

“Come Up Here Pt. 1”
Revelation 4:1-2
9/13/26
Message 11

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Come Up Here Pt. 1”

- **Revelation – Timeline**

- **Show Timeline**

- **Text**

Revelation 4:1–2 (NKJV)

1 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.

- After These Things (Greek = Meta Tauta)
 - After What things?
 - After the church age!
- Now Note
 - A Door Open in heaven
 - Voice Like a Trumpet
 - Come UP Here
 - Me and MANY Others believe this is a reference to the Rapture!
 - And it takes place After the Church Age

- And Before the Tribulation on the earth
 - So a “Pre-Tribulation Harpazo = Rapture”

- **A BRIEF – Review On Eschatology**

- **1. Before we Look at the Support for a Pre-Trib Rapture**
 - Lets take a few minutes to Set the STAGE
 - Go Back a bit – Before we move forward
 - For CLARITY
- **2. FIRST- It's Important to Respect Other Views –**
 - **Good Christians Disagree on this Subject**
 - SO - NO division on this subject
 - **Now Please NOTE NOW**
 - If I sound Frustrated as I go through this subject
 - It is at those who are MOCKING Dispensationalism & The Pre-Trip Rapture position
 - As if it had NO merits
 - When in reality we have tons of scholarly support a PRE-TRIB Rapture
- **3. Explain The Timeline – End Times**
 - **Turn To Daniel 9 –**
 - **Context –**
 - What we're Talking about Centers Around this Prophecy
 - Israel / Daniel in Babylon captivity

- Daniel has been praying about what will happen to his people (Israel)
- The angel Gabriel brings Daniel the Answer to his pray

Daniel 9:20–23 (NKJV)

20 Now while I was speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God,

21 yes, while I was speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.

22 And he informed me, and talked with me, and said, “O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand.

23 At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell you, for you are greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision:

▪ **The Answer – Prophecy**

Daniel 9:24 (NKJV)

24 “Seventy weeks are determined For your people and for your holy city, To finish the transgression, To make an end of sins, To make reconciliation for iniquity, To bring in everlasting righteousness, To seal up vision and prophecy, And to anoint the Most Holy.

- 70 Weeks are Determined –
 - 70 Weeks Left!
- What Are the 70 Weeks
 - What is a week?
 - Now a week can be...
 - 7 Days
 - Or a period of 7 years.

- ("Heptad" a group up of seven)
- Remember...
- Genesis 29:27 Laban to Jacob / Leah, Rachel / fulfill her "Week" it was 7 years
- Now Here in Daniel a week refers to a 7-year period
 - 70 weeks = 70 – 7- Year periods
 - Or a total of 490 years are determined for Israel
- For WHO?
 - **Your People & for Your Holy City...**
 - Notice Who is this addressed to
 - Jews / Israel (your people)
 - Jerusalem (your holy city)
 - **What are these 70 Weeks or 490 Years For**
 - There will be 6 things accomplished for Israel when these 490 years have run their course.
 - The First 3 have to do with sin.
 - Accomplished by Jesus on the cross.
 - For Israel a Greater Fulfillment at Christ's second coming (Ezek. 37:23; Rom. 11:20–27).
 - The Last 3 have to do with God's kingdom.

- They will be accomplished when Jesus comes back.
 - To bring in lasting righteousness.
 - To seal up vision and prophecy.
 - To anoint a most holy place or person
- **NOW - This is NOT to be a MYSTERY**

Daniel 9:25 (NKJV)

25 "Know therefore and understand, That from the going forth of the command To restore and build Jerusalem Until Messiah the Prince, There shall be seven weeks and sixty-two weeks; The street shall be built again, and the wall, Even in troublesome times.

