

Revelation

Chapter 4

Review

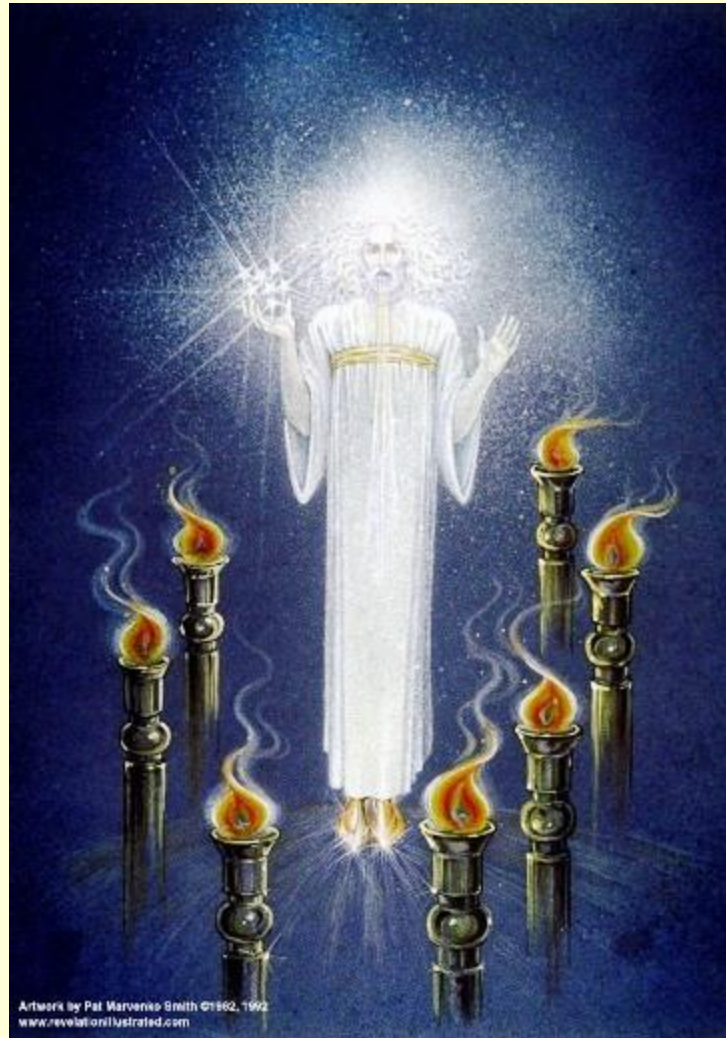
- The Revelation to John
 - A prophetic writing with features of a letter and of the form of literature called Apocalyptic
 - Written by John to Christians during the second half of the First Century
 - Placed at the end of the New Testament because of its concern with the “end times”

Review

- Introduction (1:1-3)
 - This revelation was given by God to Jesus.
 - Jesus revealed it, through his angel, to John.
 - John writes of all that he has heard and seen.
 - Those who read, hear, and do what is written will be blessed, because the end is near.
- Salutation, Doxology (1:4-8)
 - John greets “the seven churches in Asia” while giving praise to God.

Review

- The First Vision (1:9-20)
 - John was worshiping on the Lords day, in Patmos, when he was overtaken by an ecstatic vision
 - In the vision:
 - He sees the glorified Christ standing among seven lampstands with seven stars in his hand.
 - Christ speaks to John and explains the mysterious image that he sees: The lampstands are the seven churches and the stars are the “angels” of the seven churches.
 - The “angels” (like the stars) represent the seven churches, but should not be understood too literally.



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August 23, 2011

Review

- Letters to the Seven Churches (Chapters 2 & 3)
 - In the vision, Jesus instructs John to write certain things to each of the seven churches.
 - These “letters” draw on the material from Chapter 1 and help to interpret the visions which follow in later chapters. Revelation is one unified composition.
 - Each “letter”:
 - follows approximately the same pattern
 - is to be read by all of the churches.
 - The order is probably is significant.

