

Revelation Lesson 62 It Ain't Gabriel's Trumpet!

Revelation 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.

Congratulations! We have finally made it to THE RAPTURE! Recall that one of the interpretations concerning the Book of Revelation is that Chapters 2-3 constitute an overview of eras or periods within the present age or Dispensation of the Church Age. Some Bible scholars point to this verse as further proof concerning this. Also within this verse, we notice the statement in regards to a trumpet. We are going to learn about this particular trumpet and see whether or not it's the Last Trumpet and who's trumpet it is and who's it ain't!

After this – Previously in Lesson 21 when we looked at Revelation 1:19 we noted there was a Divine Outline or Division of the Book of Revelation. That verse says: “Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;” So when Jesus said for John to write “**the things which thou hast seen**” John is first told to write what he had ALREADY seen. Many Bible teachers show that what Christ is referring to here is what we have read thus far in Chapter 1. J. Vernon McGee where he said: “Up to this point what had John seen? He had seen the glorified Christ. Let me remind you that this is a Christocentric book. The glorified Christ is the subject. Don't get your eyes on the horsemen or on the bowls of wrath or on the beasts—they are just passing through. Fix your eyes on the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the One who was, who is, and who will be. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And John is to write the vision he has had of Him.” So John is to write about the Lord Jesus Christ. Write about His Glory. Write about His descriptions. Write about Who He is – Our Great High Priest. These were the things which John saw.

Allow me to address a few points about our King James English here: We find the word **thou** used. Many people claim they cannot understand the King James Bible due its' antiquated wording. Yet we learn Shakespeare in High School. We don't change Shakespeare. If we did we would no longer have Shakespeare! So it is with the Bible, if you change it you don't have it anymore! You give me a NIV, MEV or ESV? Well as we say around here: That dog won't hunt!! Now, in Old English, *thou* was governed by a simple rule: *thou* addressed one person, and **ye** more than one. Recall that when Jesus spoke to Nicodemus in John 3:7, our Lord said: “Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.” Therein lies one fallacy of the modern “bible” (per)versions. They translate all the thou's and ye's as **you**. The King James Bible preserves the meaning of the varied singular and plural you's. Thus we KNOW that when Jesus said “Ye must be born again” that He did not JUST mean that for Nicodemus. Again, the Bible serves as Its' own translator and dictionary. But to get access to this one MUST STUDY!! We see here that Jesus is speaking directly to John and as such the thou is John.

The word **hast** is a verb. Let's take a quick look at verb endings here in Shakespearean English. The word *hast* is said to be the archaic second person singular present way of saying “have.” In D. A. Waite's *Defined King James Bible*, he applies the proper rules of English grammar to aid in interpretation. He states: “To understand -est and -st verb endings you drop the -st verb ending to form the modern equivalent.” Well, to a Southerner as myself, I reckon most of us would combine “had” instead of “have” and “seen” and come up with “seed.” All joking aside, what we're seeing here is the Divine Outline for Revelation Chapter 1: “*the things which thou hast seen.*” Then Jesus instructs John to write about “**the things which are**” - Dr. Waite says: “*These things occur in Chapters 2 and 3. These Chapters describe the 7 Churches of Asia Minor or Turkey.*” As we have studied previously, I believe that the Book of Revelation should be rightly divided or interpreted in the Futurist or Futuristic manner. Recall from Lesson 1: I quote Tim LaHaye's *Revelation Revealed*: “The Futurist view, which seems to me to be the most satisfactory, accepts the Book of Revelation as prophecy that primarily is yet to be fulfilled, particularly from chapter 4 on. This was the interpretation of the early church during its most evangelistic history, from the apostles until the 4th century. Today it is the accepted position by most premillennial Bible teachers.” So I echo McGee when he stated: “what are the things that “*are?*” They are the things that pertain to the church, church things. And

here we all are! *Still* here after 2000 years – or so! The matters concerning the church are recorded in chapters 2-3. Now, these churches in Chapters 2 and 3 were actual, physical churches John was commanded (see verse 11) by Jesus to write to. But notice, if then this statement: “*and the things which are*” pertains to the Church age, then you can see why these churches – in a prophetic sense – gives detail about the complete – in John's day – *future* history of the Body of Christ! Waite says: “*I believe they (the 7 churches) are a picture of the whole church age. Each one of those 7 churches is a picture of the history of our churches for the last 2,000 years. We are now in the last stage, the state of the Laodicean apostate church.*”

Then in Revelation 1:19 Christ told John to also write down “**the things which shall be hereafter**” Did you see that? The phrase from Revelation 1:19 is in our text and they almost match! So to myself (and many others) The “*things which shall be hereafter*” refers to those things spoken of in Revelation Chapters 4 – 22. Some ask how do we **know** that this method of interpreting Revelation is right?

