

## Heaven - Revelation 4-5

After these things 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." - Pray

Well, there was a preacher who preached a sermon on heaven. And the text he used was Genesis 28, of Jacob's Ladder going up into heaven and the angels of God descending and ascending on it.

A)The pastor's young son in the church listening, and was captivated by it

B)And a couple days later he went and said, Dad, I had a dream about heaven, about your sermon.

C)Dad said, well, tell me about it. He goes, well, I had a dream that there was a ladder that went from Earth all the way up to heaven, like the sermon.

D)But at the bottom of this ladder there were pieces of chalk,

1)and before anyone was allowed to go up on the ladder they had to take a piece of the chalk

E)and write a mark for every sin they have committed on the rungs of the ladder.

So in my dream I'm going up this ladder, haven't gotten very far when somebody is coming down the ladder.

A)And Dad said, well, who would that be? He said, well, it was you, Dad.

B)He said, I was coming down the ladder? Why would I be coming down the ladder? And his boy said, for more chalk.

C)Well, the imaginations of a boy are fun, but the revelation of God is better.

D)And God gives to John the Apostle a revelation of the heaven of the future.

E)Now, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ, if you follow him, you will one day, either through death or rapture, see heaven. - Tour

As we go through these two chapters tonight - 3 main points

#1 Heaven is a Real Place - Ch.4:1-7

#2 Heaven is a Responsive place Ch. 4:8-11; 5:8-14

#3 Heaven is a Relevant place Ch.5:1-7

#1 Heaven is a Real Place

After these things 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."

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

3 And He who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads. 5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal. And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

I want you to notice that there is a shift that takes place in the book of Revelation in chapter 4

A)You see in the first 3 chapters of the book of Revelation - the writer the apostle John is on earth

B)We learn in Chapter 1:9 that John is writing in exile from the island patmos

1)He is given a vision of Jesus - sees Jesus in Glory

C)We noted that John is given in Ch.1:19 the Divine outline to the book of Revelation - 3 parts to it  
<sup>19</sup> Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

1<sup>st</sup> Write the things which you have seen: Vision of Jesus in chapter 1

2<sup>nd</sup> Write the things that are: Chapters 2-3 the letters to the churches

A)Jesus dictates to John seven letters to seven churches in Asia Minor

B) So chapters 2-3 deal with what is happening on earth with these seven churches - pictures of the church through the ages

C) 3<sup>rd</sup> Write the things that will take place after this: The Greek phrase for after this is the phrase - Meta Tauta

D) The question is after what? - After the letters to the churches - after the church age chapters 4-22

Now what is interesting is Chapter 4 Begins with this same phrase After these things - Greek - Meta Tauta

A) After the focus on the churches - there is a shift that happens 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

B) John is NOW in Heaven: How does he get there - I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here

C) John experiences here what we would call a Rapture: - The word Rapture is from the Latin word raptus = caught up

D) A rapture is when people who are alive are taken to heaven

The first person to experience a rapture was a man in the OT named Enoch Genesis 5:24 <sup>24</sup> And Enoch walked with God; and he *was* not, for God took him.

A) Enoch was a godly guy who walked with God - one day Enoch went for a walk with God and never came home -

B) God took him - He was here and then he was not.

C) The next person in the Bible to experience being caught up into heaven while being alive was Elijah - 2 Kings 2

D) Revelation 11 - The two witnesses - Two guys that Jesus sends to the earth to preach to people during the tribulation

The people of the world are not going to want to hear their message /kill them

A) They leave their bodies lying in the streets of Jerusalem for 3 days - while people party around them - so hard hearted

B) But after 3 days - this happens: <sup>11</sup> Now after the three-and-a-half days the breath of life from God entered them, and they stood on their feet, and great fear fell on those who saw them. <sup>12</sup> And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." (Sound familiar? - Also what John hears in Chapter 4) And they ascended to heaven in a cloud, and their enemies saw them.

C) They were caught up or raptured - taken to heaven while being alive.

Then there are two other places in the Bible where the idea of the rapture is presented -

A) But in these two places - those who are taken are taken in Mass - the rapture of the church - Turn 1 Thessalonians 4

B) Paul in 1 Thessalonians 4 was writing to the believers in Thessalonica who were concerned about their loved ones who had died

1) What happens to them - are they in heaven - will they miss the rapture?