Review

- Order
 - Chapter 2
 - Verses 1- 7... Ephesus
 - Verses 8-11... Smyrna
 - Verses 12-17... Pergamum
 - Verses 18-29... Thyatira
 - Chapter 3
 - Verses 1- 6... Sardis
 - Verses 7-13... Philadelphia
 - Verses 14-22... Laodicea

The Seven Churches



Review

- Ephesus (2:1-7)
 - Christ commands them to become loving again, or he will remove them as a lampstand.
- Smyrna (2:8-11)
 - Christ urges them to remain faithful unto death.
- Pergamum (2:12-17) and Thyatira (2:18-29)
 - Christ warns the church to expel the heretics, lest he come and war against them!

Review

- Sardis (3:1-6)
 - Contrary to their reputation, they are “dead.”
 - Christ urges them to become alert to their situation and repent, before he comes against them.
- Philadelphia (3:7-13)
 - Like the church in Smyrna, which was also being persecuted by those claiming to be Jews, Jesus has only words of encouragement
 - Jesus describes himself here as true God and Messiah of Israel, who alone determines who may enter into the Eternal Kingdom promised to David.
 - He promises them a place in that Kingdom.

Review

- Laodicea (3:14-22)
 - This Church thinks it is well-off
 - But Christ does not approve their works, which are incomplete and unpalatable
 - Jesus describes himself as the one who confirms and establishes everything.
 - He will “spit them out of his mouth”
 - But those among them who conquer will sit with him on his throne.

Summary & Conclusion

- Having completed the first three chapters, we understand:
 - In the Book of Revelation, God speaks through Christ and the Holy Spirit to the seven churches in Asia.
 - Churches are (supposed to be) lampstands in shining in the darkness, amidst darkness and persecution.
 - Christ is with his churches and he upholds them but he also speaks to them powerful words of warning and pending judgment, and great encouragement.
 - To those who hear his words and persevere until the end, he promises blessed eternal life.

Next Reading

- In Verse 21 of Chapter 3 Jesus says:

“The one who conquers, I will grant him to sit with me on my throne, as I also conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.”

- Chapters 4 and 5 together describe the heavenly “throne”
 - These two chapters belong together
 - In some sense they comprise a second vision, following the one described in Chapter 1
 - This vision lays the foundation for all that is to follow

ヨハネの黙示録 4:1-11

1. その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラツパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここに上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。
2. すると、たちまち、わたしは御霊に感じた。見よ、御座が天に設けられており、その御座にいますかたがあった。

ヨハネの黙示録 4:1-11

3. その座にいますかたは、碧玉や赤めのうのように見え、また、御座のまわりには、緑玉のように見えるにじが現れていた。
4. また、御座のまわりには二十四の座があって、二十四人の長老が白い衣を身にまとい、頭に金の冠をかぶって、それらの座についていた。

ヨハネの黙示録 4:1-11

5. 御座からは、いならずまと、もろもろの声と、雷鳴とが、発していた。また、七つのともし火が、御座の前で燃えていた。これらは、神の七つの霊である。
6. 御座の前は、水晶に似たガラスの海のようにであった。御座のそば近くそのまわりには、四つの生き物がいたが、その前にも後にも、一面に目がついていた。

ヨハネの黙示録 4:1-11

7. 第一の生き物はししのようであり、第二の生き物は雄牛のようであり、第三の生き物は人のような顔をしており、第四の生き物は飛ぶわしのようであった。

ヨハネの黙示録 4:1-11

8. この四つの生き物には、それぞれ六つの翼があり、その翼のまわりも内側も目で満ちていた。そして、昼も夜も、絶え間なくこう叫びつづけていた、「聖なるかな、聖なるかな、聖なるかな、全能者にして主なる神。昔いまし、今いまし、やがてきたるべき者」。

ヨハネの黙示録 4:1-11

9. これらの生き物が、御座にいまし、かつ、世々限りなく生きておられるかたに、栄光とほまれとを帰し、また、感謝をささげている時、
10. 二十四人の長老は、御座にいますかたのみまえにひれ伏し、世々限りなく生きておられるかたを拝み、彼らの冠を御座のまえに、投げ出して言った、

ヨハネの黙示録 4:1-11

11.「われらの主なる神よ、あなたこそは、栄光とほまれと力とを受けるとにふさわしいかた。あなたは万物を造られました。御旨によって、万物は存在し、また造られたのであります」。

Revelation 4:1-11

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.