Well, let's turn back to our text verse in Revelation 4:1 again. The FIRST words we encounter are: **After this**. After what? If “THIS” then refers to the events of Revelation Chapters 2-3 and those Chapters correspond with the events of our present (as of June 21, 2015 – Father's Day and the First Day of Summer) Church Age then we are seeing that the NEXT Event comes AT THE CLOSING OR ENDING OF THE CHURCH AGE! So What exactly IS this next event?

I looked, - Please note here that this IS PHYSICAL it is not a dream, it is not “just a vision” - he doesn't call it that! John says I looked – I actually saw this with my own two eyes!

and, behold, - If we were there with him, John is saying essentially we could behold it too. If we were there with him on that Lord's Day worshipping with him, we could have looked like he did and SAW this happen. But when we get down “to brass tacks” it is as if John is saying: Now Looky here. See here. PAY ATTENTION! I reckon that's the way we Southerners would say it. I mean Now look here Paul was a Southerner look at Romans 8:18 “For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

a door was opened in heaven: - Now the most common interpretation to this is that this door is none other than Jesus Christ. J. Vernon McGee says: “The open door to heaven is the Lord Jesus Christ. He also is the One who will come to the door of your heart—that is the wonder and glory of it all.” While that sounds good and preaches good (it IS a good application) – I don't think it is the proper interpretation because again this is LITERAL – all this is – we sometimes get into this “over-spiritualization” mode when it comes to the Book of Revelation – it's like we're gonna be super-spiritual and analyze everything we can every word we can to see how spiritual we can make it and that is why – I'm not by any means saying my Brothers like McGee and Waite are kooky – but in many ways this over-spiritualization of Revelation has led to too many kooky ideas about this Book.

Let's look at this for what it is – ummmm – A DOOR. Many use the following verses to say this was just another vision. Look: Ezekiel 1:1 “Now it came to pass in the thirtieth year, in the fourth month, in the fifth day of the month, as I was among the captives by the river of Chebar, that the heavens were opened, and I saw visions of God.” then Matthew 3:16 “And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:” and then see the 2 verses in Acts, in Acts 7:56 “And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” and Acts 10:11 “And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth:”

Again, the commentators are into this “lumping like things with like” but there is a way these are not all alike. Consider the understanding in that Ezekiel 1:1, Matthew 3:16 and Acts 10:11 ARE ALL PLAINLY VISIONS, even during which some hear things. But when you get to Stephen's martyrdom there is where you actually observe something that is REAL . Listen to what Stephen

is telling the lost around him: “And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” See? BEHOLD – If you can see this, look with me – if you can't then listen up! What then did he say? I SEE THE HEAVENS OPENED. This is real, why?

Because of Brother Paul Dabdoub's favourite Bible Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:8 “We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

What this is Beloved is the actual occurrence of the Einstein-Rosen Bridge or what most of us non-physicists call a WORMHOLE. (See Handout) Note there are 3 Heavens described in Scripture – The First Heaven or Firmament – The Sky, The Atmosphere about 500 miles above the surface of the Earth. Then The Second Haven or Firmament – Outer Space and then according to 2 Corinthians 12:2 there is The Third Heaven or the Throne Room of God. So it is that when the believer dies, he or she is absent from the body is present with the Lord – hence Stephen saw this wormhole opening.

In Genesis 7:11 and 8:2 the physical description of how it First Began to rain is seen and described as THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN being opened. Thus that was the water around the Earth's First Heaven from Day 2 in Genesis 1:6-8 “And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. 7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament: and it was so. 8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.” That's where a lot of the water come from besides the fountains of the deep being broken open (those fissures or fault lines seen on the bottom of the Ocean floor).

