

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – CHAPTER 1:1-3

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION

Monday 7:30pm, H 106 (1st floor, High School--foot of stairs, behind the gym, by doughnut/vending machine area), Tuesday 7:00am, Family, Room, CCCM – Phil Twente, cell # 714 425 9221; email – ptwente@gmail.com For past studies, audio plus notes, go to: <http://www.missioncalvary.com/> Click on “Bible Studies” on the left column. References include commentaries by Pastor Chuck Smith, Vernon McGee, David Hocking, Warren Wiersby and others.

INTRODUCTION:

Author is John the Apostle

The message is from God the Father

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

Rev 1:2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Notice seven things about this book, given to us in the salutation (Rev. 1:1-3):

1. Revelation of Jesus Christ, IT PRESENTS JESUS CHRIST IN ALL HIS GLORY - 1:1

2. which God gave Him to show His servants - IT PROCLAIMS THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF CHRIST TO THE EARTH!

3. things which must shortly take place - IT PROPHESES EVENTS IN THE FUTURE THAT WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME

Rev. 1:4; 9; 21:2; 22:8 – during reign of Domitian (81-96a.d.). Also wrote the Gospel of John and the three Epistles of John. “*The* (probably should be “*a*”- no definite article in the original) *Revelation of Jesus Christ*”

The message comes from God the Father - “**which God gave Him**” to Jesus Christ, through the angel (messenger) to John the Apostle **Cf. John 3:34-35; 5:20-24; 7:16; 8:28; 12:49; 14:10, 24; 16:15; 17:8**

Apokalupsis (“revelation” noun appearing **19 times**) to unveil or uncover. *Apokalupto* (to reveal”, a verb appearing **26 times**) to reveal

It is an unveiling, an exaltation, a presentation of Jesus Christ in all His glory!! - an unveiling of the glorious Person of our Lord Jesus Christ! Consider the titles in this Book –**Rev. 1:5, 8, 17, 18; 3:14; 5:5; 15:3; 19:16; 22:16.** 28 times He is called the “**LAMB**”.

Of the 95 known Greek manuscripts, every one of them put the words “**KING OF KING AND LORD OF LORDS**” in capital letters.

IT PROCLAIMS THE GLORIOUS RETURN OF CHRIST TO THE EARTH
Cf. Rev. 1:7; 19:11-16; 22:7, 12, 20. - Cf.2 Thess.1:7-10

IT PROPHESES EVENTS IN THE FUTURE THAT WILL TAKE PLACE WITHIN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME
“things which must shortly take place” - **cf. (quickly) Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:11; 11:14; 22:7, 12, 20** Greek (*taxei*) - “quickly, shortly, speedily” - **cf. (speedily) Luke 18:8; (quickly) Acts 12:7; 22:18;(shortly) 25:4; Romans 16:20** When the events (in Revelation) begin to come, they will come quickly!

The Book of Revelation **is a, not the** (not the one and only), revelation of Jesus Christ. It is not the revelation of John the Apostle. The revelation was given to John (4X)

There are three basic interpretations of the book: **Three basic interpretations of the book:**

1. **Allegorical** - pictures the conflict between good and evil or Christianity vs. paganism
2. **Historical** - shows the development of church history
3. **Literal** - understands the events of **4:1** to the end of the book as describing the future (disagreements exist over the meaning of the 1000 years of chapter 20, and the timing of the Rapture of the church – cf. **1 Thess 4:13-18**)

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4A. He sent and signified it .. to all things that he saw - IT PICTURES FUTURE EVENTS WITH UNIQUE SYMBOLISM

5. signified it by His angel - IT PUTS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE AND MINISTRY OF ANGELS

6. to show His servants ... who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, - IT PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS UPON THE CHURCH AND ITS RESPONSE TO CHRIST - 1:1

IT PICTURES FUTURE EVENTS WITH UNIQUE SYMBOLISM (example - beast, harlot)

“he sent and signified(sign, wonder, miracle-Rev. 15:1; 12:1,3; 19:20) it” - 44 separate and distinct visions in the book.

Rev. 1:2 - “all things that he saw” – Rev. 22:8 - “I, John, saw and heard these things”.

Key words: “LIKE” (homoios) - likeness in external appearance – used 22 times!

“AS” (hos) - similarity in action or quality - used 65 times

A metaphor works like a simile but without the words “like” or “as”.

(Mt. 5:13-14); “You are the salt of the earth”!; “You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill...”!

IT PUTS HEAVY EMPHASIS ON THE ROLE AND MINISTRY OF ANGELS

“by His angel” - 74 times in the book; 104 times in rest of the New Testament

(9 times it refers to the “seven angels”) cf. Hebrews 1:14. The number 7 appears 54 times in the book – (churches, angels, seals, trumpets, vials, stars, lampstands).

We learn in Revelation that the angels worship God (Rev.7:11-12) and the Lamb of God (Rev.5:11-12 - cf. Hebrews 1:6).

but that we are not to worship them (Rev. 22:8-9). They move fast-(Dan. 9:21) and they have power! They also preach!! (Rev. 14)

IT PLACES GREAT EMPHASIS UPON THE CHURCH AND ITS RESPONSE TO JESUS CHRIST - 1:1

“to show His servants” Rev. 1:4 - “to the seven churches” Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22 “what the Spirit says to churches”.

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7. ***Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near. - IT PROMISES GREAT BLESSING TO BELIEVERS - 1:3***

IT PROMISES GREAT BLESSING TO BELIEVERS - 1:3

“..he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things..”

It is called “prophecy” – Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 10, 18, 19
(over 400 quotes or allusions to the Old Testament). Cf. 2 Peter 1:19-21- “no prophecy is of any private interpretation”

“BLESSED” - seven beatitudes in the book:

Rev. 1:3 - “Blessed is he who read (out loud) and those who hear...and keep”

14:13 - “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord”

16:15 - “Blessed is he who watches and keeps his garments”

19:9 - “Blessed are they who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb”

20:6 - “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection”

22:7 - “Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book”

22:14 - “Blessed are those who do His commandments”

“TO HIM THAT OVERCOMES” – Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21

cf. 1 John 5:4-5

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	<p><i>THOU ARE WORTHY!</i></p> <p><i>Thou art wor-thy, Thou art wor-thy, Thou art wor-thy o LORD. To receive glory, glory and honor, Glo-ry and hon-or and power. For Thou hast cre-a-ted, Hast all things cre-a-ted, For Thou hast cre-a-ted all things. And for Thy plea-sure they are cre-a-ted. Thou art wor-thy o LORD.</i></p>	<p><u>Questions:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. What is the “chain” of the revelation? Where (in whom) does it begin? To whom? Through whom to whom? (Rev. 1:1)2. Which book in the Bible do you think contains more titles of Jesus Christ than any other?3. How important is the phrase “<u>KING OF KING AND LORD OF LORDS</u>”? Of the 95 known Greek manuscripts of Revelation, how many have this term shown in all capital letters? Theme of the Bible?4. What great event, (Whose return), does the entire Bible point to? Is this shown in the Book of Revelation?5. To whom is the message of Revelation given (v.4)?6. True or False? You cannot really understand and know the majesty and greatness of our Lord Jesus Christ without understanding Revelation.7. What comes to mind when you see or hear the word “Amen”? Who is the Amen?8. How are symbols used regarding future events?9. When the Bible makes sense, seek no other sense! - refers to which basic interpretation?10. What is one major lesson we learn about angels in Revelation? (Rev. 5:11-12; 7:11-12)11. How can we be sure that we are “overcomers”?
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