

Revelation

*The Consummation of God's Plan
through Jesus Christ*

Stonebriar Community Church

Marathon Fellowship

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The Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow

Praise Him all creatures here below

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Amen.

REVELATION

The Consummation of God's Plan through Jesus Christ

I. THE MESSAGE TO THE PROPHET:

- *“Write What You Have Seen” (Chap. 1)*

II. THE MESSAGE FOR THE PEOPLE:

- *“What Is Now”—Present (Chaps. 2–3)*

III. THE MESSAGE OF PROPHECY:

- *“What Will Take Place Later”—Future (Chaps. 4–22)*

The Seven Churches of Revelation



The 7 Churches of Revelation

- Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia & Laodicea
- They are historic and representative.
 1. The number “seven” is symbolic & representative for John.
 2. The promise to each of the churches at the close of each letter is the exhortation to hear what the Spirit says to “the churches.”
 3. These 7 churches may represent the 7 successive periods of church history.

The 7 Churches of Revelation 2–3

Church

Characteristic

- | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Ephesus | Loveless Orthodoxy |
| 2. Smyrna | Persecuted yet Faithful |
| 3. Pergamum | Faithful yet Compromising Morally |
| 4. Thyatira | Faithful yet Compromising Doctrinally |
| 5. Sardis | Spiritually Complacent |
| 6. Philadelphia | Faithful |
| 7. Laodicea | Spiritually Lukewarm |

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Revelation 4–5: The Key to Understanding God's Judgment in Revelation 6–18

- “After these things” (Gk. *meta tauta*)

- Change in Setting (Time & Space)

- Present → Future

- Earth → Heaven

1. The Place of the Judgment (Chap. 4)

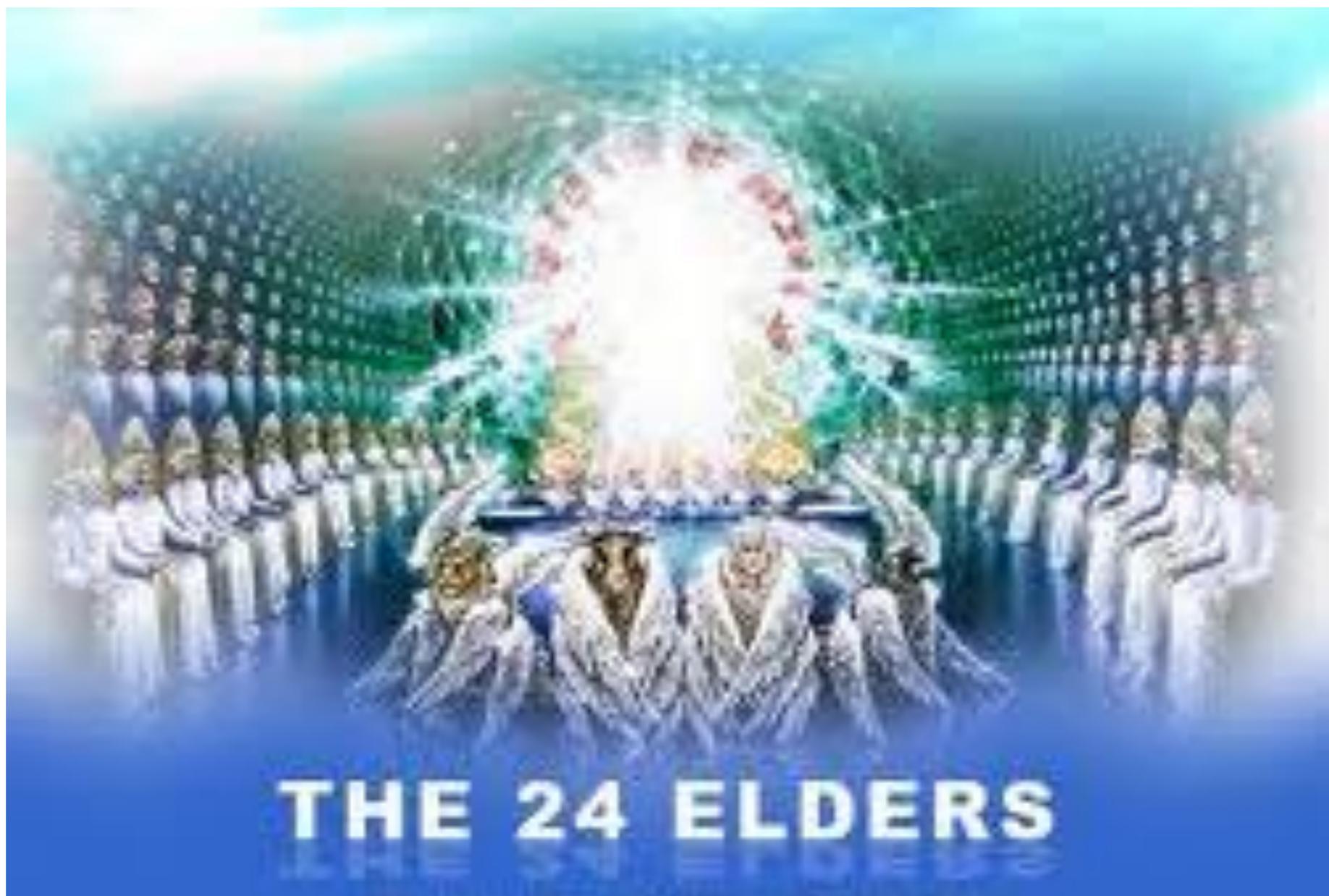
2. The Person of the Judge (Chap. 5)

