

Life after Death Part 8

Revelation Chapters 1-4

Christ Second Coming - the Rapture

The book of Revelation, describes the vision that God revealed to Apostle John about what would take place at the end of times. Let us read and meditate:

“1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: (This is the revelation or the vision of Jesus Christ, that God gave Him to show it to His servants about the things that would take place in the future. Jesus gave His vision to Apostle John to convey this vision to the churches of Christ. This vision is also for us, therefore we need to take seriously its content). 2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. (In this revelation John was informed and he conveyed to everyone through writing; even to us today. John recorded the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus, for John recorded all what he saw and heard in this revelation. In the same way, whatever we receive from the Lord we need to faithfully pass it to others as He direct us of what we need to do). 3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. (He wrote, that those who will read and hear what this prophecy says and will do and keep what it says will be blessed. Therefore as you read and heard the Word of God and do and keep His commands then you will be blessed. The Book of Revelation is a prophetic book that speaks about what will take place in the future at the end times at the return of Christ.) 4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; (John wrote the prophecy and directed it to the seven churches in Asia minor; which according to verse 11 they were at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. John sent his greetings to them, with the grace of God, and the peace of Jesus. In the same way we need to pass to others what Jesus command us to convey to them, and we need to do it precisely and on time. Let us explain further verse 4; “from him which is”, means from God the Father, “and which was”, means the Creator of Heaven and earth: “and which is to come”, means the one who will judge the living and the dead. “and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;” because this revelation John received by the Holy Spirit who brought this vision or revelation to John. When is say, “and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;” that does not mean there are seven Holy Spirit, but that was the way to describe how the revelation shall reach the seven churches in Asia.) 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, (Jesus Christ is the “faithful witness”, based on what He did on earth; Jesus was a great witness of God, for Jesus made us know who God is. “and the first begotten of the dead”, that means Jesus was the firstfruit from the dead by His resurrection. “and the prince of the kings of the earth”; He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords. “Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,” Jesus loved us as He died for us on the cross; and with His blood that He shed on the cross He washed us from our sins. Not only that but in addition He made us kings to rule with Him and priests to minister before

Him as we read here:) ***6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Therefore glory be unto Him, and let us be ready and prepare ourselves by continually fearing God, living in holiness and serving the Lord, so when He will come we will be taken by Him to Heaven.) 7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. (This speaks about Christ second coming; Christ is coming with clouds, every eye shall see Him, means everyone will be aware of His return; those that pierced Him shall see Him; means those who hate Him shall be aware when He will come with His glory, and all the nations of the earth shall wail and cry because of the judgment that will fall upon them on His second coming. Therefore let us be prepared and ready because at His second coming He will bring God’s judgment on the wicked and God’s reward for the righteous.) 8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. (Jesus is the Alpha, means the beginning, and the Omega, means the end. He is the Lord Almighty, “which is”, means Jesus, He is now at the right hand of God the Father, “and which was”, who came to earth and died on the cross for our sins, who was buried, rose again and went to Heaven, “and which is to come”, means Jesus will return to judge the living and the dead. Therefore and from now be sure that you are ready to avoid the judgment of God upon the return of Christ.) 9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. (John previously in verse 1 was introduced as servant of God and His Christ, but here in this verse he was telling to the seven churches and to the rest who believe and even to us today, that he is our brother, equal to the rest of the people of God, and even to us today. John said that he is our “companion in tribulation”, which means we need to understand and accept the concept of suffering and passing into trials as we are committing ourselves to live for Christ. Such thoughts in mind that John put forward is mandatory to be a candidate, “in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ”; that we need to be patience, persevering and have long suffering to the events of life and to continue to do what is right and just. John was in exile, suffering persecution because of the Word of God, and for his testimony and his witnessing about Jesus. He was put in isolation in the island of Patmos. The same we may pass through and we need to accept that; for if we want to live a Godly life for Christ, then we will be persecuted as we read here, “12 Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.” (2 Timothy 3:12 KJV) 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, (John received the vision by the Holy Spirit. He was in the Spirit and not in the flesh while He was receiving the vision. Therefore if you want to receive visions and revelations from God then you need to live in the Spirit and not after the flesh and its sinful nature and demands. He received the vision on the Lord’s day, the same day of the week that Jesus rose from the day, on Sunday. John heard a voice behind him,) 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. (That was Jesus speaking to him, and commanded him to write what he heard and to send the writing to the seven churches. Jesus may speak to you with an audible voice, sent to you by the Holy Spirit.) 12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; (Upon hearing the voice John turned to see who spoke to him, and he saw the “seven golden candlesticks” that are the seven churches that Jesus said about in verse 20 as we read here, “and the seven***

candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.” When John turned to see the origin of the voice it was expected that he will see Jesus, but instead he saw the seven churches, which meant that Jesus wanted him to concentrate on sending the message to those churches. *In the same way, you need to grasp and understand what Jesus wants you to concentrate on, and such will be your next assignment.) 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.* (John here saw Jesus in the mid of those seven churches, with the clothes he was wearing as described,) *14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;* (The eyes of Jesus were flame of fire, to judge the earth and to give a firm and strict countenance of His face to those who will receive the writing of this vision, that they might heed and repent. *Therefore, take seriously the message, repent, amend your ways, and start to live in holiness, preparing yourself to be ready to be taken at His return.) 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.* (The appearance of Jesus’ feet of brass added to the fierceness of the message; as if it came out from a burning furnace, with a voice of Him as a sound of raging sea. These all to impart the fear of God and His dreadfulness to His churches and to those who receive the vision, that they may fear God, repent, amend their ways and prepare themselves to meet Him on His return.) *16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.* (According to verse 20 *“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:”* What he meant here with the angels who were as seven stars in the hand of Jesus, were God’s servants who were leading those seven churches. Those seven angels; the seven church leaders were in the hand of Jesus as we read here, *“And he had in his right hand seven stars:”* Therefore the churches and we among them should fear Him because He can deal with our sins for we are in His hand; and the churches and we among them should also trust Him that He can protect us from all our enemies as He hold us in His right hand, as we are willing to stand firm and obey Him. The *“sharp twoedged sword”* is the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God that Jesus send to speak and direct His churches, and that is how He shine on us with His countenance by sending us His Word that gives us light as the sun give us light and make us see as we read here, *“and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.”* Therefore, let us take seriously His Word and apply them on our lives and live on them because they will be light unto our feet and lamp unto our path). *17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:* (When John saw Jesus in the way described, he was not able to manage, for he was overwhelmed with the fear of the Lord, and fell as dead at Jesus’ feet. But Jesus comforted John by laying His right hand on Him; telling him not to be afraid because Jesus being the first and the last is with him. *In the same way, Jesus would comfort us when we are overwhelmed and He would assure us that as we fear Him, He is there to protect us and care for us and provide our needs.) 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, have the keys of hell and of death.* (Jesus here declared to John that He is now alive, He was dead, but He rose from the dead, and He will not die again, but He will live forever because he has the keys of hell and death. Jesus’ victory on the cross disarmed all powers and overcame them all, including death, and He got even the keys of hell and death. *That is the assurance that we have from Jesus that death and hell cannot overcome us as we dedicate our lives to live fully to Him and for His cause.) 19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things Amen; and*

which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; (Jesus asked John to write that vision and the rest of the things that He will show him, so that all those details will reach to the churches and will reach us also, in order to be assured that as He has the keys of hell and death, our fear from hell and death will disappear as we decide to follow and obey Jesus and do His orders. *Therefore, your daily Bible reading is so important because the promises of God in His Word will assure you about your future and who is the one who is watching over your life as you committed yourself to live for Him.) 20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.* (The book of the revelation contains mysteries, but God explained to us each and every mystery in His Word, that is why we need to read and study not only the book of Revelation but the whole Bible. This is the explanation of the mystery of the seven stars and the seven golden candlesticks: *“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches:”* The angels of the seven churches are the servants of God who were leading those churches, *“and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”*) (Revelation 1:1-20 KJV)

In *Revelation 2* and *3* the Lord described to John the spiritual conditions of each and every one of the seven churches at Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. He described what good things they possess and the defects they have, in addition what is required of each and every church to do to reach to the expectation of the Lord Jesus Christ. *Those descriptions can still be used today in our churches to observe the defects that churches carry and be prepared to correct them in our endeavor and preparation to meet the Lord in the cloud when He comes.*

In *Revelation 4*, is a vision in which Jesus shown to Apostle John of what to take place in the future as He told him, *“Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.”* The vision describes the worship in Heaven that would most likely take place after the rapture, gathering the Old Testament and the New Testament saints of the Church of God represented by the 24 elders, and the multitudes of people that represented by the four beasts. Let us read and meditate on *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. (John after he saw Jesus, he saw an open door in Heaven, and he heard a voice like the voice of trumpet inviting him to come and see because He will show Him what will be taken place later on in the future.) *2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.* (John was taken by the Spirit, and in a vision he saw a throne and one sitting on the throne, the Lord Jesus Christ. The throne of Christ here represents the authority given to Him. Jesus is the King of kings and the Lord of lords; all authority given to Him and non to others. *Therefore we need to make our commitment from now on to be fully loyal to Jesus.) 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.* (Here describes the appearance of Christ on the throne as seen by John.) *4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.* (Here, the Church is with Christ, seated around His throne, because the Church had gathered earlier to meet Him in the air. They have *“white raiment”*,