<sup>13</sup> But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. (another way of saying who have died knowing Jesus) 1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

C) We have this hope - absent from this body = to be present with the Lord

Then Paul says V.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. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together (caught up - taken) with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

A) Big Reunion - those who have died in Jesus - come with Him - those alive on the earth are caught up - meet in the clouds

B) Taken to heaven - and notice Paul's concluding thought -<sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.

The Doctrine of the rapture is meant to bring comfort to us!

A) One day - Like Enoch - like Elijah - like the two witnesses - people who are alive are going to be taken to heaven

B) Caught up to meet Jesus in the clouds -

C) Paul also describes this in 1 Corinthians 15:51-55  
51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: (Mysterion - something that was once hidden that has now been revealed) We shall not all sleep, die but we shall all be changed— metamorphosis - caterpillar becomes the butterfly 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."  
55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

D) In the moment in the twinkling of an eye - here on earth in these earthly bodies -

1) The next moment - in heaven - heavenly bodies -

So listen: When people tell you - there is no such thing as a rapture - not real - Don't listen to them

A) These passages make it clear - this is going to happen - one day - the next event on the prophetic calendar

B) Let me give you one more example: John 14 - the night before the cross talking to his disciples  
"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup> In My Father's house are many mansions; (Father's house? - Heaven) if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup> 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. John 14:1-3

C) Jesus says I am going to the father's house - heaven - but I am going to come back again - and receive - or take you to myself -

1) So that where I am there you may be also -

D) Coming again to receive you or take you to heaven

This word receive is an interesting Word in the Greek - *paralambano*

A) It is used in Matthew 1:27 Joseph is told to take - *paralambano* Mary as his wife

B) It is used in John 14 - Jesus is talking to his disciples about taking them to heaven

C) And It is used in Mark 9:2 Jesus took - *paralambano* Peter, James and John up to the MT of Transfiguration

1) They see him in an aspect of his glory

D) See the Parallel

- Taking a bride
- Taking to heaven
- Taking to see His glory

E) Friends that is what is going to happen at the Rapture: Jesus is going to take us his bride to heaven - see him in his glory!

Now the question that is debated by those who believe in the rapture is when it is going to happen?

A) Post Trib - end of the tribulation / Mid trib - middle -

B) The Tribulation is divided into 2 3 ½ year periods - and the 2<sup>nd</sup> half is more intense judgment

C) Then there is the pre-wrath view that is similar - it puts the rapture in Revelation 14 - before the bowl judgments start

1) Those with that view - mark the bowl judgments as the Great Tribulation - different than everything that happens before

D) We will talk more about that view when we get to Chapter 14

Then there is the Pre-trib view

A) The rapture happens before the Tribulation starts. - I hold this view - as do many evangelicals - JM - Chuck Swindol - DJ

B)Most CC pastors - and one of the main reasons - is because here in 1 Thessalonians 4 - Paul starts talking about the rapture

C)And in Chapter 5 he talks about the Day of the Lord - which is a time frame in Bible that refers to The Great Tribulation

D)A time when God will pour out his wrath on a world that has rejected his son.

Paul says in Chapter 5 that day is going to come upon the world like a thief - catch them by surprise.

A)Paul says to the church - 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

B)Note that phrase v. 9 -God has not appointed unto wrath - but to obtain salvation -whether we wake - alive -

1)Or Sleep - dead - we should live together with Him

C)Rapture - those who are living - awake - caught up - sleep - dead - dead in Christ rise first - (already have)

1)We are All together with him

D)Not appointed unto Wrath - why? Jesus already took the wrath for us at Calvary

<sup>11</sup> Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.

Listen: I believe strongly that the Tribulation time begins in Chapter 6 -

Turn there: Now I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals

A)Note this: Everything that happens on the earth from Chapter 6-18 originates from heaven

B)This is how you can know the difference between Tribulation and the Great Tribulation -

1)Jesus said in John 16 - In this world you will have tribulation - trials and difficulty are a part of life

C)The Great tribulation is different - It comes from the hand of God - It originates in heaven -

1)Jesus starts opening the seals - and things get crazy on planet earth

Note: V. <sup>15</sup> And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, <sup>16</sup> and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! <sup>17</sup> For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"

His wrath is being poured out - but wait we are not appointed unto wrath - so how could we still be here.

