

REVELATION 4:1-2

THERE IS NO

RESURRECTION

**“¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,
¹¹saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last..."”**

REVELATION 1:10-11

- Jesus speaks with the voice like a trumpet**

“¹After 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 hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

²And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.”

REVELATION 4:1-2

“So he carried me away in the Spirit into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns.”

REVELATION 17:3

- **If John was resurrected at Rv.4:2 (“in the spirit”), then what event took place at Rv.17:3 (“in the spirit”)?** The language is the same. In chapter 4 John goes to Heaven to see a vision. In chapter 17 John is brought into the wilderness to see a vision. In both passages John is “in the spirit” to receive a vision. What makes Rv.4:2 different from Rv.17:3?

JOHN'S VISION

(John's Experience in this Vision)

John Goes Straight to Heaven (All the Way)

In this vision John goes all
the way into Heaven

CONTRAST

BIBLICAL RAPTURE

(Doctrine of the “catching away” in Scripture)

With the Biblical teaching concerning the rapture, the Lord descends, and we go up to meet Him in the air. The picture of the Lord descending to meet us, and we being gathered to meet Him in the air is the visual picture of our blessed hope. With John and his vision these elements are missing.

- “Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him” (2Th.2:1)
- “¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.” (1Th.4:16-17).

JOHN'S VISION

(John's Experience in this Vision)

There is No Actual Trumpet in the Vision

The word “trumpet” describes the voice of Him who speaks

CONTRAST

BIBLICAL RAPTURE

(Doctrine of the “catching away” in Scripture)

There is no trumpet in this vision. The word “trumpet” is used as a description of the sound of the voice. At the rapture the “last trump”, which is the trumpet of God will sound. There will be a real trumpet blown!

- “⁵¹Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵²In 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. ” (1Co.15:51-52)
- “...and with the trump of God” (1Th.4:16)

JOHN'S VISION

(John's Experience in this Vision)

John Was Translated Not Resurrected

John went to Heaven in the spirit (v.2) only temporarily

CONTRAST

BIBLICAL RAPTURE

(Doctrine of the “catching away” in Scripture)

John went to Heaven in the spirit while his body was still at the Island of Patmos here on earth. After the vision, John came back to the earth in his physical body. At the rapture believers go to be with Christ, and we will forever be with the Lord. John's experience is not a good picture of the rapture.

- “...and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (1Th.4:17)

JOHN'S VISION

(John's Experience in this Vision)

Prominent Pre-Tribber Advocate Sees No Rapture at this Passage

John Walvoord's commentary
on the Book of Revelation

CONTRAST

BIBLICAL RAPTURE

(Doctrine of the “catching away” in Scripture)

Commenting on this passage in Revelation chapter 4, the well esteemed John Walvoord made the following observation:

- “It is clear from the context that this is not an explicit reference to the rapture of the church.” [John Walvoord, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*, Moody Press 1989, Page 103].

