**The Book of Revelation:**

**Chapter 4: The Raptured Church**

**June 17, 2017**

Revelation 4:1-3 (NKJV)

1 After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.”

2Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. 3And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

**The stones of the Breastplate.**

* The jasper is the last one mentioned. It is the last one mentioned in the Breastplate (Ex. 28:20). The jasper is mentioned last – perhaps as a way of saying that God knows the end from the beginning.
* The sardius is the first one mentioned in the Breastplate (Ex. 28:17).

**The stones of the Satan’s body.**

Ezekiel 28:13 (NKJV) – 11Moreover the word of the Lord came to me, saying, 12“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God:

“You *were* the seal of perfection,

Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;

Every precious stone *was* your covering:

The **sardius**, topaz, and diamond,

Beryl, onyx, and **jasper**,

Sapphire, turquoise, and **emerald** with gold.

The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes

Was prepared for you on the day you were created.

14 “You *were* the anointed cherub who covers;

I established you;

You were on the holy mountain of God;

You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones.

15 You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created,

Till iniquity was found in you.

**In the Ezekiel list**, the sardius is first, and the **jasper** is the **sixth**. **Six is the number of man**. **Jesus is the Son of Man.**

Revelation 13:18 (NKJV) – Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man: His number *is* 666.

* The emerald is the 3rd stone mentioned (Ex. 28:17) – a possible reference to the Trinity.

Genesis 9:15-16 (NKJV) 15and I will remember My covenant which *is* between Me and you and every living creature of all flesh; the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. 16The rainbow shall be in the cloud, and I will look on it to remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that *is* on the earth.”

**Is a Pre-Tribulation Rapture in Revelation 4:1?**

Revelation 4:1 (NKJV) – 1 **After these things…”** “After what?”

After the church age.

After 7 letters to the church. The word "church" (or "churches") appears 19 times in chapters 1 - 3. 1:4, 11, 20 (twice); 2:1, 7, 8, 11, 12, 17, 18, 23, 29; 3:1, 6, 7, 13, 14, and 22.

(The word church does not appear again until Revelation 22:16.)

"He who has an ear, let him hear" has been a familiar statement in Revelation so far. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22 the statement is “He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”

1. A door opens and John goes through this door into heaven.

Does the same door open for the church to return to the earth?

Revelation 19:11 (NKJV) – Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war.

**2. The voice John hears sounds like a trumpet.**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 (NKJV)

13But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. 14For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

15For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16For 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. 17Then 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. 18Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Caught up (1 Thess. 4:17 & 2 Cor. 12:2 & 4) – harpazo (har-pad’-zo)

It means to seize or carry off by force. It means to eagerly claim something for yourself. It means to snatch out or away. (In Latin Vulgate, the Latin word used for harpazo or for aught up was *raptura*.)

**3. The voice tells John "Come up here."**

* Revelation 22:20 – Even so, come, Lord Jesus!
* Matthew 6:10 – Your kingdom come. Your will be done. On earth as *it is* in heaven.

**Let’s compare the RAPTURE with the 2nd COMING.**

### A. RAPTURE is an imminent event, not entirely detectible.

Matthew 24:42-44 (NKJV) – 42Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming. 43But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. 44Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

**2nd COMING is not imminent. It follows many signs**.

**1 Anti-Christ must be revealed before 2nd COMING.**

2 Thessalonians 2:6-8 (NKJV) – 6And now you know what is restraining, that he may be revealed in his own time. 7For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains *will do so* until He is taken out of the way. 8And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

**2 Roman Empire will be revived before 2nd COMING.** (Dan. 2:33-34 & Rev. 13:1).

Daniel 2:33-34 (NKJV) – 33its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. 34You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces.

**3 A 7-year Treaty (between the antichrist and many nations including Israel) occurs before 2nd COMING.** The antichrist breaks it in the middle.

Daniel 9:24, 27 (NKJV) –

24 “Seventy weeks are determined

For your people and for your holy city, …

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;

But in the middle of the week

He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering.

And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate,

Even until the consummation, which is determined,

Is poured out on the desolate.”

**4 Temple will be rebuilt before 2nd COMING** (Dan. 9:27).

**5 War of Ezekiel 38 & 39 occurs before 2nd COMING.**

1. **All the judgments of the Book of Revelation occur before 2nd COMING.**

**7 World-wide apostasy will occurs before 2nd COMING.**

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4 (NKJV) – 3Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, 4who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.

### B. The RAPTURE is a miss-able event.

Luke 17:34-36 (NKJV) – 34I tell you, in that night there will be two *men* in one bed: the one will be taken and the other will be left. 35Two *women* will be grinding together: the one will be taken and the other left. 36Two *men* will be in the field: the one will be taken and the other left.”

**2nd COMING is not miss-able.**

Revelation 1:7 (NKJV) – Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

**C. With the RAPTURE, He comes in the clouds.**

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NKJV) – Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.

With 2nd COMING, He comes to the earth.

Zechariah 14:4 (NKJV) –

And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives,

Which faces Jerusalem on the east.

And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two,

From east to west,

*Making* a very large valley;

Half of the mountain shall move toward the north

And half of it toward the south.

**D. In the RAPTURE, all true believers go.**

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3 (NKJV) – 1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you, 2not to be soon shaken in mind or troubled, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as if from us, as though the day of Christ had come. 3Let no one deceive you by any means; for *that Day will not come* unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition.

At 2nd COMING believers and unbelievers are separated.

Matthew 25:31-33 (NKJV) – 31“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. 32All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. 33And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.

**Is the rapture on Yom Teruah (Rosh Hashanah)?**

* Passover – Yeshua’s crucified on the day. (Lev 23:4-8; Mk. 14:12)
* First Fruits – Yeshua’s resurrection on the day. (Lev. 23:9-14; 1 Cor. 15:20, 23)
* Shavuot (Pentecost) – Yeshua’s gift of the Spirit. (Lev. 23:15-22; Act 2:1)
* Yom Teruah – The next Feast day. (Lev 23:23-25; 1 Thes. 4:13-18)

Leviticus 23:23-25 (NKJV) – 23Then the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, 24“Speak to the children of Israel, saying: ‘In the seventh month, on the first *day* of the month, you shall have a sabbath-*rest,* a memorial of blowing of trumpets, a holy convocation. 25You shall do no customary work *on it;* and you shall offer an offering made by fire to the Lord.’”

**Yom Teruah only includes 3 directions:**

* Celebrated with trumpets. (Paul said, “The trumpet will sound.”)
* A sacred assembly (Imagine a sacred assembly where we are all caught up together.)
* An offering (which represents the offerer).

**What about the phrase, “No man knows the day”?**

Matthew 24:36 (TLV) – But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven nor the Son, except the Father alone.

**New moon. – Unlike the full moon, the new moon is miss-able.**

**“But of” (TLV) or “about” (NIV) is Περὶ Peri** (as in perimeter)

**Some options?:**

1. Is there more than 1 rapture? We’ve already had 2:

* Enoch – Genesis 5:24
* Elijah – 2 Kings 2:11

2. A Rosh Hashanah rapture does not eliminate any other option: Pre-, Mid-, Pre-Wrath, or Post-Trip.

3. Or, perhaps Yom Teruah is only supposed to look like it?