- Verse 25 Know Therefore & Understand
 - This was not to be a MYSTERY
 - From the going forth of the command to go & restore and rebuild Jerusalem until Messiah comes....
 - This Command took Place in (Nehemiah Chapter 2)
- There Shall be 7 weeks and 62 weeks = 69 Weeks
 - After that
 - The Messiah would arrive at that time
 - They should have never missed it.
 - Palm Sunday
 - We know the date of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem

- King Artaxerxes gave the decree on March 14, 445 BC (Neh. 2)

- The Calculation

- We know the date of the decree to rebuild Jerusalem
- British scholar, Sir Robert Anderson, showed that Jesus' triumphal entry was fulfilled on that very day
- Did you bring a calculator today?
- King Artaxerxes gave the decree on March 14, 445 BC (Neh. 2)
- The Biblical Calendar uses a 360 day year
- $69 \times 7 \times 360 = 173,880$ days
- But, in 701 BC, Numa Pompilius, the 2nd king of Rome, changed all calendars to 365 days
- So March 14th 445 BC to March 14th, 32 AD is 476 years
- (1 BC to 1 AD is one year. There is no year zero)
- $476 \text{ years} \times 365 \text{ days per year} = 173,740$ days
- Add leap years = 116 days
- March 14th to April 6th = 24 days
- Total = 173,880 days!
- That brings us to April 6th, 32 AD
- The day Jesus road into Jerusalem

- Thus fulfilling the Prophecies of Zech. & Daniel

- THEY SHOULD HAVE KNOW

▪ **Israel Rejects Their Messiah – CUT OFF**

Daniel 9:26 (NKJV)

26 “And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for Himself; And the people of the prince who is to come Shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it shall be with a flood, And till the end of the war desolations are determined.

- The Messiah was Cut Off when He died on the cross.
 - He didn't die for Himself,
 - But He died for the sins of the world.
 - When Jesus was “cut off”,
 - God's time clock for the 70 weeks was put on “pause” with one “week” to go.
 - NOW A Pause Botton has been Pushed
 - Church Age
 - Age of Grace
 - Time For the world to get saved
- Shall Destroy the city...
 - This is speaking of the destruction of Jerusalem
 - Which took place in 70 AD.
 - The city was destroyed by the Roman army
- The people of the prince who is to come

- This “prince who is to come” is the Antichrist.

- **He shall confirm a covenant**

Daniel 9:27 (NKJV)

27 Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week; But in the middle of the week He shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. And on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, Even until the consummation, which is determined, Is poured out on the desolate.”

- NOW – The Stopwatch Starts again
 - We have now skipped into the near future
 - The time of the antichrist
 - He will enter into some sort of treaty (covenant) with Israel that will last for one “week”, or, seven years.
 - This “week” is the final week of these “70 weeks”, the “70th week”.
 - This is the time we refer to as the “Tribulation”.
 - NOW in the middle of the week
 - After 3 ½ years, the antichrist will stop the sacrifices in the Temple, and do something “abominable” like calling himself “god” (2 Thess. 2:4),
 - That will cause the Temple to become “desolate”, or forsaken by God.
 - In Daniel 8 we see an earlier “abomination of desolation”,
 - Which took place before the time of Jesus.

- This was when Antiochus Epiphanes sacrificed a pig to Jupiter in the Temple in Jerusalem.

Matthew 24:15–16 (NKJV)

15 *“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” (whoever reads, let him understand),*

16 *“then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains.”*

- SO - One WEEK remains to be fulfilled
 - 7 Year Period still remains
 - 70th week is still left
- This WEEK is also Known as
 - Jacob’s Trial (Jerimiah 30:7)
 - Great Tribulation
 - The Day of The Lord
 - The Hour Of Trial (Rev. 3:10)
 - Which is A 7 - Year period when God pours out judgment on this world –
 - Mainly the last 3.5 years
- **Show Pic – go over timeline**
 - **4. Different Views in regards to this time**
 - 1. The Pre-Tribulation rapture position – (And RIGHT one...
😊)
 - Believes - Believers are caught up before this final seven-year period.

