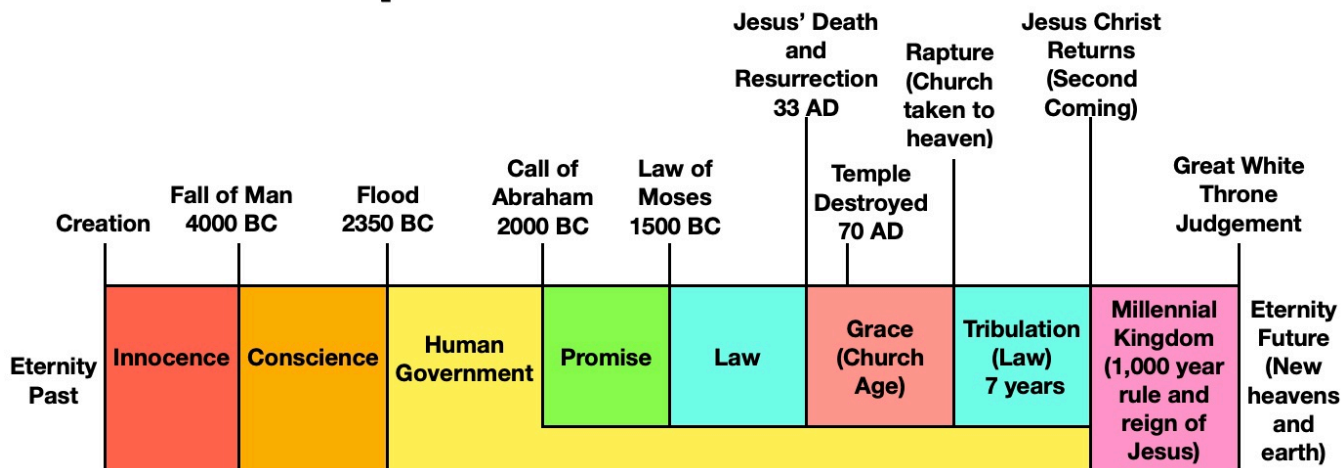


Revelation 4:1-2—The Rapture of the Church—Part 1

We'll start by quickly revise the 7 dispensations:

Dispensations of the Bible



Dispensationalists understand the Bible to be organised into 7 ages or periods of time:

1. **Innocence:** Starting with Creation and Adam and Eve and ending at the fall (Genesis 1:1—3:7),
2. **Conscience:** Starting with Cain and Able and ending at the flood (Genesis 3:8—8:22),
3. **Human Government:** Starting after the flood with Noah and ending at the Tower of Babel (Genesis 9:1—11:32),
4. **Promise:** Starting with Abraham and continuing to Moses (Genesis 12:1—Exodus 19:25),
5. **Law:** Starting when God gave the Law to Moses and finishing when Jesus died on the cross. (Exodus 20:1—Acts 2:4),
6. **Grace:** Starting on the Day of Pentecost and finishing at the Rapture (Acts 2:4—Revelation 20:3),
7. **The Millennial Kingdom:** Starting at the end of the Tribulation Period when Jesus takes possession of the earth at His second coming and finishes at the Great White Throne Judgement. (Revelation 20:4–6).

These dispensations or different time periods in earth/Bible history are not different paths to salvation, but different ways in which God relates to man.

Today, we will see that Chapter 4 verses 1 and 2 are a turning point in the book of Revelation. If we compare it to a screen play or a script, it's a plot point, it's a complete turning point in the message that the book of revelation presents.

This can be seen by going back to Revelation 1:19 where Jesus gives the command to the Apostle John in Revelation 1:19 which is the outline for the book. Jesus is speaking directly and personally to Him.

Revelation 1:19 NKJV

Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

v 19 ... **seen**: in the ancient Greek it means “to experience something by seeing it.”

We need to understand that John was commanded to only write about things that he had seen in such a way that he actually experienced it. This means that John had to be on the scene, he had to be an eyewitness. This applies to the whole book of Revelation.

But how could this be? How is it possible that John could see the future? Well, time is a creation of God. Time and space are creations of God. So God is able to propel someone in time up to the future. That is no problem for Him. This is the key to understanding anything about the book of Revelation. Because, over and over again, John keeps saying, that “he looked, and he saw, and he heard.” If you read through the book of Revelation you will see that phrase repeated over and over again. The reason he keeps repeating this is because Jesus told him three times in the first chapter that he was to write only about what he saw! Again, the Greek word used means “to experience something by seeing”. And so, John is to write only about the things that he actually on the scene saw and experienced.

