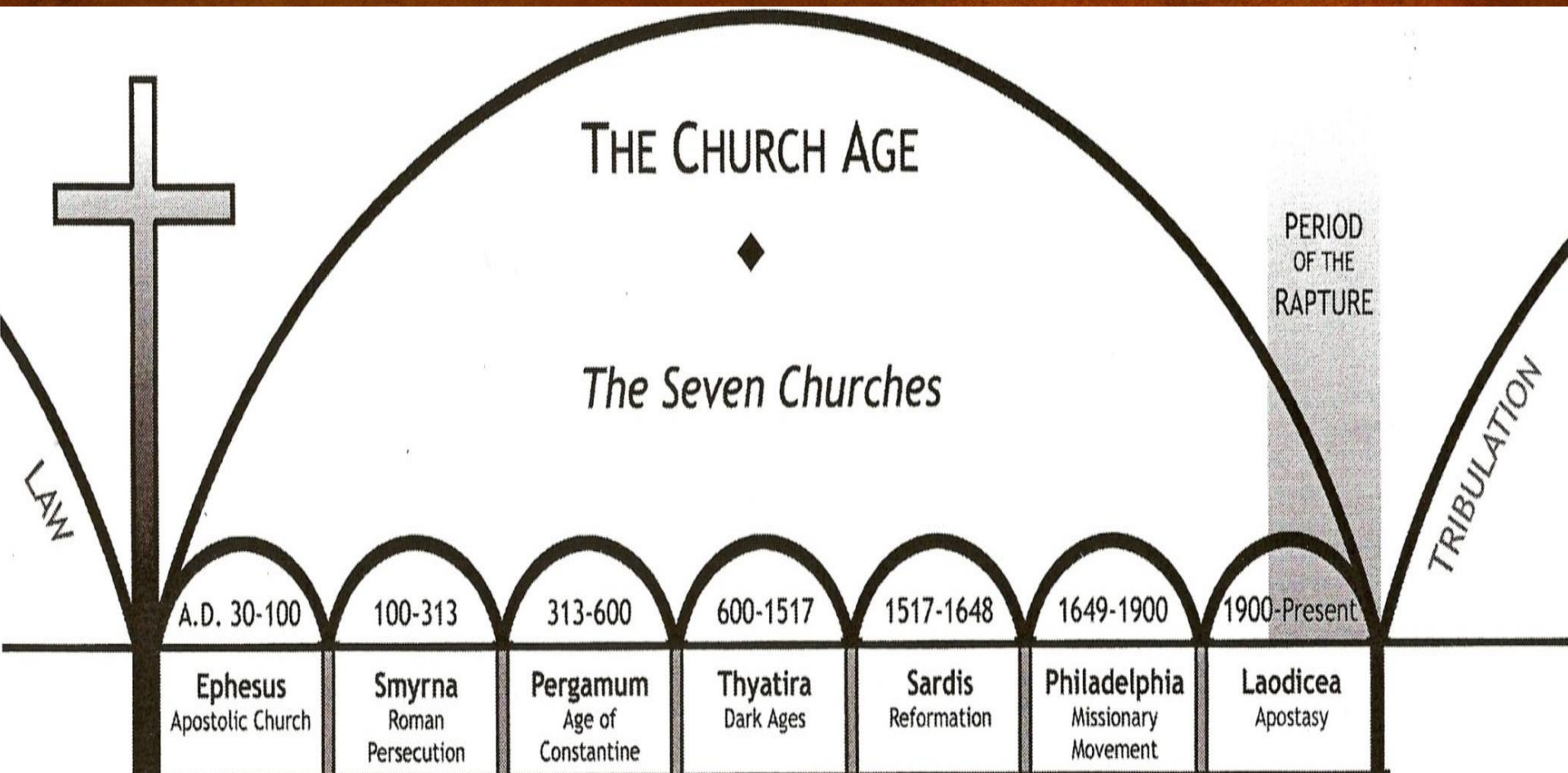
- Name means “*continual sacrifice*”
- Commended for their good works
- Reprimanded for toleration of a woman named Jezebel
- Encouraged to return to the truth which is the objective standard of the Word of God.
- Promise is a place in the Eternal Order

The Church at Sardis

- Name means “*those escaping*”
- Commended for those that have kept the faith
- Reprimanded for being a dead church
- Encouraged to repent – Strengthen what remains
- Promise – The faithful will be honored and clothed in white
- Book of Life ?

The Church at Philadelphia

- Name means “*brotherly love*”
- Commended for using the “open door” provided by Jesus to advance the gospel
- Reprimand – None
- Encouraged to keep on doing the things they had been to this point
- Promised to be kept from the hour of testing coming on the world (3:10)



Outline of Revelation

“things which you have seen”

Vision of the Glorified Son of Man

Rev. 1

“the things which are”

Message to the seven churches

Rev. 2&3

“things taking place after these things”

The future events of.....

Rev. 4-22

“Things taking place after these things”

Revelation 4-5

Chapter 4 - Focus on God the Father, the Creator who hands over the Seven-Sealed Scroll

Chapter 5 – Emphasizes God the Son, the Redeemer who receives and opens the scroll

Revelation 4-5

Purpose:

To prepare the reader for the outpouring of judgment of earth.