A)Now turn back to chapter 4 - One more thing that I think is interesting

B)We see here in V.1 - John gets caught up - He gets raptured - after these things - Meta Tauta

C)After these letters to the churches - CHURCH AGE -

D)Here is what is interesting to me: The word church is mentioned 19 times in the first 3 chapters of the book of Revelation

E)The church is not mentioned again on planet earth until Chapter 19 when the Church is seen coming back with Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> coming

Why are we not seen on earth during the Tribulation? Caught up into at the rapture before it starts

A)Two last things about this: #1 If you believe different that is ok - but I think your approach to life might be different

B)Looking for the Anti-Christ to appear- the Bible never tells us to do - and you need to gear up for the Trib

1)Not even instructed on how to do

C)#2 Being Pre-trib is not escapism - YAY! - rapture - who cares about everyone else - NO NO NO

D)The early church believed in the imminent return of Jesus for his bride - imminent = it can happen at any time

1)Waiting and watching

That is what Made them so powerful - effective for the GOSPEL

A)Real people are going to go through the Tribulation - we want to see as many people escape that as possible

B)That should be our mentality as well.

C)What if you are Wrong Pastor Rob - Tribulation starts - Anti-christ is revealed and we are still here?

D)We will gather at the church - pray and talk about how to not take the mark - and how to get people saved!

1)But I don't think I am wrong - really shouldn't affect the way we live - living to see people KNOW JESUS - TRIP - HATE TRAVELING - help these pastors

So with that as a backdrop - Lets take a tour of Heaven. - Lets consider what John sees in heaven  
2 Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne.

A)The first thing he sees is the Throne of God - the Throne is always the focal point of heaven - 13 times in ch. 4

B)Not looking for David, Moses.... or your spouse - child - that will come - We will be drawn to God

I love what Dwight L. Moody used to say about heaven. He said, it's not the jeweled walls, it's not the pearly gates that are going to make heaven attractive. It's just being with God. Being with God-- that's why heaven is more than a what or a where. It's really a whom. You'll be where He is.

C)This was a great thing for the believers in John's day suffering persecution to be reminded of

1)As well as believers in our Day of Madness - God is on the throne  
3 And He who sat there was like (Revelation speak for - this is the best I can do to describe this- it was like) a jasper (A jasper stone was a clear stone - like a diamond and probably speaks of light - God is light....darkness at all.) and a sardius stone in appearance; (A blood red color - to honor the Blood of Jesus that purchased our redemption-SYMBOL OF LOVE ) and there was a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

On the throne is God

A)Around the throne is this emerald like stones that give off the appearance of a rainbow.

B)The Rainbow is the symbol of promise and grace - After the flood - rainbow - promise never judge with a flood

C)Isn't that remarkable that that the symbol shining from the throne of God - is the symbol of His Promise

1)He is a God who keeps his promises

D)So emanating from the throne of God are symbols of Light Love promise and grace (Come boldly before....Grace)

4 Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones I saw twenty-four elders sitting, clothed in white robes; and they had crowns of gold on their heads.

Who are the 24 Elders - Leaders of 12 tribes - and 12 apostles?

A)This is a representative group

B)in the Old Testament there is a genealogy that has 24 patriarchs listed that represent all of the patriarchs listed.

C)Also, the 24 elders who were over the 24 courses of priests,

1)those 24 elders represented all of the priests and, in fact, all of the nation of Israel.

D)And also, there were 24 courses of Levitical singers with representatives that represented the nation.

E)Now the term elder is a NT word - "presbuteros," elder,- they are representatives of the church

F)And so I believe these 24 elders are representing the church of Jesus Christ in heaven

1)See something in a few minutes in ch.5 that I think supports this idea.

5 And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

A)We now see that something is coming out from the throne. lightnings, thunderings

B)The first time we read about thundering and lightning and voices is in Exodus at Mount Sinai. - 10 commandments

C)And you're going to see four different times in the book of Revelation that there are thundering and lightning and voices

1)and each time they come from the throne of God.

D)So this is a preview of coming attractions - Lightning and thundering - usually associated with God's power majesty & judgment

God's throne has been a throne of grace for many, many years. There will come a time when God prepares His throne for judgment.

A)As if to say, I love the earth, I've been patient, I've given My Son, I've sent My Christian witnesses throughout the earth,

B)But now it is time for Judgment to come!

C)All you have to do is spend 30 minutes flipping through news feeds - horrific and evil going on in this world.