- 2. The Mid-Tribulation rapture position

- Believes - Believers are caught up in the middle of this final seven-year period.

- 3. The Pre-Wrath rapture position

- Believes - Believers are caught up at some time in the second half of this final seven-year period.

- 4. The Post-Tribulation rapture position

- Believes - Believers are caught up at the end of this final seven-year period.

- **5. Review Critics of PRE-Tribulation**

- 1. Have a Escapist Mentality

- A stupide argument – who wants to go through the tribulation period

- 2. So Heavenly Minded – No Earthly Good

- I Can agree with this in SOME cases But Overall NO

- 3. The Word Rapture is NOT in the Bible

- Yes it is!!!

1 Thessalonians 4:17 (NKJV)

17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be **caught up** together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.

- **Caught – UP**

- Caught Up = Greek: Harpazo

- **Show Pic**

- Means –
 - To be "Snatched Away"
 - To be grabbed by the collar and taken up with force

- **The Term Rapture**

- When the New Testament was translated into Latin
- The translators used the word raptus for harpazo
- From which we get our word RAPTURE

- **The Word RAPTURE may not be in our English Bible**

- BUT the Rapture is clear in 1 Corinthians

1 Corinthians 15:50–53 (NKJV)

50 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed—

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.

- **4. The Doctrine of the RAPTURE is NEW Theology**

- Their Popular Argument

- John Nelson Darby
 - Invented the pre-tribulation rapture doctrine around 1830 AD
 - Some even believing he received this doctrine from a witch

- Then Scofield
 - Influenced by Darby
 - Made it popular with the distribution of the Scofield Reference Bible, first published in 1909

- **Answer**

- This is Simply NOT True
 - Early Believers – Believed in a Pre – Tribulation Rapture
 - It was changed with the Roman Catholics
 - A LOT OF BAD DOCTRINE and IDEOLOGY has come from Rome
- Support Before Darby

- **Show Pic 2 good Books**

- **1. Shepherd of Hermas**

- It was Written in the Second Century
- It Was a religious literary work of the second and third centuries and was considered a valuable book by many early Christians.
- Was even considered canonical Scripture by some of the early church fathers such as Irenaeus during the period in which the New Testament was being canonized.

- Basically, it was written as a call to repentance and adherence to a strict moralistic life.
- It Speaks of a Pre - Trib Rapture
- 2nd Irenaeus (ee – ruh -nei – uhs) (130 – 202)
 - Was a disciple of Polycarp (who was a disciple of John the Apostle)
 - Irenaeus gave detail prophetic events after the writing of the New Testament, and gave the Church the first system of premillennial interpretation.
 - *The first citation was previously mentioned in the “Uses of Harpazo” section and comes from chapter 5, section 1, “For Enoch, when he pleased God, was translated in the same body in which he did please Him, thus pointing out by anticipation the translation of the just [emphasis added].*
 - *Next, in chapter 29, at the end of section 1, “And therefore, when in the end the Church shall be suddenly caught up from this, it is said, „There shall be tribulation such as has not been since the beginning, neither shall be” [emphasis added]. For this is the last contest of the righteous, in which, when they overcome, they are crowned with incorruption.”⁸ The this mentioned in the text, that the Church is caught up from, is clearly the Tribulation.*
- 3rd Ephriam The Syrian (306-373)

- *“For the elect shall be gathered prior to the tribulation, so they shall not see the confusion and the great tribulation coming upon the unrighteous world.” — Recent Pre-Trib Findings in the Early Church Fathers by Lee Brainard*
- *“Indeed, the grace of God strengthens and rejoices the hearts of the righteous; and they shall be seized up in the clouds to meet him. While those who are lazy and timid like me shall remain on the earth, trembling. ... (409) For behold the Bridegroom is ready to proceed on the clouds of heaven with the glory of his blessed Father. And he will summon each of you by name, and he will place you in the rank of those saints abiding in the unspeakable light in the life that is undefiled, immortal, and eternal, according to your labors.” — Recent Pre-Trib Findings in the Early Church Fathers by Lee Brainard*

