

# The Book of Revelation: Session 9

## Revelation 4:1-2

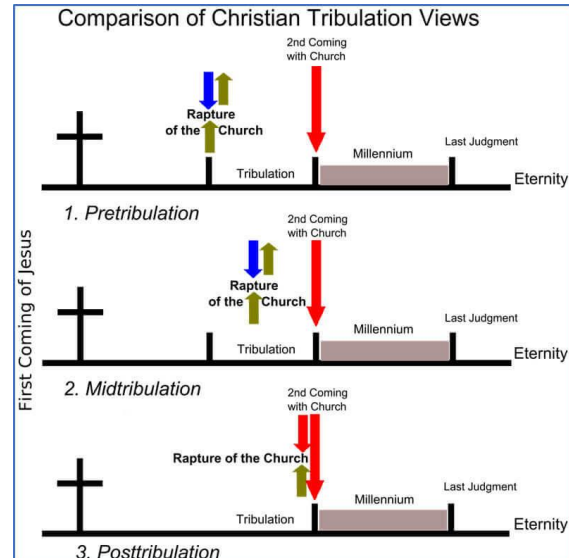
**YouTube:** “Verse by Verse Teaching | Revelation 4:1-2 | Gary Hamrick”  
(taught on July 22, 2020 | 46:38 minutes)

### Notes:

Revelation 1:19 NKJV – “Write the things which you have seen (Rev 1), and the things which are (Rev 2-3), and the things which will take place after this (Rev 4-22).”

“In Revelation 4:1, John is a “type” of the church, raptured prior to the Tribulation period, which begins in chapter 6.”

The Doctrine of the Rapture: A sudden return of Christ to physically “snatch” only the Christians from the earth who are still alive sometime prior to the start of the Great Tribulation, so that Believers will not experience the devastating things that are coming upon the earth.”



1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 – “Caught up” (v. 17, Greek “harpazō” – “to catch, steal, or carry off”)

### Evidence for a Pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church:

1. “Church” is mentioned 19 times in Rev 1-3, then not again until Rev 22:16, after the Tribulation is over.
2. The “door” is “standing open” in Rev 4:1 because the church is going up. The only other time the door is standing open is in Rev 19:11, when Jesus is coming down.
3. The voice of God is “like a trumpet” (4:1), a sound associated with the Rapture of the church in 1 Cor 15:51-52 and 1 Thess 4:14-18.
4. “Come up here” (4:1): God once again says this in Rev 11:12, when He calls up the two witnesses whom He brought back to life.
5. The saints must be in heaven during the Tribulation in order to return with Christ after the Tribulation (Rev 19:14; Jude 14-15; 1 Thess 3:13; 4:14).

## Questions:

1. Read Revelation 4:1. Pastor Gary strongly leans toward a pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church. A few reasons for this are found right here in verse 1, including (1) Jesus words, “Come up here!” and (2) His voice that sounds “like a trumpet.” How strong are these evidences for a pre-Tribulation Rapture of the church? Is there any one bit of evidence that leads you to embrace one view of the timing of the Rapture, or is it a compilation of many things?
  
2. Read Revelation 4:2-6a.
  - a. The One on the throne of heaven is sitting. What does this signify? How does it impact you to know that God always sits on His throne?
  
  - b. There are several other descriptions of God in His throne room in His Word (Psalm 2; Isaiah 6; Ezekiel 1). Read Daniel 7:1-14. What do we learn about God in this passage, and how does this knowledge affect you?
  
3. Read Matthew 25:1-13. In Revelation 4:1, the door to heaven and to God’s throne room is open. Some day, according to this parable, the door into the presence of God will close (v. 10) for humanity. Whatever your view of the timing of the Rapture, the lessons taught by this parable apply to all. What are the lessons Jesus’ is seeking to convey to us? In light of this, what should we do?

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Want to dig deeper? Engage with these sermons by John MacArthur, taught in 1992:

- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-16/a-trip-to-heaven-part-1>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-17/a-trip-to-heaven-part-2>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-18/a-trip-to-heaven-part-3>
- <https://www.gty.org/library/sermons-library/66-19/a-trip-to-heaven-part-4>