

#37-The Catching Up Will Take Place Before The Tribulation

Do you believe that God the Father would communicate the correct order of the events that will transpire in the future to His Son, Jesus Christ? Do you believe Jesus Christ would communicate the correct order of the events that will transpire in the future to us? *"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)*

Although this paper is somewhat long we urge everyone to read all 6 reasons why the Catching Up precedes the Tribulation. There are **more** scriptural reasons but we will only list 6 in this paper. You may also read a more 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. We urge you to read all of this Bible lesson even if you cannot read all of it at one time and have to read it in sections.

Point #1- 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". God the Father showed Jesus Christ that the Catching Up (the Rapture) will take place at the end of the Church Age. And then Jesus Christ showed us 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 Revelation, 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 observed that the Church Age and the Catching Up that are described in Revelation chapters 2, 3 and 4 are recorded in chronological order and are joined together, it does not mean that everything recorded in Revelation 1:1 to Revelation 22:21 were recorded in chronological order. On the contrary, we have explained in the paper titled "A Chronological Study Of Revelation" on our website. <http://www.bayourouge.net>, that the Heaven Age (eternity) 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. Again, the first eleven chapters are in chronological order. The paper "A Chronological Study Of Revelation", on our website. <http://www.bayourouge.net>, explains that in detail. That particular paper is requested and downloaded by visitors from 108 countries more than any of the other papers, every month.

Point #2- After the end of the last verses of Revelation, chapter 3, the saved members of Christ's local, scriptural churches **are never mentioned again** in the Book of Revelation! The reason is that the saved members of Christ's local, scriptural churches, Christ's Bride, plus the wedding guests will be caught up and accompany 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 will leave and there will not be anyone left with scriptural authority to establish another scriptural church.

"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 fellow servants 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)

We call your attention to two things. First, Jesus Christ passed down the authority to scripturally baptize. Second, the church in Jerusalem was in existence about 3 to 3 1/2 years before that fateful day of Pentecost. No, we did not sneak over to your house and put the following scripture in your Bible. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE! The church in Jerusalem was baptizing new converts into the membership of their church about 3 to 3 1/2 years before that fateful day of Pentecost! " 1 When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, 2 (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) 3 He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee." John 4:1-3 (King James Version)

In the charter that Jesus Christ gave to the institution of His called out assemblies, Jesus commissioned the members of His local, scriptural churches (1) to make disciples, (2) to baptize them by the authority of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and (3) to teach the new members all the things that He had taught them.

Again, 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 will

have left and there will not be anyone on this earth 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 live 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 (the wedding guests) including John the Baptist. Yes, John the Baptist, himself, testified that he was not a member of the Bride of Christ but a friend. " 25 Then there arose a question between some of John's disciples and the Jews about purifying. 26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizeth, and all men come to him. 27 John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. 28 Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before him. 29 He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled." John 3:25-29 (King James Version)

Therefore, the saved members of Christ's local, scriptural churches are never mentioned again after a door allows John to visit the Throne Room of God. We find that Jesus taught in Matthew 10:9, " 9 I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." The saved members of Christ's local, scriptural churches, Christ's Bride, plus the wedding guests will be caught up and accompany Christ to the Throne Room of the Living God (the Third Heaven) and then the Tribulation begins.

Jesus Christ will bring us to the Throne Room of God where (1) everyone who was saved prior the earthly ministry of Jesus Christ, (2) those who were saved during the earthly ministry of Christ and (3) those who are saved from the end of the earthly ministry of Christ to the Catching Up will all be presented in the Throne Room (the Third Heaven) 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)

Point #3- Again, we find in Revelation 4:1, " 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." John sees a sealed book opened (1) after the end of the Church Age and (2) after he is

taken to the Throne Room (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. **Did we all catch that?** John goes to the Throne Room before the seals are opened and before the man on the white horse is projected upon the scene! In other words, all of the saved up to that point in time will be in the Third Heaven when the man on the white horse is projected upon the scene, not on the earth going through the Tribulation!

"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 fellow servants 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)

Point #4- People will be saved during the Tribulation. Otherwise what is the point of the Lord sending out 144,000 witnesses across the earth with a **charter** to preach the gospel? We find in Revelation 7:1-4, " 1 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the Living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. 4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel."