○ **6. Concern / Reason for being Entrenched in my Position**

▪ **1. Israel – Replacement Theology is WRONG**

- Meaning the church has replace Israel
- That God is done with Israel and has no Future plans for them
- God has made an EVERLASTING Covenant With Israel
 - (Genesis 17:7)
 - This COVENANT was MADE only BY GOD – One sided

▪ **2. The Book Of Revelation and other portion of Scripture**

- Become Allegorized / Mystified
- This is an inconsistent hermeneutic
 - Its allegorizing of many biblical passages that should be taken literally!!!!
- **3. Inductive / Systematic / Study**
 - If the Bible is interpreted literally and consistently
 - The pre-tribulation position is the most Biblically-based interpretation
 - NOW TODAY –
 - The First of 8 Points that Support a Pre-Trib Rapture
 - Next Week the last 7

8 Biblical Reason for a Pre-Tribulation (Harpazo) / Rapture is RIGHT

Reason # 1 The Flow of The Book of Revelation

• 1. Divine Outline

- **1. Revelation - Only book with a Divine Outline**
 - Understanding this is a key to understanding the book of Revelation

Revelation 1:19 (NKJV)

19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

- **1. Things You have Seen = Jesus**
 - Chapter 1 - VISION OF Jesus

- **2. The things that ARE = Church Age**

- Chapters 2-3 - The letters to the Churches

- The 7 Churches

- 1st To Ephesus

- Warm Hands - Cold Hearts
- Stood strong against false teaching
- Left their FIRST LOVE

- 2nd To Smyrna

- Which dealt with the issue of SUFFERING

- 3rd To Pergamos

- Strong on Holding fast to His Name and to the Faith
- The Problem with Compromising

- 4th To Thyatira - The Corrupt Church

- Known for Love BUT let every false Teaching in
- Spirit of Jezebel

- 5th To Sardis - The Dead Church

- Had a great NAME but was DEAD

- 6th To Philadelphia

- Faithful Church

- 7th To Laodicea
 - Lukewarm
 - The Apostate / Liberal Church of today
- **3. The Things that will Be Future = Heaven / Tribulation**
 - Chapter 4-5
 - Heaven – Church is there
 - Chapter 6-21
 - The Tribulation – The church is NOT there

Revelation 4:1–2 (NKJV)

1 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.

- Now We see a CLEAR TRANSITION in the BOOK

○ **After These Things**

▪ **(Greek = Meta Tauta)**

- Question is WHAT THINGS?
 - ANSWER -
 - After the Church Age is Completed
 - After the Age of Grace is Complete
- Review - Timeline – **Show Pic**
 - Chapter 1 - Have seen Jesus

- Chapter 2 - The Church Age
 - The age were in now
- Chapters 4 & 5
 - Church is (RAPTURED) called up & is in Heaven around the throne
 - Worshiping God
- Chapters 6-19 – (The Day of the Lord)
 - What takes place after This?
 - 1. Anti-Christ comes on the Scene
 - Solves The Problems
 - Of the Rapture
 - The Middle East - Arab / Israeli Conflict
 - He will make Peace with Israel
 - 3.5 years of peace
 - At the 3.5 Years
 - Declares himself to be the Messiah
 - That when Judgment Comes
 - 2. The GREAT TRIBULATION (The Day of the Lord)
 - **Also Known as The WRATH OF THE LAMB / LAMBO**

- A time when God is pouring out His wrath on a Christ rejecting World
- God Judgement Seals are open
- Resulting in Wars
- Famine / Disease
- MANY KILLED / Billions
- **They know where it is coming from**
 - Which is evidenced by the response after the 6th Seal Rev 6:15-17

Revelation 6:15–17 (NKJV)

15 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,

16 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!

