



God's Revelation of the Future

Subsequent Events (Events following the Rapture)

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The Rapture: Subsequent Events

- What happens to the Church between the Rapture and the Return of Christ?
 - **Judgment of the Church** – This is the judgment in which the Church appears before Christ at his “Judgment Seat.”

The Judgment of the Church

- Certainty of this Judgment
 - Three passages that refer to this judgment ...
 - **2 Corinthians 5:9-10** – we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ
 - **Romans 14:10-12** – we will all stand before the judgment seat of God (Christ [KJV])
 - **1 Corinthians 3:5-15** – each one's work will become manifest

The Judgment of the Church

- Basis for this Judgment
 - What will be judged at this judgment?
 - Not the believer's sins
 - But the believer's works

2 Corinthians 5:9-10 - ⁹ So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. ¹⁰ For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or [bad].

The Judgment of the Church

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 - What will be judged at this judgment?
 - Not the believer's sins
 - But the believer's works

1 Corinthians 4:5 - Therefore do not pronounce judgment [on yourself or others] before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive his commendation from God.

The Judgment of the Church

- Reasons for this Judgment
 - Why is there such a judgment?

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 - Such a judgment serves to motivate us.

1 Corinthians 9:25-27 – ²⁵ Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we [do it to receive] an imperishable [wreath].
²⁶ So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. ²⁷ But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

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The Judgment of the Church

- Reasons for this Judgment
 - Why is there such a judgment?
 - Such a judgment demonstrates God's grace.

1 Corinthians 3:10a – According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation.

1 Peter 4:10a – As each has received a gift [a grace], use it to serve one another.

The Judgment of the Church

- Reasons for this Judgment
 - Why is there such a judgment?
 - Such a judgment renders the Church, Christ's bride, spotless!

Ephesians 5:25b-27 – ^{25b} Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

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The Rapture: Subsequent Events

- What happens to the Church between the Rapture and the Return of Christ?
 - **The Marriage of the Lamb** – This is the event that brings the groom, Christ, together with his bride, the Church.

The Marriage of the Lamb

- Christ and the Church
 - Christ and the Church in the future will be joined as bridegroom and bride.

Ephesians 5:27a – [Christ gave himself up for the Church] so that he might present the church to himself.

Ephesians 5:32 – This mystery [regarding the husband-wife relationship] is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

The Marriage of the Lamb

- The Marriage and its Celebration
 - There is both a marriage and a celebration of the marriage.

Revelation 19:7-9 – ⁷ Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb [came], and his Bride [made] herself ready; ⁸ it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. ⁹ And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."

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The Marriage of the Lamb

- The Marriage and its Celebration
 - Nowhere is there a statement that identifies the place or time of the actual marriage event.

The Marriage of the Lamb

- The Marriage and its Celebration

“In this [marriage] connection it seems necessary to distinguish between the marriage of the Lamb and the marriage supper. The marriage of the Lamb is an event that has particular reference to the church and takes place in heaven. The marriage supper is an event that involves Israel and takes place on the earth.”

-- Pentecost, *Things to Come*

The Rapture: Subsequent Events

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- What happens to the Church between the Rapture and the Return of Christ?
 - **The Church around the Throne** – This is the heavenly setting, first seen in **Revelation 4-5**, where the Church worships God and observes what is taking place.

The Church around the Throne

- Revelation 4:1-3

¹ After this I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven! And the first voice, which I had heard speaking to me like a trumpet, said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." ² At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne. ³ And he who sat there had the appearance of jasper and carnelian, and around the throne was a rainbow that had the appearance of an emerald.

The Church around the Throne

- Revelation 4:4a, 6b, 8

^{4a} Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders ... ^{6b} And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures. ... ⁸ And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, who was and is and is to come!"

The Church around the Throne

- Revelation 4:9-11

⁹ And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever, ¹⁰ the twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne, saying, ¹¹ "Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."

The Church around the Throne

- Revelation 5:1

¹ Then I saw in the right hand of him who was seated on the throne a scroll written within and on the back, sealed with seven seals.

The Church around the Throne

- Revelation 5:6a, 7

^{6a} And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain. ... ⁷ And [the Lamb] went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne.

The Church around the Throne

- Revelation 5:8-10

⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each 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 scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

The Church around the Throne

- So then, where is the Church in all of this, if anywhere?

The Church around the Throne

- The 24 Elders Identified
 - **Revelation 4:4b** – Seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

The Church around the Throne

- The 24 Elders Described
 - **Revelation 4:4b** – Seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

The Church around the Throne

- The 24 Elders Worshipping
 - **Revelation 4:10** – The twenty-four elders fall down before him who is seated on the throne and worship him who lives forever and ever. They cast their crowns before the throne.
 - For other mentions of worship, see also **5:8-10, 11-12, 13-14; 7:11; 11:16; 19:4**

The Church around the Throne

- The 24 Elders Rejoicing and Singing
 - **Revelation 5:8-10** – The twenty four elders rejoice (playing harps and singing a new song) when the Lamb takes the scroll.
 - We will sing in heaven! 😊

The Church around the Throne

- The Elders Observing

- **Revelation 5:5-8** – The elders are there where the action is taking place around the throne.
- **Revelation 7:13-14** – The elders are observing “the ones coming out of the great tribulation.”
- **Revelation 11:16-18** – The elders are observing God’s wrath on the nations, his rewarding of his servants, and his “destroying the destroyers of the earth.”
- **Revelation 14:2-3** – The elders listen to a song being sung by “the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth.”