

The Bride of Christ in Heaven; the Open Door
The Throne in Heaven
(Revelation 4: 1-11)

The threefold division of Revelation appears on the first chapter and verse nineteen: the things which you have seen- the vision of the glorified CHRIST in chapter one; the things which are – the history of the Church on earth from Pentecost to the Rapture as seen in the letters to the seven churches in chapters two and three; the things which will take place after this from chapter four to twenty-two. From chapter four and verse one, all the events that follow are after the departure of the Bride of Christ. At that time the mission of the Church will have been finished and completed on earth. A door is opened and she is called up. John said, 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 here, and I will show you the things which must take place (Rev. 4: 1). To know the division of Revelation is of great importance for the understanding of the book. John saw in heaven the Throne of God. Throne speaks of judgment and the sovereign Lord is seen sited on His throne ready to judge the living and the dead wicked ones. This is now the dispensation of judgment.

An open door is the way one may pass through from one place to another. Even heaven has a door; its door is YAHSHUA, our Redeemer and Lord. He said, I am the door; by Me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture (John 10:9). Through this door we find life eternal; in the final call He will open the door through the trumpet sounding for us to enter with our glorified body. There are four types of doors in the book of Revelation: the **first** door appears in the letter to Philadelphia; it says, I have set before you an open door; this door is the door for proclaiming of the gospel; the **second** and the **third** doors are found in the letter to the Laodicea church: He said, Behold, I stand at the door, and knock if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and have dinner with him and he with Me. This door is a closed door of the apostate church. While the Lord stands outside knocking, He invites her to fellowship with Him. While doors for the gospel remain open in many places, the door of the human heart remains closed to obey the Lord. The **fourth** door is through the trumpet call when heaven opens its door for those who have opened the door of their heart to the Lord and enjoy a relationship with Him. The time will come when the door for the teaching of the Gospel will be closed and the door of heaven also will be closed from eternity to eternity. It will be worth your while to open the door of your heart for the Lord, so the door of heaven will be open to you also at the sound of His trumpet calling His Bride home. John says, The first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking to me which said, Come up here, and I will show you the things which are to come (4:1). This is a very brief statement on the rapture of the Bride of Christ. It symbolizes the believers' blessed hope given by her Lord. He said that He would keep His own from the hour of trial which is to come on the world (3:10). John is a representation of those who will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air and be with Him forever. He described the voice as it were a trumpet. This is the trumpeted Paul described in I Corinthians 15:51-52: Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump; for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. This is not the last

trumpet in point of time in the book of Revelation. This trumpet signifies the resurrection and the rapture at the return of CHRIST for His bride. In the Jewish tradition the sound of the trumpet signals the beginning of the fall harvest feasts: the Feast of Trumpets, the Day of Atonement and the Feast of Tabernacles. There are four blasts each with different meaning: The first blast is called Teriah – praise the Lord with Teriah; the second sound means true repentance, brokenness before YAHWEH; the third means alarm intended to alert; the fourth tekiah hagadolah – great blast; or last trumpet. The trumpet call for the Bride is found in I Cor. 15: 51-52; I Thess. 4:16-17. It is a call for convocation or relocation of the Bride of CHRIST; the last trumpet call of angels in Revelation is for the nation of Israel: But in the days of the sound of the seventh angel, when he will blow his trumpet, then God’s hidden plan will be completed, as He announced to His servants, the prophets (Rev. 10:7).

John writes, And immediately I was in the spirit (4:2). We see here that the translation of the apostle John was immediately; the rapture will take place in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (I Cor. 15:52). John was summoned by the Lord to “come up here” in the spirit, as if he was left for dead and immediately translated to the third Heaven, the abode of YAHWEH. He is showing John the things which will be happening after the church era. He saw a throne and He Who sat on the throne looked like jasper and carnelian stone; and there was a rainbow surrounding the throne that looked like an emerald (4:2-3). From this time forth, throne will have the meaning of judgment, as we see in verse five, And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices; and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of YAHWEH (4: 5). Lightnings, thunderings, and voices are symbols of judgment. This was the introduction shown to John of the coming judgment upon the earth. The throne John saw was encircled by a rainbow- a pledge of YAHWEH’S faithfulness; its colors speak of the promised hope we have in Him in the new covenant of blood to all who believe in Him. But the time will arrive when all will take the meaning of judgment towards those who rejected Him. The praises “in the midst of the throne” came from the living creatures which were created beings redeemed by YAHSHUA’S blood. They rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty, Who was, and is, and is to come (4:8). In a perfect and glorious worship, at the sound of Holy, holy, holy, the twenty-four elders rise from their thrones and fall before the triune YAHWEH joining the praise due Him. As part of their worship they “Cast their crown before the throne”- An act of complete surrender of their reward to YAHSHUA’S glory. They said, You are worthy O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for You have created all things, and for Your pleasure they are and were created (4:11). Such scenes of worship given to our Lord should penetrate our heart and mind to remind us that only He is worthy of praise and worship; all praises and adoration must be inscribed to Him. “Praise the LORD all His angels of great strength, who do His word, obedient to His command; praise the LORD, all His armies, His servants who do His will; praise the LORD, all His works in all the places where He rules; my soul, praise the LORD!” (Psalm 103:20-22).

(References from the book Revelation by Lehman Strauss)