17 For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?”

• **2. The Church**

○ **1. The Word Church**

▪ **The Word Church**

- Is used 19 times in the first 3 Chapters of the book of Revelation

- From Chapter 6-19

- Not used again until Chapter 19 Jesus Comes back!

- Why?! Because we are with Jesus in Heaven

- **2. The Church is in Heaven – Rapture seen in Revelation 4:1-2**

Revelation 4:1–2 (NKJV)

1 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.

- **1. What does this sound like? The RAPTURE**

- Sees a door standing open in Heaven
 - Hears a Voice like a Trumpet
 - Says Come up here and I will show the things that must take place after this

- **2. In the Spirit v. 2**

- Dr. David Hocking Notes
 - Definite article THE is not in original Text-
 - (cf. 1:10; 17:3; 21:10) It affects time (1:10) and place (17:3)
 - “THE” is not there
 - So - it should read IN SPIRIT
 - “The” can make it sound like John was in the HS
 - But when “THE” is taken away John is SIMPLY in SPIRIT
 - A New Body?

- That is precisely what 1 Cor. 15 says will happen to us
- *We will be instantly transformed from mortal to immortal; in a moment, like the twinkling of an eye, we will be changed, and as Paul describes it, this physical body will be changed into a spiritual body.*

▪ **3. Revelation 4:4 – NOW WHO are the ELDERS in Chapters 4 & 5**

Revelation 4:4 (NKJV)

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.

- Now Who these Elders
 - The book of Revelation nowhere specifically identifies who the twenty-four elders are.
 - Which has led to a lot of debate
 - To add to the debate
 - Different Manuscripts have been used for different Bibles
 - Which have help confused the issue even more
 - The View of CC and myself
 - They representative of the Church
 - The church is in heaven (Rev. 4 & 5) not on the Earth
 - Let's Walk through this

- 1. Cannot be Angels – (Revelation 7:11)

Revelation 7:11 (NKJV)

11 All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

- 2. Cannot be Tribulation Believers – (Revelation 7:13-14)

Revelation 7:13–14 (NKJV)

13 Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?”

14 And I said to him, “Sir, you know.” So he said to me, “**These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**”

- 3. Cannot be “Complete Nation of Israel – (Revelation 7 & 12)

- Israel is still on the planet

- 4. Answer - The CHURCH

- 1. NOTE There are 24 of these elders

- The Greek word translated here as “Elders”

- Is NEVER used to refer to angels

- Only to men,

- Particularly to men of a certain age who are mature and able to rule the Church.

- So - The word elder would be inappropriate to refer to angels

- Who do not age.

- Also NOTE

- We have OT visions of Heaven in Ezekiel & Isaiah
- We see those vision everything we see here, angles, 4 living creatures, etc...
- Now in Revelation we see the 24 Elders -
- 24 Indicates a Representative Group - A Completed Body
 - 1 Chron. 24 & 25
 - Priests singers in 24 “courses” or “divisions”
 - Meaning Completion
- We too are called - A Royal Priesthood

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV)

9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

○ 2. WE sit on thrones

Revelation 3:21 (NKJV)

21 To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

- The fact that they sit on thrones indicates that they reign with Christ.
- The Church is repeatedly said to rule and reign with Christ
- (Revelation 2:26-27, 5:10, 20:4; Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:30)

○ **3. WE are clothed in white raiment**

Revelation 3:5 (NKJV)

5 *He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.*

- The dress would also indicate these are men.
- While angels do appear in white
- White garments are more commonly found on believers
 - Symbolizing Christ's righteousness imputed to us at salvation
 - (Revelation 3:5,18; 19:8).