Thus as the windows of Heaven were opened it literally began to rain. Hence when Stephen said he saw the HEAVENS OPENED. He was able to Physically AND Spiritually SEE through a wormhole and thus THROUGH the first and second Heavens and actually SEE into the third Heaven. So this DOOR is an actual Literal yet invisible opening (most likely) around the top of the FIRST HEAVEN – wouldn't that possibly explain why the Tower of Babel was built – to break open that door? How would they have known about it? From the Demons see - Genesis 11:4 “And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.” Doesn't sound so silly once you see it in a literal sense now does it?

and the first voice which I heard – This phrase connects us back to Chapter 1:13. The first voice John heard was that of “one like unto the Son of man.” This is none other than the Lord Jesus, Himself. As He has detailed His role as Judge of the church in Chapters 2-3, He indicates to John within the next sequence of events to follow that He is the Judge of the world per John 5:22 “For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:”

Let us be careful of the interpretation here. Greene says it right: This statement does not mean that John heard this voice for the first time after he was caught up into Heaven; [rather] it means [this was] the FIRST VOICE he heard look back in Revelation 1:10 “I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,” this Voice is the same One that got His attention earlier. Please remember that “The Lord's Day” John referred to there is NOT the same as “The Day of the Lord” as referenced in the Old Testament. This is due to the fact that the Church worships on Sunday and that is part of the mystery (formerly hidden, but now revealed knowledge) of the Church (Ephesians 5:32), thus The Day of the Lord (this is not an exhaustive list: Isa. 2:12; Zechariah 2:2) was clearly revealed in the Old Testament is the Coming of the Lord to the Earth. Some folks point to: 1 Thessalonians 5:2 “For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night.” and say that the Rapture and the Day of the Lord are one and the same. They are not (See Handout).

J. Vernon McGee said this: "The Lord Jesus does not come to the church like a thief in the night. The church is looking for and waiting for the Lord to come. You don't wait for a thief and look for him and leave a note for him on the back door when you leave your house—"I left the back door open for you, Mr. Thief, and you'll find the family silver in the third drawer to the right in the dining room." I don't imagine you have ever left such a note. The chances are that you check everything before you leave the house, making sure that your home is doubly locked. You want to keep the thief out. So the Lord Jesus does not come as a thief to the church. However, the Lord Jesus does come like a thief to the world *after* the church has been raptured." That's how He is going to hit the world TWICE – When WE THE SAVED are Raptured it was be suddenly without warning to those that are lost. We are to expect the Lord's soon return – at ANY MOMENT! - Sadly most believers don't live like that. Secondly, When He and We arrive in the Second Coming or on The Day of the Lord – the World hasn't gotten the message, thus they think everything's gonna be fine. Those on the world at that time who are saved, will have been following the action plan per the Book of Revelation and the Book of Daniel and will most likely be counting down the days until His Return – again, not a surprise to those WATCHING AND WAITING – in both instances it WILL SURPRISE THE LOST.

was as it were of a trumpet – Again we note that the First Voice WAS as a Trumpet. When we read Revelation 1:10 it seems that John is struck by the blast. The voice is described in Revelation 1:15 "as the sound of many waters." Again as I stated in Lesson 17: This is striking! The sound of many waters!? Wow! Ezekiel the prophet said the same thing in Ezekiel 43:2 "And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory." Oliver B. Greene sums this up nicely: *The grandeur of His mighty voice exceeds the noise of Niagara Falls with all of its thunderous roar.* This is the feeling of the Bible in Psalms 93:4 *The LORD on high is mightier than the noise of many waters, yea, than the mighty waves of the sea.*

I think also there is an application here concerning that water. Jesus spoke in John 4:14 "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life." Imagine this application, that if we are all speaking of the Water of Life, the Gospel, our Lord is speaking through each of these running wells of water by the Holy Ghost. Then again, we have the sound of many waters. It needs to be heard in this dry and dusty land beloved, because one day That voice will boom out again and people we know and love will either hear: "Enter thou the joys of thy Lord" or "Depart, I never knew thee." I pray they may hear Him through us His servants so they may partake of the Water of Life and not be sent to the Lake of Fire burning with His judgment. That is the message to those who can and will hear. That is the message to and through the Churches in Revelation Chapters 2-3. But now the voice reverts back to the Trumpet.

I want to address the Trumpet now. There are some who teach that this scene is not the Rapture. For some who advance this viewpoint claim that the Church will go through HALF of the Tribulation, (Mid-Trib Rapture or Pre-Wrath Rapture) while others teach the Church will go through ALL the Tribulation (Post-Trib. Rapture). (See Handout) Now understand that while Paul is the one who was entrusted to reveal the details of this teaching, it was our Lord Jesus Christ Who revealed it first in John 14:2-3.

Now we look and see what Paul the Apostle revealed in opening our understanding to the mystery of the Doctrine of the Rapture and it is here that we find that this scene in Revelation 4:1 is pointing to JUST that event. First let's look at 1 Corinthians 15. In verses 51-53 Paul says: "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 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. 53 For this corruptible must put on

incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.” So here in 1 Corinthians 15, Paul shows the Mystery of what has been dubbed the Doctrine of the Rapture.