So in chapters 2 and 3 Jesus gives John a vision of the church age, the age that John was in, “**the the things which are**,” present tense. We are still in this age today, but it is rapidly drawing to a close. So when God says, “the things which are,” He is talking about the present age or era (or dispensation, the age of grace or church age), where the church is dominant. Thus the letters to the seven *churches*. It’s all about the church.

So, the first key is that John is only writing about the things that he has actually been an eyewitness to. Also, now we understand that when he says in verse 19, “and the things which are...”, he’s talking about the age or dispensation in which we now live—*the church age or the age of grace*. Remember last week we talked about the summary of earth history as broken down into the different ways God communicated to man, often referred to as the 7 dispensations. And we have just gone through chapters 2 and 3 that show that the church age or dispensation was divided into 7 different stages or phases as represented by the seven churches. We have also learned that we are in the last of the seven stages of church history, the Laodicean church. Again, the seven stages of church history are all a part of the church age or dispensation, what is commonly called the “age of grace” or “the church age.” Right now, we are at the end of the last stage of the church age—and—it’s about to end.

Now we move onto the next part of verse 19

Revelation 1:19

“and the things which will take place after this.”

v 19 **after this**: After what? After the church age. The church age must end before the next stage can begin. The church age must end before the tribulation can begin. The church age only ends when the church is removed.

The two Greek words translated as “after this” or “after these things” are *meta tauta*.

So here we have the outline of the book, the three sections.

Part 1 - “Write the things which you have seen,”

Revelation chapter 1 - Jesus reveals Himself to John

Part 2 - “and the things which are,”

Revelation 2-3 - Letters to the seven churches.

Part 3 - “and the things which will take place after this (meta tauta).”

So now we come to the plot point. Here is where the story changes. Let's turn to Revelation 4:1

Revelation 4:1 NKJV

After these things (meta tauta) I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, “Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this (meta tauta).”

The Greek words *meta tauta* are *repeated twice* in Rev 4:1. We should be thinking, hey, I've seen those words before. I read those words in Revelation 1:19. This must be the place where things change.

So, here is the change. Here is where the church is taken out of the world. And the church I'm speaking of here is not some building, not some organisation or denomination, rather, the church that will be taken up to heaven is composed of every born again believer, everyone who belongs to Jesus Christ. Our brand of christianity doesn't matter. What does matter is that we believe that Jesus died for every sin that we have every committed and will commit, and purchased a pardon for us, and holds it out in grace, as a gift for us. You can't pay for it, you can't earn it, you can't deserve it, you can only receive God's pardon as a gift.

Ephesians 2:8-9 NKJV

For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ not of works, lest anyone should boast.

v 1 **Come up here:** This is the plot point where the church goes extraterrestrial. And this is the focus of what I want to talk about today.

The words “**come up here**” are made up of two Greek words.

For the words “come up” or “*Anaba*” in the Greek, the basic meaning is spatial, meaning a change in location i.e., “to rise from the depths to the heights.” It is used for climbing aboard a ship, mounting a horse or climbing a mountain. For us we are going from earth to heaven, we are going up, we are changing location.

John goes on to say in verse 2:

Revelation 4:2 NKJV

² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

The word translated “**immediately**” (Greek: *eutheos*), is a word that was used to describe a rescue at sea. And it means “an instant rescue from mortal danger.” Isn't that a wonderful word, “an instant rescue from mortal danger.”

That is what John meant when he says “**immediately**” He was instantly rescued from mortal danger.

We could say verse 2 as, “I was instantly rescued from mortal danger and was in the Spirit.” In other words, one moment John was on the earth, on the Island of Patmos, then the next he was in front of the throne of God.

The Romans sent John to Patmos when he was about 85 years old. And they expected him to die there. They didn’t want to execute him because they didn’t want to make him a martyr. So they figured that if John just died out on the penal or prison island they would simply forget about him. So the Romans sent John to this penal island, to Patmos, where they only sent the worst criminals. They said, “well, those criminals will take care of John.”