○ **4. WE have crowns of gold on their heads**

Revelation 2:10 (NKJV)

10 *Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.*

Revelation 3:11 (NKJV)

11 *Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*

- The golden crowns worn by the elders also indicate these are men, NOT angels.
- Crowns are never promised to angels, nor are angels ever seen wearing them.
- The word translated "crown"
 - Greek: **στέφανος** *stéphanos*

- Refers to the victor's crown, worn by those who have successfully competed and won the victory, as Christ promised
- (Revelation 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:8; James 1:12).

○ 5. WE SING The NEW SONG

Revelation 5:9–10 (NKJV)

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."

Revelation 5:9–10 (NASB95)

9 And they sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.
10 "You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth."

▪ The NASB

- Has lead people say we really don't know for sure who this group is
- Angels?
 - This could be angels singing about how God has redeemed...
 - Seems a little strange to me
- The church?
 - But why are they singing in the 3rd person?

- This is a possibility
- Other Examples
- Israel after crossing the Red Sea

Exodus 15:13–17 (NKJV)

13 *You in Your mercy have led forth The people whom You have redeemed;
You have guided them in Your strength To Your holy habitation.*

14 *“The people will hear and be afraid; Sorrow will take hold of the inhabitants
of Philistia.*

15 *Then the chiefs of Edom will be dismayed; The mighty men of Moab,
Trembling will take hold of them; All the inhabitants of Canaan will melt away.*

16 *Fear and dread will fall on them; By the greatness of Your arm They will be
as still as a stone, Till Your people pass over, O LORD, Till the people pass over
Whom You have purchased.*

17 *You will bring them in and plant them In the mountain of Your inheritance, In
the place, O LORD, which You have made For Your own dwelling, The
sanctuary, O LORD, which Your hands have established.*

- John –
 - How did he refer to himself in the Gospel of John
 - The One that Jesus Loved

▪ Textual Criticism

- Is the scholarly discipline that seeks to reconstruct the original wording of a text when the original manuscript no longer exists and only later copies or printed versions remain
- As you ALL know we do not have the ORIGINAL Manuscripts of the Bible
 - We have Copies – a lot of Copies around 24,000

- When you take all our copies and compare them they are 99% accurate
- The 1% difference does affect the main message in any way
- Now Different Translation of the Bible use different manuscripts
- NASB – Says the Earliest manuscripts are Best
 - You will note John 8 Women Caught in Adultery
 - NASB say – NOT in the Earliest or best manuscripts – or added in other manuscripts
 - This is why we see these small insignificant differences
- They use Codex Alexandrinus in
 - Revelation 5:9-10
- KJV and NKJV is the MAJORITY of the TEXT
 - Meaning what do the majority of the text say – not just leaning on Earliest
- Now Back to revelation 5
 - Who are the 24 Elders
 - Source David Hocking

- AND 23 of the 24, say (US) 23 of the 24

○ Show Hocking Quotes

SO Reason # 1 For a Pre-Trib Rapture

The Flow of The Book of Revelation

Lives Affected in 3 Ways

• 1. It produces a Cleanliness / Holiness

1 John 3:3 (NKJV)

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

- If you expect Jesus come soon - live in a way to please Him
- Realize need to be ready when He comes - 2 Peter 3:11

2 Peter 3:11–12 (NKJV)

11 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,

12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat?

- Knowing Jesus can come any moment - Holy Fear
- Not just a holy fear - but ALSO a healthy expectation

• 2. Produces Comfort in Sorrow

- Christians - death - loved ones die
- When loved ones die - great grief - loss, big hole is left in our emotions
- But if we know the Lord and believe in promises - great comfort because Jesus said - John 14 - "Let not your hearts be troubled ... mansions - place for you"

- So - comfort in sorrow

- **3. Conviction in Service**

- Knowing that we He is coming soon / helps us stay focused on His work!!!
 - Be about sharing the gospel

John 9:4 (NKJV)

4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

- Jesus said - "night is soon coming when no man can work - let's do it while still today"

Closing

- Maranatha
- Meaning, "Our Lord comes," or is "coming"