All the wars, all the famines, all the murders, all the rapes?

A)Multiply that millions of times over for cities around this globe, then count over 365 days a year,

B)Then add years and years that God has been seeing all that. He's been patient. But then, finally, God will judge.

C)Our world has turned its back on God and deserves to be judged

D)But before the Judgment comes - we are reminded of the grace love and perfection - in Redemption

6 Before the throne there was a sea of glass, like crystal.

And in the midst of the throne, and around the throne, were four living creatures full of eyes in front and in back. 7 The first living creature was like a lion, the second living creature like a calf, the third living creature had a face like a man, and the fourth living creature was like a flying eagle.

The writer of Hebrews 9:23 says very plainly that the tabernacle, that big tent-like temple in the wilderness, was a model of heaven.

A)You think about some elements in the tabernacle.

B)There was a seven-branched candlestick. Here in heaven we see seven lamps of fire.

C)In the tabernacle, there was cherubim with two wings apiece, four wings over the mercy seat.

1)Here we see four living creatures around the throne.

D)In the tabernacle, there was a bronze bull, a laver with water in it. The priest would dip his hands and wash before the sacrifice.

E)Here we see this huge sea of crystal--glass. It's solid now.

You say, that's interesting, why is it solid and not fluid? Because there's no need for cleansing anymore. Cleansing is over.

A)Jesus died on the cross, paid the price, and we're standing on the finished work of Jesus Christ there in heaven.

B)Question: do you live like that now? Do you believe in that now or are you still feeling guilty trying to earn your way to God?

C)Saying, God, look, I've been good today, You owe me a little favor here. Or do you stand on a completed work that you can't add to?

A man came to an evangelist named Alexander Wooten and said, "I need to get salvation." Wooten said, "It's too late." He said, "What do you mean it's too late? I need to get salvation."

Wooten said, "It's too late, it's already been done." You can't get it on your own--it's been gotten for you.

D)It's a finished work that you must receive and trust in the merits of Christ.

E)This scene is heaven reminds us of that!

A sea of glass is also a symbol of peace

A)We are going to see in this study of the book of Revelation - Crazy and Cataclysmic things happening on planet earth -

B)But the whole time in Heaven - there is peace -  
Why - God is in control - he knows what he is doing -  
true and righteous are his judgments

C)So Heaven is a Real place a Majestic place

Randy Alcorn, book Heaven, says Satan labors to  
give people an inaccurate view of heaven.

A)Our enemy slanders three things-- God's person,  
God's people, and God's place.

B)Some of his favorite lies, writes Alcorn, "are lies  
concerning heaven."

C)That makes sense. Satan was evicted from heaven.

C)But You are going to heaven if you know Christ.

1)All of that would be sufficient motivation to have  
him work hard to try to lie about what it's going to be  
like. Heaven is a real place.

#2 Heaven is responsive place : Worship is the  
language of Heaven

The worship of the 4 living creatures

<sup>8</sup> *The four living creatures, each having six wings,  
were full of eyes around and within. And they do not  
rest day or night, saying:*

"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty,  
Who was and is and is to come!"

This is not robotic - Responsive: Can't help it - These  
Cherubim Natural response to the glory of God -  
Worship!

A)Holy - Whole - altogether perfect - without flaw or  
blemish - Righteous in all his works

In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord  
sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of  
His robe filled the temple. <sup>2</sup> Above it stood seraphim;  
each one had six wings: with two he covered his face,  
with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew.

<sup>3</sup> And one cried to another and said:

"Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;  
The whole earth is full of His glory!" Isaiah 6:1-3

B)The Lord God almighty - Sovereign King

C)The one is was and is and is to come!!!

The worship of the 24 elders

<sup>9</sup> Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor  
and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives

forever and ever, <sup>10</sup> the twenty-four elders fall down  
before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him  
who lives forever and ever, and cast their crowns  
before the throne, saying:

<sup>11</sup> "You are worthy, O Lord,  
To receive glory and honor and power;  
For You created all things,  
And by Your will they exist and were created."

They worship him because he is worthy - Worth/ship  
- Worth our praise because he is the Powerful creator  
of all things

A)And by Your will they exist and were created."

B)Everything that was made including you and me -  
were created by God and for God.

