

DOES REVELATION REVEAL THE RAPTURE?

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Introduction

Views regarding the Rapture

- Pre-trib. = Church is raptured prior to the start of Daniel's 70th week
- Mid-trib = Church is raptured at mid-point of Daniel's 70th week
- Pre-"wrath" = Church is raptured at about the $\frac{3}{4}$ -point of Daniel's 70th week
- Post-trib = Church is raptured just before the end of Daniel's 70th week
- No-rapture = those who don't realize that the rapture \neq 2nd coming

Three Non-Game-Changing Arguments from Revelation for the Pre-Trib Rapture

1. Rev 4–19 is silent about the Church on earth.
2. Rev 4:1 hints at the rapture being at that point.
3. Rev 3:10 does not specify how Jesus would deliver the first-century Philadelphians.

Does Revelation Reveal the Rapture? Yes.

The Father and the two-sided scroll (5:1)

Who is worthy? (5:2)

No one was found worthy (5:3)

John wept (5:4)

The Lion of Judah is worthy (5:5)

The Lamb (5:6)

The Lamb took the scroll (5:7)

The 4 Living Creatures and the 24 Elders with their harps and bowls (5:8)

Are the 24 elders human or angelic?

Argument from seating

Revelation 4:4

Revelation 3:21

Designated as kings

When are _____ received?

What event must precede _____? _____

What follows designation as kings?

A New Song (5:9-14)

It is antiphonal. What does that mean?

Psalm 136 is also antiphonal

The New Song's arrangement:

- A. The 24 elders sing**
- B. The 4 living creatures sing**
- C. Angels, living creatures, elders sing**
- C'. All creation sings**
- B'. The 4 living creatures sing**
- A'. The 24 elders sing [or worship silently]**

How virtually all manuscripts in Rev 5:9 read

"You have redeemed us from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation."

How manuscript Alexandrinus reads:

"You have redeemed ___ from every tribe, tongue, people, and nation."

Most Greek editions other than Nestle-Aland/United Bible Societies take the first reading

Most modern translations follow Nestle-Aland/United Bible Societies

Majority Text reading of Rev 5:9-10

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 [the elders] to God by Your blood
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,

¹⁰ And have made them [the elders] kings and priests to our God;
And they [the elders] shall reign on the earth.”

Sequence of events pertinent to the Church in Rev 4:1–20:1

- ▶ Pre-trib rapture 4:1
- ▶ *Bēma* (designating kings) before 4:4
- ▶ First seal of the tribulation 6:1
- ▶ Kings begin to reign w/ Christ 20:6

You have made them [the elders] kings and priests to our God (5:10)

Supplemental arguments from Revelation for the pre-trib rapture

1. Rev 4–19 is silent about the Church on earth.
2. Rev 4:1 hints at the rapture being at that point.
3. Rev 3:10 does not specify how Jesus would deliver the first-century Philadelphians.

Conclusion