symbolizing purity and ***“on their heads crowns of gold”***, symbolizing honor and authority. The Church gathered in the air to be with Christ. The 24 elders or ***“four and twenty”***, may be a number used because it is representative of the 12 Apostles of Jesus, the foundation of the Church, and the 12 tribes of Israel believed in Christ, the Messiah. Both together comprising the Church gathered with Christ in the air in what is called the rapture.) ***5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*** (The throne of Christ displays the authority that will bring the end of all things by His judgment, and the new beginning of the new Heaven and new earth; those are the results of the judgment of the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The authority of the throne of Jesus that will bring about this judgment proceeded with power displayed in lightening, thunder and voices, and seven lamps of fire seen as light, which were burning before the throne which are the seven Spirits of God; number seven being used to represent perfection.) ***6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.*** (Before the throne was a sea of glass that most likely represent masses of people, and four beasts who some they suggested that they are the people who are saved, and packed together and only their eyes are recognized; all together were present before the judgment seat of Christ. ***This will take place, and one day we will find ourselves in front of the throne of Christ for judgment, therefore we need to be very careful of how to live our lives in holiness unto Christ so when He will come we will be standing confidently in His presence before the Judgment seat of Christ to receive our reward from Him. We who believe on Him and serve Him, at His coming we will stand before the judgment seat of Christ and we will receive from Him according to what we had done as Paul spoke about that, “9 Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. 10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:9-10 KJV)***) ***7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, LORD God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. 9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,*** (Those four beasts are indescribable spiritual beings, that might represents multitudes of people. Those four beasts were further described by some indicating the nature of their mission and the nature of the judgment; one like a lion; may represent the authority and the power with which Christ sends forth the judgment. One beast like a calf; may represent the dependence upon Christ who will send forth the judgment. One beast with the face of the man; may represent the human dynamics into which Christ will intervene in the judgment. And one like a flying eagle; may represent the swiftness with which Christ will send His judgment. As we noticed from the Scripture that the four beasts were solely dedicated to worship Christ; giving Him glory, honor and thanks to Christ who sat on the throne and who will live forever as He will carry out His judgment. Giving Christ honor is the climax of the summary of His judgment to come; that His name will be glorified. Jesus Christ on the throne is declared as the one who lives forever; His eternity as the beginning and the end, is the heart of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.) ***10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne,***

saying, 11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. (Honor and worship of Christ as the one who lives for ever and ever, the beginning and the end is the peak of the Church during the rapture in meeting with the Lord. The 24 elders fell down in worship in honor to Christ being God, and as the one who lives eternally. ***“and cast their crowns before the throne”***, means they casts any authority and honor they have represented by their crowns unto His authority. Proclaims His worthiness to receive glory, honor and power, because He is the Creator of all things, the power of the beginning and the end, and because He is the one who judges all He created by the standards of His pleasure and will). (***Revelation 4:1-11 KJV***)

My dear and beloved: Let us take heed seriously of all what we read and heard from Scriptures and explanations. Christ coming is very soon and need to take this matter seriously, so that carefully we will be preparing ourselves for His coming, so when He will come then we will be ready to go with Him.

Let us pray ...

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that imparted to me encouragement, correction and warning.

Now come to God and confess and renounce all your sins, so that you will be ready when Christ will come to take us with Him to Heaven. Renounce your worldliness, love of material things, pleasure and fame. Renounce immoralities, lies, stealing, laziness, and selfishness. Renounce your doubts, lack of faith, yoked with non believers, setting bad examples to others, your bad stewardship and non willingness to serve God.

Lord forgive me, I repent from the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to live my life for you, doing your will and the good plan that you have for me. Lord I commit myself to reproduce more fruit of the Holy Spirit, love, peace, joy, gentleness, kindness, patience, long-suffering, and self-control, that I will set good example to others, and people will see Jesus in my life.

Lord thank you for my Brethren and Sisters who committed their lives to live for you. Lord fill them with the Holy Spirit and give them the spiritual gifts that they need in their lives to go on and serve you. Lord protect them and provide all their needs so they continue to serve you.

Lord bless us as your church as we commit ourselves to live our lives for you and in accordance to your Word and will. Lord prepare us and perfect us so we will be ready for your coming to meet with you in the clouds, Lord enable us and open new doors for us to evangelize and to go on and make new disciples. Lord lead us to train new workers and to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel

pain. The grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

Life after Death Part 8. Revelation Chapters 1-4. Christ Second Coming - the Rapture.
Revelation 1-4. 2 Timothy 3:12.

Dr. Ramiz Khalaf
The Church Overseer
Church of God
United Arab Emirates
Email: thebread1@gmail.com
Mobile Tel #: 00971551902647

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