

The Catching Up Will Take Place Before The Tribulation

You may also read a complete view of Future Things by downloading our paper, "A CHRONOLOGICAL STUDY OF REVELATION", that is posted on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net> . It contains extra information that is not in this paper.

Do you believe that God the Father knows the correct order
of the events that will transpire in the future?

*"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: ² Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw." Revelation 1:1-2 (The King James Version)*

"¹⁸ I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. ¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches." Revelation 1:18-20 (The New King James Version)

While there were indeed seven local churches who met the description of the seven letters in Revelation, chapters 2 & 3, these seven letters also described the condition of Christ's local churches from the church in Jerusalem to the last scriptural churches who will exist at the time of the Catching Up (the Rapture). This period of time is called "The Church Age".

Although Jesus Christ will find a few local, scriptural churches who meet the description of the church in Philadelphia when He comes at the Catching Up, most will have degraded to the point that they meet the description of the church in Laodicea. One of the major differences between a Philadelphian church and a Laodicean church is that a Philadelphian church is governed as a theocracy and a Laodicean church is governed as an oligarchy.

When a church serves only the Living God and seeks and follows His direction in every decision they make, they are a theocracy. When either the pastor, the deacons, certain families or certain individuals within a church make the decisions for their church, that church is governed by an oligarchy. On the other hand, if a church allows the majority of the voting membership to control the direction of their church without seeking and following the direction of the Living God, they are governed as a democracy. The only acceptable and safe form of church government is a theocracy.

The point I would like to share is that God showed John that the Catching Up (the Rapture) will take place at the end of the Church Age. The description of the Church Age ends with the last verses of chapter 3, "²¹ To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. ²² He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." (The King James Version)

We find that the very next two verses (Revelation 4:1-2) says, "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**. ² And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne." (The King James Version)

It is important to note, however, that even though we have noted that the Church Age described in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 is recorded in chronological order, it does not mean that everything recorded in Revelation 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 was recorded in chronological order. On the contrary, we have noted in the paper titled "A Chronological Study Of Revelation" (on this website), that the Heaven Age begins at the end of Revelation, chapter 11. We find that chapters 12 through 22 of Revelation contains extra information we are to place in the panoramic view Christ gives us in the first eleven chapters.

After the end of the last verses of chapter 3, the saved members of Christ's local, scriptural churches are never mentioned again because they have been caught up and have returned with Christ to the throne room of the Living God (the Third Heaven). Although there will still be religious assemblies left here on the earth after the Catching Up who call themselves a church, every saved member of every scriptural church has left and there is no one left with scriptural authority to establish another one. It does not matter how hard you beat a dead horse, it is impossible to get it to conceive and 11 months later give birth to a foal. DEAD IS DEAD! Therefore, we see that the Church Age (which we are in right now) will end when God the Father sends His Son to retrieve the Bride of Christ as well as the rest of the Family of God.

Jesus Christ will bring us to the Throne Room of God where we will all be presented at the same time. ¹⁴ *Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you." 2 Corinthians 4:14 (King James Version)*

John sees a sealed book opened after he is taken to the Third Heaven, The opening of that sealed book at the beginning of Revelation, chapter 6, begins the seven years of tribulation on this present earth.

¹ *And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts saying, Come and see.* ² *And I saw, and behold a white horse: and he that sat on him had a bow; and a crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.* ³ *And when he had opened the second seal, I heard the second beast say, Come and see.* ⁴ *And there went out another horse that was red: and power was given to him that sat thereon to take peace from the earth, and that they should kill one another: and there was given unto him a great sword.* ⁵ *And when he had opened the third seal, I heard the third beast say, Come and see. And I beheld, and lo a black horse; and he that sat on him had a pair of balances in his hand.* ⁶ *And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine.* ⁷ *And when he had opened the fourth seal, I heard the voice of the fourth beast say, Come and see.* ⁸ *And I looked, and behold a pale horse: and his name that sat on him was Death, and Hell followed with him. And power was given unto them over the fourth part of the earth, to kill with sword, and with hunger, and with death, and with the beasts of the earth.* ⁹ *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the*

word of God, and for the testimony which they held: ¹⁰ And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? ¹¹ And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled. ¹² And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood; ¹³ And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. ¹⁴ And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. ¹⁵ And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; ¹⁶ And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: ¹⁷ For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" Revelation 6:1-17 (King James Version)

Jesus Christ gave John another insight to help John understand the proper sequence of the future events. In Revelation 19:5-10, John sees that the saved who are caught up will attend the marriage supper of the Lamb.

⁵ And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great. ⁶ And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. ⁷ Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. ⁸ And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. ⁹ And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto **the marriage supper of the Lamb**. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. ¹⁰ And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy." Revelation 19:5-10 (King James Version)

After the marriage supper of the Lamb, John sees that Christ will come to earth to destroy the Beast, the kings of the earth and their armies who opposed Him.

¹¹ **And** I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. ¹² His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. ¹³ And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. ¹⁴ **And the armies which were in heaven followed him** upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and **he shall rule them with a rod of iron**: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. ¹⁶ And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. ¹⁷ And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; ¹⁸ That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. ¹⁹ And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. ²⁰ And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone. ²¹ And the remnant were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh." Revelation 19:11-21 (King James Version)

Then John sees that Satan will be bound in the bottomless pit for about 1,000 years while Christ rules this earth from Jerusalem.

"¹ **And** I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and **bound him a thousand years**, ³ And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their

hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵ *But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection." Revelation 20:1-5 (King James Version)*

So, according to Christ's revelation to John, at the end of the Church Age, the saved will go up to the Third Heaven where we go before the βῆμα (called in English, the Bama Seat or the Reward Seat). " ¹⁰ *For we must all appear before the βῆμα 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 5:10 (King James Version)

Then we attend the marriage supper of the Lamb. All this will take 7 years. After we attend the marriage supper of the Lamb in heaven (Revelation 19:5-10 quoted above), we come back down with Christ when He comes to destroy the beast, the kings of the earth and their armies (Revelation 19:11-21 quoted above). Then Christ has Satan bound in the bottomless pit until near the end of Christ's 1,000 years reign on this earth (Revelation 20:1-5, quoted above).

Please note that when Christ comes down as described in Revelation 19:11-21 (quoted above), He will not come down to catch up the saved. He will come down (1) to destroy those who have opposed Him and He will come down (2) to set up His 1,000 year reign.

*" ⁴ And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and **reigned with Christ a thousand years.** ⁵ But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. ⁶ Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but **they** shall be priests of God and of Christ, and **shall reign with him a thousand years.**" Revelation 20:4-6 (King James Version)*