So what exactly IS this Trumpet? Many today say the Trump spoken of here in Revelation 4:1 and 1 Corinthians 15:52 is Gabriel's Trumpet. OR they claim this Trumpet is the Last Trumpet of the 7 angels in Revelation 11:15 “And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever.”

I don't buy either of those interpretations. For example in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 “13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 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: 17 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. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.” Paul clearly teaches that this trumpet that sounds is none other than “the Trump of God” (and no that ain't Republican Presidential Candidate Donald Trump! Hahaha). Note the definite article of “THE” that means there is only ONE.

I submit to you that the Trump of God is a trumpet of assembly. (*Check and see if I have Trumpet Calls at Church*). The word Trump is found only twice in the Bible in 1 Corinthians 15:52 and 1 Thessalonians 4:16. In these instances the Trump is the same Trumpet of God. Now has this Trumpet been seen before? Yes. Turn back to the Book of Exodus.

Exodus 19:13 There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount.

Exodus 19:16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

Exodus 19:19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Exodus 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

This event was referred to by (I think Paul) the writer of the Book of Hebrews in Hebrews 12:19-21 “And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more: 20 (For they could not endure that which was commanded, And if so much as a beast touch the mountain, it shall be stoned, or thrust through with a dart: 21 And so terrible was the sight, that Moses said, I exceedingly fear and quake:)” The reference he made in verses 20-21 is in Exodus 20:19 And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. So that was the first time the Trumpet of GOD – NOT GABRIEL'S TRUMPET was blown. It was thus a Call of Assembly. As such the people of God begged Him not to speak to them any more in that way. God honoured that request and spoke to the people through His Word and in so giving His Word to the Prophets and

Preachers, etc. until at last Christ will issue the final call of assembly with HIS TRUMPET and that will be the Call of Assembly for the Church – the LAST TRUMP.

talking with me; - We again harken back to Revelation Chapter 1. Look at verse 12 “And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;” I want to point out yet again here, that this is PERSONAL. Talking WITH ME. Points to a closeness of the two talking. That is the nature of the relationship between Christ and the Christian – closeness.

which said, Come up hither, - There are some who seek to minimize the impact of these words by saying it's nothing but a call to observe some prophetic action based on the readings of: Revelation 17:1 “And there came one of the seven angels which had the seven vials, and talked with me, saying unto me, **Come hither;** I will shew unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters:” and Revelation 21:9 “And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, **Come hither,** I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife.”

I want to squash that notion once and for all. First we cannot ascribe the same level of “observation” to this verse as is the case in Revelation 17:1 and 21:9. Because here in Revelation 4:1 it is CHRIST that calls John; While in the other 2 references are both from “one of the seven angels which had the seven vials.” Also the wording is different. Our text does not merely say: “Come hither” it says “Come UP hither.” There's a big difference there. It is my thinking and reasoning that some seek to do this to marginalize the Doctrine of the Rapture that is clearly seen here.

The late Evangelist Oliver B. Greene said: “It is true that John does not record the facts concerning the Rapture; but Paul, to whom the mystery of the Church was revealed in full, unfolds to us the events during and immediately following the Rapture.”

I want to show again that John is CALLED UP – that points to the Earth being the Center of the Universe and that when John is called, He is called UP, that is AWAY from, Leaving the Earth, Not on the Earth anymore. He is going THROUGH the door. This is why I cannot side with almost all other Commentators in describing THE DOOR as Jesus. John isn't being SAVED at the Rapture, I got saved, I walked through Jesus Christ the DOOR while I was here on this Earth. So we see that John has become a Time-Traveller – he is leaving the Earth, he's not going through Astral Projection or some other weird Eastern Mysticism Demonic Mumbo-Jumbo. Having said that don't you EVER play around with that junk – if you try to project your being, soul, consciousness, awareness, etc. onto the astral plane, you've left your body wide open for Demonic Possession. A Christian can't be demon-possessed but we can be oppressed and thus we note that those that are lost playing in this devilry and shooting craps with the devil and the dice and loaded in ol slewfoot's favour!

and I will shew thee things – The events coming up in Heaven and on Earth that John will see, hear and experience in Chapters 4-22.

which must be hereafter. - Notice again the Divine Division. These things MUST HAPPEN – hereafter. There is no other way (that I can see) that the Rapture must occur – It happens, the Church is removed and all the things coming up in the Book of Revelation thus occur ONCE WE'RE GONE! Thus the Pre-Tribulational Rapture is part of that way and manner of “rightly dividing the Word of Truth.”