Revelation 4:1-11

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.
4. Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

Revelation 4:1-11

5. From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,

Revelation 4:1-11

6. and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal. And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:

Revelation 4:1-11

7. the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

Revelation 4:1-11

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!"

Revelation 4:1-11

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,

Revelation 4:1-11

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."

4:1

その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラッパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここを上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。

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."

- Remember that Chapters 2 and 3 were uninterrupted speech of Jesus Christ.
- The voice of John has not been heard since Verse 17 of Chapter 1
- where John finished describing the first vision of the glorified Christ among the seven lampstands.

4:1

その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラッパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここを上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。

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."

- John now proceeds to describe another vision.
- Probably we are supposed to understand that John saw the vision described in Chapter 1 and, then, sometime later, saw the vision described in Chapters 4 and 5.

4:1

その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラッパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここを上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。

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."

- There is nothing to indicate that the second vision proceeded *immediately* after the first.
- Neither is there any reason to assume that what John sees in the second vision are things which *happen* after what he sees in the first vision, or before what he sees in later visions.

4:1

その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラッパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここを上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。

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."

- What John sees here is **not** the opening up of heaven, as sometimes happens in prophetic visions
- rather John sees a door in heaven
- and the door is standing open

4:1

その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラッパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここを上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。

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."

- In the first vision, while John was praying on the Lords day on the island of Patmos (perhaps he is still there) John first **heard** and then **saw things**
- Here he first **sees** something (the door) and next hears a voice --- the same voice (like a trumpet) which he heard in the first vision (1:10).

4:1

その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラッパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここを上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。

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."

- Whose voice is it?

4:1

その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラッパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここを上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。

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."

- This is clearly the voice of the glorified Christ
 - The one who stands among the seven churches
 - The one who holds their angels in his hand
 - The one who admonishes the churches and promises eternal life to those individuals who overcome
- This is the voice that says to John, “come up here...”

4:1

その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラッパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここを上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。

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."

- Come up where?

4:1

その後、わたしが見ていると、見よ、開いた門が天にあった。そして、さきにラッパのような声でわたしに呼びかけるのを聞いた初めの声が、「ここを上ってきなさい。そうしたら、これから後に起るべきことを、見せてあげよう」と言った。

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."

- Jesus is calling John to the door standing open in heaven:
 - Where Jesus himself will show John Something
 - It is not clear whether John enters through the door
 - or merely stands and looks through the door.
 - It is probably not important to know which.

4:2

すると、たちまち、わたしは御霊に感じた。見よ、御座が天に設けられており、その御座にいますかたがあった。

At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

- What John is shown, in this vision as in the first, is shown to him “in the Spirit”
 - He was not transported physically into heaven.
 - Neither is this a dream.
 - It is a waking vision where Jesus reveals certain things to John through the agency of the Holy Spirit

4:2

すると、たちまち、わたしは御霊に感じた。見よ、御座が天に設けられており、その御座にいますかたがあった。

At once I was in the Spirit, and behold, a throne stood in heaven, with one seated on the throne.

- What John sees first (as becomes clear) is God seated on his heavenly throne.
- This is not **part** of “what must take place after this”
 - God has no beginning or end.
- This is the **place** where “what must take place after this” has been determined and will be revealed to John.

4:3

その座にいますかたは、碧玉や赤めのうのように見え、また、御座のまわりには、緑玉のように見えるにじが現れていた。

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.