Outline of Future Events in Revelation 4–22

- Prologue (chaps. 4–5)

- 1. The Tribulation Period (chaps. 6–18)**
- 2. The Second Advent of Jesus Christ (chap. 19)**
- 3. The Millennium (chap. 20)**
- 4. The Eternal State (21:1–22:6)**

- Epilogue (22:7-21)



THE 24 ELDERS

The Identity of the 24 Elders in Revelation 4

- 3 Interpretive Options:

1. Angels

2. OT/NT Saints

3. The Church (Saints of this age)

- The number 24—Priestly Divisions
(1 Chron. 24, 25)

The Person of the Judge in Revelation 5

- The Key Question:

“Who is worthy to break open the seals and open the scroll of God’s Judgment?”

(Seal, Trumpet, Bowl Judgments)

3 Major Views on the Rapture of the Church & the Tribulation

- 1. Pre-tribulational Rapture**
- 2. Post-tribulational Rapture**
- 3. Mid-tribulational Rapture**

Some Facts about the Great Tribulation

1. It is Daniel's 70th Week of Prophecy given for the Nation Israel (Dan. 9:24-27).
2. It is the "Time of Jacob's Trouble" in Jeremiah's prophecy (Jer. 30:7), which will be immediately followed by the fulfillment of the New Covenant to Israel (Jer. 31, 33).
3. It is the "Time of great distress" for the Nation Israel that is unequaled in all history (Dan. 12:1; Matt. 24:21, 29), when Jews will be persecuted (Rev. 12:17).

Some Facts about the Great Tribulation (cont.)

4. It is the “hour of trial” that is going to come on the whole world (Rev. 3:10).
5. It is the period during which the “Beast” of Daniel’s prophecy or the Antichrist will manifest himself to the world (Dan. 7:7, 24; 2 Thess. 2:3; Rev. 13:1).
6. It is the period of time for which the Antichrist will make a peace-treaty with the Jews (7 yrs.), but break it in the middle of that period and will begin to persecute them.

Some Facts about the Great Tribulation (cont.)

- 7. It is the period of time during which 2/3 of Israel will be killed (Zech. 13:8-9).**
- 8. It is the period during which the “Beast out of the earth” or the False Prophet will perform many miracles to deceive the people of the earth (Rev. 13:11-18; 2 Thess. 2:9).**
- 9. It is the period in which the “gospel of the kingdom” will be preached (Matt. 24:14) by the 144,000 Jews to the whole world supernaturally (Rev. 7:1-8).**

Some Facts about the Great Tribulation (cont.)

10. It is the period in which the whole earth will be catastrophically chaotic militarily, economically, geographically, geologically, astronomically, and spiritually, as the Seal Judgments, the Trumpet Judgments, and the Bowl Judgments are poured out on the earth.

Some Notable Differences between the Rapture of the Church & the Second Advent of Christ

Rapture of the Church

1. The church will meet Christ in the air (1 Thess. 4:17).
2. The church will be taken to heaven (1 Thess. 4:17).
3. Christ will come for His saints (2 Thess. 2:1).
4. Christ Himself will gather the saints (1 Thess. 4:16).

Second Advent of Christ

1. The church will return to the earth with Christ (Zech. 14:4).
2. The church will return to the earth from heaven (Jude 14).
3. Christ will come with His saints (1 Thess. 3:13; Rev. 19:14).
4. The angels will gather the elect (Matt. 24:31).

Some Notable Differences between the Rapture of the Church & the 2nd Advent of Christ

Rapture of the Church

5. Believers will be caught up out from among unbelievers (1 Thess. 4:16-17).
6. Satan will not be bound.
7. The righteous will be removed from the earth (1 Thess. 4:17).
8. No signs will be leading up to the rapture (1 Thess. 5:4).

Second Advent of Christ

5. Unbelievers ('tares') will be gathered first (Matt. 13:41-43).
6. Satan will be bound (Rev. 20:3).
7. The wicked will be removed (Matt. 25:40-41).
8. Signs will precede the return of Christ (Matt. 24:24).