Well, do you know what happened? Within a few weeks John had lead a bunch of the worst of them to Christ, and they became his bodyguards, and they looked out for John. Then more and more of those violent criminals became believers in Jesus Christ. So that’s were John was when he wrote the book of Revelation and then God time travelled him to the future to be an eyewitness of the future events that God was showing him.

Back to Revelation 4:2. John says, “immediately”, and what is the first thing he sees? The first thing he sees is the throne of God and God the Father sitting on it. Is this exciting for you? It is for me. What is the first thing we will notice when we get to heaven? The throne of God, with the Father sitting on it. There will be nothing more awesome than the presence of God. Remember that now we see as in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.

1 Corinthians 13:12 NKJV

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

There are many wonderful things about heaven, like streets of God, being reunited with friends and family who died in Christ, the tree of life, angles, etc, but nothing compares to being in the direct presence of God. We will never be bored or want to leave. Even if I was the only one in heaven, I know that I would never be bored or unfulfilled. This is true intimacy and complete fulfilment and total satisfaction. It is the intimacy that marital intimacy is only a picture of. God created us to know Him and love Him, and it’s only in His presence that I am complete.

Now I would like to show you some parallels between what is written here and some verses about this extraordinary event. Theologians have randomly called it the rapture because the latin word meaning “caught up” in 1 Thessalonians 4:17 is “*Rapturo*”—from which we get the word “rapture.” But the New Testament was written in Greek, and the Greek word used for us being caught up to meet Christ in the air is *Harpageso*, which is the word for pickpockets, and it means to snatch something with stealth. So I want you to see this. We are going to be snatched out of the world, instantaneously, by stealth. It will happen in a nano second. The world won’t know what hit it.

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 NKJV

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ **Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.** ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.

Now let's take a look at some other verses because they are quite exciting. Now here is one that most people never relate to this event, the rapture or the great snatch. I think calling this event the great snatch is a much better description of this event. So let's look at John, start starting at John 11:25, and really think about what you are reading here.

John 11:25-26 NKJV

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ **And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.** Do you believe this?"

Now, don't you think that there is something strange about verse 26? You can't believe after you are dead, can you? No. First, in verse 25 Jesus says, "He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live." In other words, those who die in Christ will be brought back to life at the resurrection.

But Jesus then says in verse 26, **And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.** What does this have to refer to? The only thing that this can refer to is the rapture, the great snatch, when those believers who are alive will be taken up to meet the Lord in the air.

Jesus hadn't announced it, no one had ever revealed it, but Jesus said that there will be some people who would believe in Him, be alive, and yet never die. That can only refer to the generation alive at the rapture. Remember that there is only one thing appointed to us, unless we are in the rapture, and that is... we die.

Hebrews 9:27 NKJV

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,...

Now we know that we will be resurrected as believers, but we die. But Jesus says that there are some who live, who will never die. In the light of what is happening in Israel, I think that there is a real possibility that it could be referring to this generation, to us who are alive now.

Are you excited!

Remember that death has no fear for the believer.

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 NKJV

⁶ So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. ⁷ For we walk by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Death for the Christian is nothing more than being transported into the presence of God. There is nothing more glorious. Personally, I'm looking forward to it, but at the same time looking to make the most of my time here on earth so I can bring as many to Christ as I can.

Now, look with me at John 14:1-3

John 14:1-3 NKJV

“Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³ **And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also.**

What is Jesus doing right now? He’s in the middle of a building program. And He is preparing a place for everyone who believes in Him as Saviour. And Jesus says, I’m not building these places to be unoccupied. So Jesus says, “And If” or more accurately, “ And since”, “I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself...” So what is Jesus going to do? He is going to come and take us to where He is. Where is He? In Heaven.

So keep these thoughts in your mind and remember that there are good and godly theologians who differ on their interpretations of end time events, especially the rapture, and I respect them. For example some believe that the rapture will happen at the end of the 7 year tribulation period (Post-tribulation rapture). However, I have very definite views, based on very definite biblical reasons, for why I say that Jesus is going to come for you and me, the church, **before** that awful seven years of tribulation begins, and not at the end.

Two biblical reasons to believe in a pretribulation rapture can be found by looking at Matthew 25:31-46. Why? Well, if you study closely what Jesus says in Matthew 25, when Jesus comes back to the earth, the first thing He does is what? What does it say in Matthew 25:31-46? We won’t read all of it, just the relevant verses...