They will be so successful proclaiming the gospel that John could not count the number of people who will be saved and who will then lose their lives sometime during the Tribulation. And John sees those saved stand before the throne and stand before the Lamb while the Tribulation **is still happening** on the earth! "9 After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands; 10 And cried with a loud voice, saying, Salvation to our God which sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb. 11 And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen. 13 And one of the elders answered, saying unto me, What are these which are arrayed in white robes? and whence came they? 14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. 15 Therefore are they before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple: and he that sitteth on the throne shall dwell among them. 16 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore; neither shall the sun light on them, nor any heat. 17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed

them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes." Revelation 7:9-17

On the other hand, you will also have those who are saved during the Tribulation who do not lose their lives, both Jews and non-Jews. They are the elect referred to in Matthew 24 who Jesus Christ will call before Him as explained in Matthew 25:31-46. They are elected for salvation because the Lord knew, because of His foreknowledge, the decision they would make during the 7 years of Tribulation to repent of their sins and ask Jesus Christ to pay the sin debt they owe. That's why it is so important for us to witness. Even though we will be gone, we do not know who will make a decision after we leave because of something we shared. " 29 *Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. 31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."* Matthew 24:29-31 (King James Version)

In regard to the Greek word we find translated "elect" in Matthew 24:31, we find the following information in "The Complete Word Study Dictionary", " Therefore, to arrive at the proper conclusion of who the elect are in each instance of its occurrence, the context has to be taken into account. In Matt. 24:22, 24 and Mark 13:20, 22 it is evident that the elect are only those who will be saved during the Tribulation, not all the saved of all generations. How-ever, the term can refer to believers of all times, including (1) those of the dispensation of grace, (2) the church age, and (3) those who will be saved during the Tribulation as in Matt. 24:31 and Mark 13:27. Referring to those who are effectively called unto salvation generally (Matt. 20:16; 22:14; Rom. 8:33; Col. 3:12; 2 Tim. 2:10; Titus 1:1); of the believers who are discriminated against during their lifetime (Luke 18:7). Generally, with a subst. (1 Pet. 1:2; 2 John 1:1, 13) or as a subst. (Rev. 17:14)".

Please remember that in most of Matthew, chapters 24 and 25, Jesus Christ was answering three questions that He had been asked. " 1 *And Jesus went out, and departed from the temple: and his disciples came to him for to shew him the buildings of the temple. 2 And Jesus*

said unto them, See ye not all these things? verily I say unto you, There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down. 3 And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?" Matthew 24:1-3 (King James Version)

1- "When shall these things be?"

2- "What shall be the sign of thy coming?"

3- "(What shall be the sign of) the end of the world?"

Point #5- Jesus Christ gave John, while he was in exile on the Isle of Patmos, another insight to help John understand the proper sequence of future events. In Revelation 19:5-10, John sees that the saved who are caught up at that event some people call "the Rapture", will attend the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. At that event we will find a father (God the Father), a son (Jesus Christ), a bride (the scripturally baptized members of Christ's local, scriptural, New Testament churches) and wedding guests (Matthew 22:1-14; Luke 14:16-24). John the Baptist and other saved who never received scriptural baptism and consequently, have never been a member of the institution of Christ's local, scriptural, New Testament churches will be the wedding guests. Therefore, we have to already be in the Throne Room in order for us to attend the Marriage Supper of the Lamb while the Tribulation continues on this earth. " 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 fellow servant, 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)

Point #6- After the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, John sees that Christ will come down with us to earth to destroy the Beast, the kings of the earth and their armies who opposed Him AT THE END OF THE TRIBULATION..

*"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 during the Millennium. *" 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 (the saved) 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. Those two events, the Bama Seat and the Marriage Supper, will take 7 years. After we attend the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in the Third Heaven, the Throne Room of God, (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 (Tartarus) until near the end of Christ's 1,000 year 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), the scriptures do not say He will come down to catch up the saved. He will come down (1) to destroy those who have opposed Him on this earth 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)*

Therefore, according to Revelation 19:11-21, the saved must already be in the Third Heaven in order for us to come back down with the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords. " *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)