- The PLACE from which the judgment comes
- The PERSON from whom it comes

Revelation Chapter 4

Events in Heaven Prior to the Tribulation

A. The Throne of God

1. The Throne
2. The Throng
3. The Theme

Throne

After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound* of a trumpet speaking with me, said, “Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.” ² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a **throne** was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the **throne**. ³ And He who was sitting *was* like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the **throne**, like an emerald in appearance.

Revelation 4:1-3 (NASB)

Throng

Around the **throne** were twenty-four **thrones**; and upon the **thrones** / saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white garments, and golden crowns on their heads. ⁵ Out from the **throne** come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the **throne**, which are the seven Spirits of God...

Revelation 4:4-5 (NASB)

Throng

...and before the **throne** *there was something* like a sea of glass, like crystal; and in the center and around the **throne**, four living creatures full of eyes in front and behind. ⁷ The first creature *was* like a lion, and the second creature like a calf, and the third creature had a face like that of a man, and the fourth creature *was* like a flying eagle. ⁸ And the four living creatures, each one of them having six wings, are full of eyes around and within; and day and night they do not cease to say...

Revelation 4:6-8 (NASB)

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY
is THE LORD GOD
THE ALMIGHTY
who was and
who is and
who is to come.”

Theme

And when the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the **throne**, to Him who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders will fall down before Him who sits on the **throne**, and will worship Him who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the **throne**, saying,¹¹ “Worthy are You, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for You created all things, and because of Your will they existed, and were created.”

Revelation 4:9-11 (NASB)

Themes of Revelation 4

- Holiness of God, (v.8, “Holy, Holy, Holy”)
- Eternality of God, (v.9-10, “forever & ever”)
- Creator of all things, (v.11)
- Power and Authority, (“throne” 17 times in 4-5)

SOVEREIGNTY- “God Reigns”

Revelation Chapter 5

Events in Heaven Prior to Tribulation

B. The Book in Heaven

1. The Book
2. The Search
3. The Savior – Sovereign
4. The Song

The Book

I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals.

Revelation 5:1 (NASB)

The Search

And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, “Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?” ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it.

Revelation 5:2-3 (NASB)

The Search

Then I *began* to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; ⁵ and one of the elders said to me, “Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.”

Revelation 5:4-5 (NASB)

Savior – Sovereign

And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Revelation 5:6-7 (NASB)

OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCES

*EZEKIEL 2

*DANIEL 12

The New Song

When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood *men* from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.

Revelation 5:8-9 (NASB)

The Song

“You have made them *to be* a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.” ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.”

Revelation 5:10-12 (NASB)

The Song

And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, “To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, *be* blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.” ¹⁴ And the four living creatures kept saying, “Amen.” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

Revelation 5:13-14 (NASB)

The Rapture Event



Throne

After these things I looked, and behold, *a door standing open in heaven*, and the first voice which I had heard, like *the sound of a trumpet* speaking with me, said, “*Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after these things.*” ² Immediately *I was in the Spirit*; and behold, a throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. ³ And He who was sitting *was* like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.

Revelation 4:1-3 (NASB)

Rapture Timing – Before the Tribulation

Argument of Silence

- The Church is never mentioned from Revelation 4 to 19.
- The Church, as such, is never mentioned in any passage dealing with the Tribulation.

The Rapture Event

Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ If I go and prepare a place for you, *I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also.*

John 14:1-3 (NASB)

The Rapture Event

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NASB)

The Rapture Event

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NASB)

The Rapture Event

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NASB)

The Rapture Event

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord in the air**, and so we shall always be with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (NASB)

The Rapture Event

*AMOS 5:18-20

*1 THESSALONIANS 5:4-9

The Rapture Event

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, *that is* Jesus, **who rescues us from the wrath to come.**

1 Thessalonians 1:9-10 (NASB)

The Rapture Event

Because you have kept the word of My perseverance,
I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour
which is about to come upon the whole world, to test
those who dwell on the earth.

Revelation 3:10 (NASB)

Next Week Assignment

- Revelation 6-7
- The seal judgments and the interlude

THE REVELATION

a study of the book of Daniel + Revelation

a survey of the book of Daniel +
a ten week study of the book of Revelation



Eschatology of the Invisible Church

Judgment Seat of the Messiah

- After the Rapture – in Heaven
- Jesus Christ judges – all believers since Pentecost
- What is judged – all works done since salvation
- Result – Rewards or loss of rewards

Judgment Seat of the Messiah

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

2 Corinthians 5:10 (NASB)

Judgment Seat of the Messiah

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. **But each man must be careful how he builds on it.** ¹¹ For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 3:10-11 (NASB)

Judgment Seat of the Messiah

Now if any man builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work.

1 Corinthians 3:12-13 (NASB)

Judgment Seat of the Messiah

If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3:14-15 (NASB)

Judgment Seat of the Messiah

Bottom line is the judgment of our works will have enduring consequences for the Millennium.

Rewards

Crowns – (Gk. – Stephanos) a crown for an overcomer, a victor, one who has won a race.

There are five types of crowns available to believers. They are received at the Judgment Seat of Christ.

Five Types of Crowns

Incorruptible Crown – 1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Self Control – Victory in Spiritual Life

Crown of Rejoicing – 1 Thessalonians 2:19

Wins Souls for the Lord

Crown of Righteousness – 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Keeping Faith in Adverse Circumstances

Crown of Life – James 1:12

Martyrs / Trials

Crown of Glory – 1 Peter 5:2-4

Feeding the Flock of God