Matthew 25:31-34, 41 NKJV

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. ³² All the **nations [gentiles, non-Jewish people]** will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. ³³ And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left. ³⁴ **Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: ...**

⁴¹ “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels:

Just as an aside, Joel 3:1-3 tells us where this sheep and goat judgement of the gentiles will occur and gives us more insight as to the nature of the judgement. If you want to did deeper you can study that in your own time.

https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_145.cfm

So, what is happening here? At the second coming of Jesus, when Jesus physically returns to the earth at the end of the 7 year tribulation period, He will judge each gentile person individually. The gentile individuals who have put their faith in Jesus and received His pardon for their sins, called the sheep, will go onto Jesus right. However, those gentile individuals who did not receive God’s pardon for their sins will go to Jesus left, and are called the goats. (The Jewish people will be judged elsewhere, separately,

but in a similar way to the gentiles - see Ezekiel 20:34-38 if you want to know more about what happens to the Israelites, those of the nation of Israel)

For now, let's come back to the judgement of the gentile nations described in Matthew 25:31-46, which describes an event called the sheep and goat judgement that happens when Jesus physically returns to the earth at the end of the 7 year tribulation period.

Now, consider where these two groups of people go? As we read, it says that the sheep, the gentile believers, inherit the **kingdom** prepared for them from the foundation of the world. What **kingdom** could this be referring to? It has to be the millennial reign, the 1,000 year rule and reign of Jesus Christ, the **physical kingdom** of God. Jesus said that the kingdom of God is within you, and it still is, and will remain that way until the start of the 1,000 year Millennial reign of Jesus on earth. Why, because Jesus is still not the prince or king of this world in a practical sense. Consider:

1 John 5:19 NKJV

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway [control] of the wicked one.

Ephesians 2:2 NKJV

...in which you once walked according to the course of this world, according **to the prince of the power of the air**, the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,...

But when Jesus physically returns to the earth, then He will set up his physical kingdom on earth. None of the world will be under the sway of the wicked one. In fact, Satan will be locked up for the 1,000 years (Revelation 20:1-3). This is the kingdom that the believing Jews and believing gentiles will inherit or be granted entrance to.

Remember last week when we looked at the seven dispensations? What comes after the 7 year tribulation? It's the Millennial reign of Jesus Christ right here on earth. So those people who are believers at the end of the tribulation period, those gentile believers who survived the tribulation, will be blessed with entering the **kingdom** of God on earth, the awesome 1,000 year rule and reign of Jesus Christ, when Jesus will be physically ruling and reigning on the earth. No more corrupt governments. No more lawlessness. Jesus will restore the planet so it will be like the garden of Eden again. This is the prophesied kingdom of God on earth the disciples and the other Jews were looking forward to when Jesus was here the first time. They just didn't understand that Jesus had to come as the suffering servant first, and the second time He would come as the Conquering king, coming to claim what is rightfully His.

Back to Matthew 25 again. If the sheep, the believers, go into the kingdom, the 1,000 year Millennial reign of Jesus Christ, then where do the goats go? The goats, or unbelievers, go to hades and await their judgement of condemnation at the great white throne judgement at the end of the 1,000 year Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. After being found guilty of breaking God's law at the great white throne judgement, they will be condemned and cast into the Lake of Fire (hell) prepared for the devil and his angels (Mat 25:41).

So, now we come back to our question, what does this sheep and goat judgement have to do with the Rapture of the church? How does it show that the church could not be here on the earth at the end of the tribulation period? There are two reasons. First, if the church did go through the tribulation and only get rapture at the end, there would

be no distinction between Jew and gentile. It would be just like it is now, with Jesus having broken down the middle wall of separation (the law) between the Jew and the gentile — we are all one in Christ, Jew and gentile alike — See Ephesians 2:11-18 if you want to learn more about that. *What this means is that in the church age there are only two groups of people, believers and non believers.*

What this means is that, at the rapture, both believing Jews and believing gentiles will both be raptured. Again, in the church age, God only differentiates based on whether or not a person is born again or not born again. Being a Jew or a gentile makes no difference in the church age and no difference when it comes to who gets snatched up to heaven.