- Who is the one seated on the throne?
 - first mentioned in Verse 2
 - further described here in Verse 3

4:3

その座にいますかたは、碧玉や赤めのうのように見え、また、御座のまわりには、緑玉のように見えるにじが現れていた。

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 one seated on the throne is YHVH.
- This is proven by the fact that he is NOT named and by the language used to describe him.
- The three stones named here and the rainbow are commonly used in Old Testament descriptions of YHVH

4:3

その座にいますかたは、碧玉や赤めのうのように見え、また、御座のまわりには、緑玉のように見えるにじが現れていた。

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.

- Mention of the rainbow may (or may not) have additional theological significance
- In any case this is the God of Noah and of Adam and all the patriarchs who sits here.
- It is into His presence that Jesus has summoned John in the Spirit.

4:4

また、御座のまわりには二十四の座があって、二十四人の長老が白い衣を身にまとい、頭に金の冠をかぶって、それらの座についていた。

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

- The Holy One of Israel does not exist in isolated splendor
- Heaven is full of beings --- neither God nor man--- who are organized into groupings and ranks, all subordinate to God.
- We do not know very much about them.

4:4

また、御座のまわりには二十四の座があって、二十四人の長老が白い衣を身にまとい、頭に金の冠をかぶって、それらの座についていた。

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

- Here John is made to see certain heavenly beings, 24 in number, which he refers to as “elders”
- Surely we are right in understanding that these elders occupy a place of distinction in heaven under God.
 - Like God Himself (and near Him) they are seated, on thrones
 - Their golden crowns and white garments add to the image

4:4

また、御座のまわりには二十四の座があって、二十四人の長老が白い衣を身にまとい、頭に金の冠をかぶって、それらの座についていた。

Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and seated on the thrones were twenty-four elders, clothed in white garments, with golden crowns on their heads.

- While the twenty-four elders are understood to be highly exalted among the hosts of heavenly beings, they are clearly subordinate to the One who sits on the throne
- Throughout Revelation the primary function of these elders is to fall down and worship God.

4:5

御座からは、いなずまと、もろもろの声と、雷鳴とが、発していた。
また、七つのともし火が、御座の前で燃えていた。これらは、
神の七つの霊である。

From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,

- The throne of God is not like the throne of any other being, it is the throne
- This is emphasized in this vision and throughout the Bible with images of thunder and lightning and fire and rumblings --- we remember when God came down to Moses on Mt. Sinai.

4:5

御座からは、いなずまと、もろもろの声と、雷鳴とが、発していた。
また、七つのともし火が、御座の前で燃えていた。これらは、
神の七つの霊である。

From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God,

- Again reference is made to the “seven spirits of God” which may represent the “fullness” of the Holy Spirit.
 - God himself cannot be seen or described
 - Yet his presence is real and powerful and can sometimes be perceived by men and angels
 - Here the burning torches before his throne may represent this (c.f. Zech 4, Rev. 5:6)

4:6

御座の前は、水晶に似たガラスの海のようにであった。御座のそば近くそのまわりには、四つの生き物がいたが、その前にも後にも、一面に目がついていた。

and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.
And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:

- Before the throne, John sees something that looks like crystal, which he also likens to a sea of glass.
 - This heightens the sense of splendor.
 - There may be no further symbolic significance...

4:6

御座の前は、水晶に似たガラスの海のようにであった。御座のそば近くそのまわりには、四つの生き物がいたが、その前にも後にも、一面に目がついていた。

and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.
And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:

- Perhaps John saw one living creature on each side of the throne, possibly between the central throne of God and the thrones of the 24 elders.
- But there is no reason to suppose that John saw or had in mind a simple pattern that would have been easy to diagram, and this doesn't seem to matter.