1)We find our greatest sense of life and fulfillment  
when living in relationship with God

C)Worship is the greatest expression of that  
relationship - Worship in the Greek is the word  
proskuneo = to turn and to Kiss

1)Worship is an act of intimacy-

We are going to see another Response from these  
Elders in Chapter 5

A)That I think proves they represent the church -  
because of how they respond

B)But before we get to that - Let's consider point #3  
Heaven is a Relevant place

And I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the  
throne a scroll written inside and on the back, sealed  
with seven seals. <sup>2</sup> Then I saw a strong angel  
proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to  
open the scroll and to loose its seals?" <sup>3</sup> And no one  
in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able  
to open the scroll, or to look at it.

<sup>4</sup> So I wept much, because no one was found worthy  
to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. <sup>5</sup> But one  
of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the  
Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has  
prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven  
seals."

<sup>6</sup> And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne  
and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of  
the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain,  
having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the  
seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

<sup>7</sup> Then He came and took the scroll out of the right  
hand of Him who sat on the throne.

Now we looked at this passage in detail on Sunday (app or website - watch and listen

A) John sees the one on the throne - holding a scroll - sealed with seven seals - Title deed to the planet earth

B) Title deeds sealed with seven seals -

C) Planet earth was forfeited into the hands of the Devil at the fall - the god of this age - the rule of the world

Planet earth needs to be redeemed - bought back - purchased again

A) A search is made - Who is worthy to take the scroll and break the seals

B) NO ONE - heaven or earth is found - All looks lost - John begins to weep!

C) Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals."

D) John turns expecting to see the Lion of the tribe of Judah - sees a lamb - though slain - it is JESUS

THIS IS WHY HEAVEN IS A RELEVANT PLACE

A) We are reminded there is HOPE - the price has been paid - the work has been done -

B) Jesus has redeemed us with His Blood!

C) Notice the Response: V.8

8 Now when He had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, bowing is biblical - sign of humility - recognition of his awesomeness each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. 9 And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll,

And to open its seals;

For You were slain,

And have redeemed us to God by Your blood

Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

10 And have made us kings and priests to our God;

And we shall reign on the earth."

Who is the only group of people who can say, "Out of every kindred and tongue, nation and people, we have been redeemed by the blood"?

A) Only the church- the bride can say that!

B) which to me gives further proof that the church is in heaven in chapter 5 before the Tribulation begins in chapter 6.

11 Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, 12 saying with a loud voice:

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain

To receive power and riches and wisdom,

And strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

When does true worship take place?

A) When a worship leader is giving an exhortation?

No.

B) When someone is trying to manipulate the heavenly scene to praise? No.

C) It happens when those in heaven see the slain Lamb.

So, too, who are vibrant worshipers today?

A) Not those who are manipulated by a worship leader or pastor, but those who understand that Jesus really died for them.

B) Anyone who truly sees the slain Lamb cannot help but worship.

13 And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying:

"Blessing and honor and glory and power

Be to Him who sits on the throne,

And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

14 Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshiped Him who lives forever and ever.

C) So Because the Lamb slain has taken control of the Book—the scroll, the title deed to earth—worship abounds.

Listen As soon as we get to heaven - whether it is by death or rapture when we arrive there,

A) We are going to be consumed by the vision of the glorious God upon his throne.



B)And I'll tell you, the immediate response is you're going to want to worship! -

C)It's been said there's three surprises you'll find in heaven-- who's there, who's not there, and that you're there.

1)I've always liked that.

First of all, who's not there? Hey, where's So-and-So? I was sure they'd be here. Nope.

A)And then you look at some people, how did you get here? You were the last person I'd ever expect to see in heaven. Surprise.

B)And then, surprise of surprises, you're there.

C)However we get there - the cry/song of our hearts is going to be I am redeemed by his blood out of every tribe, tongue, nation.

So while there is tribulation on the Earth, chapter 6 through 19, there is adoration in heaven, chapters 4 and 5.

A)Not as if we are happy about what is happening on planet earth.

B)We are fully going to understand the Holiness of God - the greatness of God and the wisdom of God

C)See Jesus - Scars - Understand Fully redemption - right now we see dimly - fogged glass - THEN CLEARLY

D)John says see Jesus and we are going to be like him

E)Response is Worship - He is worthy - He does all things right

1)Just and true are your ways

We can begin that worship in our lives now!

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. <sup>2</sup> Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God. Romans 12:1-2