Remember that this doesn't mean the God has abandoned His covenant people Israel, but that He has put them aside for a time while He uses the church to accomplish His work in the world. See Romans 11 if you want to find out more about that. We will soon see that the 7 year tribulation is the time when God will once again use His chosen people Israel to be a light unto the world, again evidence that the church has already been removed from the earth and taken up to heaven.

So again, why can't the church be here on the earth at the end of the tribulation period? Because if it was, there would be no distinction between Jew and gentile. **However**, what do we see in Matthew 25 with the sheep and Goat judgement? We see a segregation or separation of the Jews and the gentiles. Again, this only occurred when the church was not around, when God was working through the nation of Israel. In the old testament, God would always differentiate or distinguish His people from the nations or gentiles. Many of the laws were specifically designed or given to keep the nation of Israel separate from the gentiles.

What we see in the tribulation period is God working through the nation of Israel to reach the world with the gospel. There will be again the separation between the nation of Israel and the gentiles as the nation of Israel again worships at their temple and follows the law of Moses (This corresponds to Daniels seventieth week, the last seven years of the 490 years determined for the nation of Israel—Daniel 9:24-27).

Now we come to the second reason that the sheep and goat judgement shows that the rapture must happen before the tribulation and not at the end. It's all about who goes into the kingdom, the 1,000 year Millennial rule and reign of Jesus Christ.

Remember how we have talked previously about who goes into the physical kingdom of God, the 1,000 year Millennial reign of Jesus Christ. There will be two types of people going into the Millennial reign — glorified or resurrected people and unglorified people, those who still have their natural or mortal bodies.

So the first group—the glorifieds, those people who enter the Millennial reign with glorified bodies:

1. Those who are raptured and those who died in Christ during the church age will enter having received their glorified bodies at the time of the rapture.
2. The Old testament saints will have been resurrected at the end of the 7 year tribulation and will enter the 1,000 year Millennial reign having received their glorified bodies.
3. The tribulation saints will have been resurrected at the end of the 7 year tribulation and will enter the 1,000 year Millennial reign having received their glorified bodies.

Now the second group. Those who enter the kingdom, the 1,000 year Millennial reign of Jesus **not** having received their glorified bodies. As we just read in Mat 25, the sheep, those righteous or believing gentiles who survived the tribulation will enter, as well as the believing Jews who survived the tribulation. So initially in the 1,000 year Millennial reign, every mortal human being will be a believer, because that is the condition for entry into God's kingdom on earth. However, they will have children, and their children will have to make up their own mind to follow Jesus. Some will and some won't. The bible explicitly and clearly says that there will be a rebellion at the end of the 1,000 years when Satan rounds up all the rebels, tries to attack Jesus, but then Jesus destroys them by raining down fire on them. *What this means is that the scripture is very clear that there will be unglorified or mortal believers that will go into the kingdom, the 1,000 year Millennial reign of Jesus Christ.*

This works well with a pre-tribulation rapture. Try to picture it in your head. At the rapture, the church is taken away, and, in contrast to those who enter the 1,000 year Millennial reign, all who enter the tribulation period will be unbelievers, both unbelieving Jews and unbelieving gentiles, why, because all the believers have been removed, caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds and go to Heaven. But God is so gracious, and we read of multitudes in the great tribulation who believe, both of Jews and gentiles. Some of those believers make it through to the end of the tribulation. Those who do survive get to enter the kingdom, the 1,000 year rule and reign of Jesus Christ. Again, the first generation of mortals who enter the kingdom (the 1,000 year rule and reign of Jesus Christ on earth) are all believers. *Again the contrast:*

With the pre-tribulation rapture view, all who enter the tribulation will be unbelievers because the believers are taken out of the world and up to heaven, but all who enter the Millennial reign of Jesus will be believers, because all the unbelievers were sent to hell at the sheep and goat judgement.

However, there are big problems if you go with the post-tribulation rapture view. Why? Try to picture this post tribulation rapture scenario where they believe that the church goes through the tribulation. We know that at the rapture, **all** believers, both Jew and gentile are caught up to be with Jesus and they receive their glorified bodies.

