

Come Up Hither (Message #12)

Revelation 4:1

We have spent several weeks looking at the seven churches. I was challenged by their personal application. It is important to remember that they also represent the church age in a prophetic timeline. We have come to the end of the church age and are preparing to take a journey into the future to see things yet to come.

I have read only one verse tonight because of its importance. This verse is key to understanding the rest of Revelation. If we fail to interpret this verse properly, our focus throughout the rest of the book will be misguided. I want to take our time and carefully uncover the truths revealed in this verse as we consider the thought: [Come Up Hither](#).

I. The Significance Involved (4:1) – [After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter](#). There are two aspects that hold significance.

A. It Reveals the Time – Remember the key verse in [1:19](#) - [Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter](#). Tonight we stand on the threshold of things hereafter. All that we will study from here on out is yet to be fulfilled.

- This verse begins with [After this](#). This refers to the end of the church age, the things which are. The verse ends with the word [hereafter](#). In the Greek text these two words are the same, “meta tauta”, clearly revealing the beginning of things to come.
- As we move through the images of our future, we will find the saints of God around His throne, [chps.4&5](#), and the coming judgment in Tribulation, [chps.6-19](#). It is here that the church makes its transition from earth to heaven.
- After [3:22](#), the church isn't mentioned here on the earth. Jesus could step out at any moment and call the church out. What a day that will be. We could be experiencing the hereafter before we leave this building tonight!

B. It Reveals a Type – John was taken up into heaven. He becomes a type of the church in this verse. He pictures what will happen to those who are saved when Jesus returns for the church.

- The Bible is filled with types: Adam, Isaac, Joseph, Joshua, and the Tabernacle picture Christ; wind, fire, water, dew, and Abraham's servant picture the Holy Spirit. John is a picture of those who have trusted Christ as their Savior; he is representative of the redeemed. Just as he heard the words [Come up hither](#), so shall we!

I. The Significance Involved (4:1)

II. The Symbols Involved – Just as John stands as a type of the redeemed, there are also symbols in Revelation. Jesus is described as a Lamb slain and the Lion of Judah. The redeemed are seen in the twenty four elders, OT and NT saints. Satan is described as the dragon, the Antichrist as the beast.

- There are many symbols in Revelation. They do not undermine God's plan or purpose, nor take away from its authority and certainty. All of this will come to pass in literal events. Symbols were likely used so that people of all generations could understand. These events haven't happened yet; so how could John have described what he saw to people of his day without symbols. This verse reveals two symbols that are worth a look:

A. A Door – [After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven](#): He saw a door opened in heaven. The phrase literally means "standing open." This is the 3rd door Revelation has revealed to us. Consider:

1. A Door of Obligation (3:8) – [I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name](#). Jesus had placed an open door unto the church in Philadelphia. This was a door of service unto the Lord.

- He will open doors for those who desire to serve Him. We realize these are not literal wooden doors, but we understand the text. I pray that Jesus will continue to open doors for us and that we never fail to pursue every opportunity.

2. A Door of Salvation (3:20) – [Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me](#). Jesus knocked upon the door of men's hearts in Laodicea. He wanted them to open their hearts to receive salvation.

- He is standing at the door of men's hearts today. All who are saved must come through the Door of Jesus Christ. [Jn.10:9 - I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture](#).

- Man is never saved by any other means. Jesus isn't a good way to salvation, or even the best way; He is the only way! Salvation isn't secured through the church door, or the door of baptism, good works, or much giving, but in Christ and Christ alone. This Door is open to whosoever will. If you have never entered this Door, you can.
- Just don't wait until it's too late! One day the door will be closed forever. Many wanted in during the flood, but God had sealed the door. Jesus spoke of 5 foolish virgins who weren't prepared when the bridegroom came. When they returned the door was shut. Today is the day of salvation; now is the accepted time. The door will soon close!

3. A Door of Transition (4:1) – Here Jesus speaks of the open door that the redeemed will pass through. I am looking forward to the day that we get to enter that glorious city into the presence of our Savior.

B. A Trumpet (4:1b) – *And the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.* John heard a voice as if a trumpet were talking with him. It wasn't an actual trumpet, but the voice of the Lord as He spoke to John.

- Trumpets were vital to the people of the OT. They were used to 1) call an assembly or move the camp 2) call troops to battle 3) claim a victory 4) announce a warning.
- There is coming a day when we shall hear that same voice as He calls for us. John might well have heard Jesus calling for the church! We are going to assemble together, break camp, and claim the victory when Jesus calls us home! What a glorious time that will be to hear Jesus say, **"Come up hither."** All of life's cares will be left behind!

I. The Significance Involved

II. The Symbols Involved

III. The Separation Involved – *Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.* I believe that it's important to note that John was called up to heaven prior to the Tribulation beginning. If John represents the church, then one can clearly see that the church will miss the horrors of the Tribulation. We shall finally and fully be separated from this sinful world. Let's consider what this separation involves.

A. The Departure of the Church – It is here that the church will be raptured out to glory. This doctrine has been debated by many as to when it will take place, so let's see what the Bible says concerning the rapture of the church. Consider [I Thes.4:16-17](#) – [For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.](#) [I Cor.15:51-53](#) – [Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.](#) Clearly it will be sudden and sure.

- Now, I realize that these verses don't reveal when, but they do prove that it will happen. Let's see what we can find to give credence to the pre-tribulation theory. [I Thes.1:10](#) - [And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.](#) [Titus 2:13](#) - [Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.](#) We have a blessed hope, not a bitter despair.
- Remember [3:10](#), Jesus promised to keep them from the hour of temptation reserved for the "earth dwellers." When the church age concludes, the rapture will take place.
- We have talked about types and there are some biblical types regarding the rapture. God took Enoch before the flood. Lot was delivered before God destroyed Sodom. [II Pet.2:9](#) - [The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished.](#) Peter was talking about Lot in this passage and there is application for the church.
- The pattern and evidence is clear, God will spare the redeemed the Tribulation. The world grows more wicked each day, but we haven't seen anything yet. When the church departs that will usher in:

B. The Despair of the World – With the church gone, God's wrath will begin to be poured out. The saved will be gone, but the unbelievers will be left to endure the Tribulation. [Mat.24:21](#) - [For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.](#) Imagine the chaos that will begin after the rapture.

- Consider the rise of sin and wickedness when the Spirit departs. The Holy Spirit dwells within believers; when the church leaves, so will He. [II Thes.2:7](#) - [For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.](#) There is a spirit of Anti-christ at work today, but it is restrained by the Spirit of God. When the church is taken out, so will the restraint of the Spirit on sin. We can't begin to imagine the horrors that will come upon this earth as all of hell is turned loose and God's wrath is poured out.

I know we've covered a lot of ground this evening and I hope I haven't lost you. The best thing anyone can do is be absolutely sure that they have been saved. I enjoy perfect peace in my Lord. I'm glad I know where I'm headed. I am listening for the call to Come up hither!

If you are saved, you can rejoice in the Lord tonight. If you are lost and Jesus returns before you are saved, a terrible time waits for you. Why not come while there is still opportunity. It isn't too late yet, but it very soon could be!