

Revelation 4: The Throne Room of Heaven

Revelation 4:1–2 | Sunday, February 1 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

Hal is determined tonight to show that Revelation 4, verses 1 and 2, are what a writer would call a plot point — a complete turning point in the message the book presents. To see it he goes back to the command in Revelation 1:19 and takes it apart in the Greek. Eidon, “you have seen,” means to experience something by actually seeing it, so John had to be on the scene as an eyewitness; and since time and space are a creation of God, propelling a man forward in time is no problem for him. Kai, in this context, means even rather than and. Meta touta, after these things, is where the future begins. Chapters 1, 2 and 3 are the things John saw and the age he had entered; at chapter 4 the Church goes extraterrestrial. Verse 2 then gives him euthetos — a word used of rescue at sea, an instant rescue from mortal danger — and the throne of God with the Father seated on it. From there Hal turns to harpazo, the pickpocket’s word, and to what he prefers to call the great snatch.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 1:19 — Write the things which you have seen, even the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things

Revelation 4:1 — A door standing open in heaven, and a voice like a trumpet saying, come up here

Revelation 4:2 — Immediately I was in the spirit, and behold, a throne standing in heaven, and one sitting on it

Ephesians 2:8–9 — By grace we have been saved through faith — the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast

John 11:25–26 — Everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die

John 14:1 — In my Father’s house are many dwelling places; I go to prepare a place for you

2 Corinthians 5 — To be absent from the body is to be face-to-face with the Lord

Matthew 25 — He gathers all ta ethne before him, and divides them as a shepherd divides sheep and goats

KEY TERMS

Eidon — the Greek word behind “the things which you have seen” — to experience something by actually seeing it

Kai — the Greek word that can mean and, or can mean even; in this context, even

Meta touta — “after these things” — the two Greek words that mark where the book turns to the future

Plot point — Hal’s screenplay term for Revelation 4:1–2: the complete turning point in the message of the book

Euthetos — the word translated “immediately” in verse 2 — used of rescue at sea, meaning an instant rescue from mortal danger

Harpazo — the Greek word for being caught up to meet Christ in the air; the word used for pickpockets, meaning to snatch something with stealth

Rapturo — the Latin word from the Latin version of the Bible that gave the event its usual name; Hal prefers “the great snatch”

The Church — in the true biblical sense — not a building, an organization or a denomination, but every believer in Jesus Christ

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What does Hal set out to show about Revelation 4, verses 1 and 2?

2. What does eidon mean, and what does it require of John?

3. How can a first-century man be an eyewitness of the future?

4. What are the two possible meanings of kai, and which one fits here?

5. What are “the things which are,” and where are we in them?

6. Where does the outline divide the book, and what marks the division?

7. What is the Church, in the sense Hal means it here?

8. What does euthetos mean, and why does that excite Hal?

9. Where was John, why had Rome sent him there, and what happened after he arrived?

10. What is the first thing John sees when he arrives?

11. Where do the words “rapture” and harpazo come from, and what does each say about the event?

12. What is strange about John 11:26, and what does Hal conclude from it?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal says the key to the whole book is that John was actually there to see it. What difference does that make to how you read the chapters ahead?

2. “God doesn’t care about your brand.” Where has denominational identity helped you, and where has it got in the way?

3. Euthetos is the word for a rescue at sea — an instant rescue from mortal danger. What does it change to think of this event as a rescue rather than an escape?

4. John was sent to Patmos to be forgotten, and within weeks the worst criminals there were believers. Where have you seen God use a place nobody would choose?

5. Hal describes his friend Walter Martin arguing the opposite position, and the two of them going to dinner afterwards. What would it take for your group to disagree that well?

6. If some generation of believers will be alive and never die, what would you want to be found doing?

MEMORY VERSE

“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 saying, come up here.”

— Revelation 4:1, as Hal reads it in this message