4:6

御座の前は、水晶に似たガラスの海のようにであった。御座のそば近くそのまわりには、四つの生き物がいたが、その前にも後にも、一面に目がついていた。

and before the throne there was as it were a sea of glass, like crystal.
And around the throne, on each side of the throne, are four living creatures, full of eyes in front and behind:

- Here and elsewhere in the Bible, the fullness of eyes are symbols of wisdom and perception.
- Clearly these were not earthly creatures, but heavenly

4:7

第一の生き物はししのようであり、第二の生き物は雄牛のようであり、第三の生き物は人のような顔をしており、第四の生き物は飛ぶわしのようであった。

the first living creature like a lion, the second living creature like an ox, the third living creature with the face of a man, and the fourth living creature like an eagle in flight.

- The living creatures bore a likeness to earthly creatures with which John was familiar: lion, ox, man, and eagle.
- They also bear a likeness to the Cherubim described in Ezekiel Chapter 1.

4:8

この四つの生き物には、それぞれ六つの翼があり、その翼のまわりも内側も目で満ちていた。そして、昼も夜も、絶え間なくこう叫びつづけていた、「聖なるかな、聖なるかな、聖なるかな、全能者にして主なる神。昔いまし、今いまし、やがてきたるべき者」。

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!"

- John next observes that the four living creatures each have six wings.
- This is like the seraphim described in Isaiah 6 who are also said to praise God unceasingly.

4:8

この四つの生き物には、それぞれ六つの翼があり、その翼のまわりも内側も目で満ちていた。そして、昼も夜も、絶え間なくこう叫びつづけていた、「聖なるかな、聖なるかな、聖なるかな、全能者にして主なる神。昔いまし、今いまし、やがてきたるべき者」。

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!"

- Their hymn is an interpretation of the vision to this point:
 - God is holy, holy, holy
 - He is Lord
 - He is Almighty
 - He is Eternal
 - It is the proper place of living creatures to proclaim these things in heaven and on earth.

4:9

これらの生き物が、御座にいまし、かつ、世々限りなく生きておられるかたに、栄光とほまれとを歸し、また、感謝をささげている時、

And whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to him who is seated on the throne, who lives forever and ever,

- The previous verse says that the four living creatures, which see and understand everything, never cease to praise God and proclaim his holiness,
- Verse 9 says that whenever the four living creatures do this, there is a worshipful response from the 24 elders.
- Thus all of this praise and worship is unceasing.

4:10

二十四人の長老は、御座にいますかたのみまえにひれ伏し、
世々限りなく生きておられるかたを拝み、彼らの冠を御座の
まえに、投げ出して言った、

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,

- We somehow understand that the 24 elders are among the most honorable and highly exalted of all heavenly beings, yet they are constantly:
 - Falling down before God to worship him.
 - Casting their crowns before God's throne
- This is a wonderful picture of adoration and humility.

4:11

「われらの主なる神よ、あなたこそは、栄光とほまれと力とを受けけるにふさわしいかた。あなたは万物を造られました。御旨によって、万物は存在し、また造られたのであります」。

"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."

- Their hymn interprets the vision:
 - Whatever glory, honor, and power they have as kings, ruling among the heavenly hosts, has been delegated by their Lord and God.
 - It was God who created everything.
 - Whatever exists, exists by his will, and through his creation.
 - Therefore he alone is worthy of all praise.

Summary & Conclusion

- Jesus overcame Satan, Sin and Death and now rules from heaven at the right hand of God.
- He is present among his churches on earth, holding them in his hand, defending them against enemies, admonishing them to repent and to persevere until the end, and promising eternal life to everyone who overcomes.
- Having shown some of this to John in the first vision, Jesus has begun, in a second vision, to prepare John for the revelation of what must happen before the end.

Summary & Conclusion

- This revelation can only come from heaven where the future was written by God and sealed until Christ should come and open it.
- This is the subject of Chapters 4 and 5
- Tonight in Chapter 4 we read something about how things are in heaven where God is.
- Next week in Chapter 5 we will read about the revelation which only Christ can open.
- In the remainder of Revelation, we will examine what God through Christ has revealed.