Therefore, if the rapture happened at the end of the tribulation, then after meeting Jesus in the air, we would come straight back down to earth. This would mean that all the people with natural, mortal or flesh and blood bodies who are left on the earth would be unbelievers, both Jews and gentiles. This means that at the following sheep and goat judgement, all remaining mortals, because they would all be unbelievers, would be sent to hades, leaving no mortal or natural people to go into the kingdom, the 1,000 year Millennial rule and reign of Jesus Christ. Thus there would be no babies born, and no one to choose to rebel, and no final rebellion as predicted in the scriptures, especially Revelation 20.

Those who hold to the post tribulation rapture view admit that this is a serious problem that they have no good solution for.

Why go through all this? Because Jesus said in:

1 Thessalonians 4:18 NKJV

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

There is no comfort in going through the tribulation. If the church really did go through the tribulation, then there would be precious few of us who would survive to the end. In fact, Jesus said that the tribulation would be so bad that if it was only longer than what is will be then no body would survive it.

Mark 13:19-20 NKJV

For in those days there will be tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the creation which God created until this time, nor ever shall be. ²⁰ And unless the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake, whom He chose, He shortened the days.

Literally billions of people will die gruesome deaths, and most believers or tribulation saints will be martyred because they will be forced to make a decision to take the mark of the beast or be killed. The comfort isn't just that we get a resurrection body, but also that we escape the tribulation period. Do you remember Jesus promise to the church of Philadelphia?

Revelation 3:10 NKJV

Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will **keep you from the hour of trial** which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

Remember that Jesus will keep us out (Greek: *ek*) of the trial which will test *those who dwell upon the earth*, who are the unbelievers.

Also consider that the tribulation has two main purposes. One to judge the people who dwell on the earth, the unbelievers. And secondly to refine and work with and through Israel. Neither concerns or involves the church.

That's it for today, but before we finish, let's go over what we learnt.

Matthew 25:31-46 shows that the church doesn't go through the tribulation for two reasons.

1. God deals with the Jews and gentiles separately, something that doesn't happen before the rapture during the church age.
2. If the rapture happened at the end of the tribulation, there would be no believers to repopulate the earth while Jesus reigns, and therefore no one to rebel, and therefore prophecy would not be literally fulfilled as written.

Also, we saw Jesus refer to the rapture in:

John 14:3 NKJV

³ And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

Jesus is preparing a place for us **in heaven** for us to enjoy. This has to happen **before** the 1,000 year rule and reign of Jesus which happens **on earth**.

Jesus also referred to the rapture in:

John 11:25-26 NKJV

²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. ²⁶ **And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die.** Do you believe this?"

Now we come back to our text for today:

Revelation 4:1-2 NKJV

After these things (Meta tauta) I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a **trumpet** speaking with me, saying, “**Come up here**, and I will show you things which must take place **after this** (Meta tauta).”

² Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

Remember, the church age must end before the tribulation begins... Why? After these things... *meta tauta*

Do you remember what the word “immediately” means in verse 2?

It is a word that was used to describe a rescue at sea. And it means “an instant rescue from mortal danger.”

Brothers and sisters in Christ there is a judgement coming, and most of the world's population will die, including most the tribulation saints, those who choose to repent and trust Jesus for forgiveness during those terrible 7 years of judgement. But praise God that we are spared from this judgement. This is truly something to be excited about and grateful for.

I will close with an application from:

Luke 21:34-36 NKJV

“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that Day [the seven year Tribulation] come on you unexpectedly. ³⁵ For it will come as a snare on all those who **dwell on the face of the whole earth**. ³⁶ Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be **counted worthy to escape all these things [the judgements in Revelation 6-19] that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.**”

It's so easy to be distracted by the things of the world. If we are, we will not be watching and the rapture, the great snatch, will catch us by surprise, we will not be anticipating it.

- Remember also that **those who dwell on the earth** (those who are at home on this earth) are the unbelievers. In contrast, we as believers dwell in the heavenlies; we are citizens of heaven.
- Remember that there is only one way to be counted worthy to escape judgement, and that is to have our sins washed away by the blood of the lamb.
- Remember that Jesus promises an escape from **all** these things (judgements) that will come to pass, not just some of them.
- Remember our glorious destiny, to stand before God the Father before His throne and also before the Son, who is sitting on His throne next to the Father.
- Remember what Jesus said to do:

Luke 22:19-20 NKJV

And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; do this in **remembrance** of Me.”

²⁰ Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you.