

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – CHAPTER 1:4-6

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.

Rev 1:4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace

*"Grace be unto you, and peace." The word grace is *charis*, the Greek form of greeting, and peace is *shalom*, the Hebrew form of greeting. Peace flows from grace, and grace is the source of all our blessings today. The Book of Revelation reveals the grace of God and also peace. We don't need to be frightened as we study this book; we can have the peace of God in our hearts.*

"Asia" refers to the provinces which include Lydia, Mysia, Caria, and parts of Phrygia. It does not mean the continent of Asia nor does it include all of Asia Minor (Asia Minor is a term which was not used until the fourth century A.D.), but it covers a great area of Asia Minor, especially along the coast.

from Him who is and who was and who is to come,

"from Him who is and who was and who is to come" emphasizes the eternity and immutability of God. Notice now the mention of each member of the Trinity: "Jesus Christ" (in the next verse) refers to God the Son, the "seven Spirits" refer to the Holy Spirit, and "Him who is, and who was, and who is to come" refers to God the Father.

and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

It is "from him ... and from the seven Spirits," which brings the Trinity before us. The "seven Spirits" probably refer to the Holy Spirit and may have reference to the seven branches of the lampstand, as we shall see later on.

I. THE PLACES TO WHICH THIS MESSAGE WAS BEING SENT - 4, 11

1. The NUMBER (7) of churches reveals that all churches are intended - Cf. Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29; 3:6, 13, 22 - "*He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches*" Seven – “completion” - used 54X; Spirits; beatitudes; seals; trumpets; vials; stars;
2. The NAMES of the churches reveal that its impact is for all time. The first century as well as for today!

II. THE PERSONS FROM WHOM THE MESSAGE WAS GIVEN - 4-5

1. It comes from the ETERNAL GOD - "*from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come*" cf. Rev. 1:4(Father), 8(Christ); 4:8; 11:17(Christ); 16:5

2. It comes from the SEVEN SPIRITS (*pneumata*) - "*who are before His throne*" cf. Rev. 3:1; 4:5; 5:6; (angels – *aggelous*) - 8:2; 15:1, 6-8; 16:1; 17:1; 21:9

TWO MAJOR VIEWS:

2a. It refers to the HOLY SPIRIT:
Sevenfold attributes in Isaiah 11:2 (But, in the Hebrew, there are three couplets or categories in the text noted by the words “the Spirit of” - indicating six characteristics, not seven). Others connect it with the “seven lampstands” (1:20) which requires the oil of the Holy Spirit – Rev. 1:20; Zechariah 4:2-6 cf. Rev. 4:5

2b. It refers to the SEVEN ANGELS:
Cf. Rev. 3:1 (“seven stars”)
Rev. 5:6 - “seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent forth into all the earth” (seven angels sent forth with seven trumpets)
Rev. 8:2 - “THE seven angels who stood before God” (the ones previously mentioned)

Revelation 1:4-11

Verse 4 - “to the seven churches which are in Asia”
Verse 11 - “send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia” (Asia Minor – today’s western Turkey)
Notice: THE PLACES TO WHICH THIS MESSAGE WAS BEING SENT - 4, 11

II. THE PERSONS FROM WHOM THE MESSAGE WAS GIVEN - 4-5

The message is from God the Father to Jesus Christ the Son, through the messenger angels, given to John.

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*Rev 1:5 and **from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead (His resurrection!)***

INTERPRETATION

II. THE PERSONS FROM WHOM THE MESSAGE WAS GIVEN - 4-5

3. It comes from JESUS CHRIST - 5-6 – Primarily from Him!

Notice Six Things:

1. **“the faithful witness” cf. Rev. 3:14 and John 1:18; 8:14;- we can count on Him! He never lies! Jesus never fails!**

John 18:37 – Jesus said, “that I should bear witness to the truth”

Ps. 89:37 – “Even like the faithful witness in the sky.”

Example: 1 John 1:9 - “He is faithful ... to forgive... and to cleanse”

2. **“the firstborn (first begotten) of the dead” – (Greek – protokos, pre-eminent, pertaining to having special status associated with a first-born-of Christ, as the firstborn of a new humanity which is to be glorified, as its exalted Lord is glorified - Our Resurrection!) Psalm 89:24-29; Romans 8:29; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; Colossians 1:18; Hebrews 1:6** Firstborn is the Greek *protokos*, which has to do with resurrection. **He is the first to rise from the dead, never to die again.** This is a marvelous picture! Death was a womb which bore Him. He came out of death into life. The tomb was a womb, as far as He was concerned. **He is the only One back from the dead in a glorified body.** No one else has come that route yet, but **His own are going to follow Him in resurrection,** and the Rapture will be next (see *1Th 4:14*). Then will come the revelation when He will come to the earth.

APPLICATION

The message comes primarily from Jesus Christ!!

How important is the reliability of Jesus Christ?

1. **“Faithful witness”**—Jesus **Christ is the only trustworthy witness to the facts of this book.** The facts are about Him. He testifies of Himself. It is difficult to believe other people, **but we can believe the Lord Jesus.**

2. **(Col. 1:18; 2:9)** He is the *beginning, the first-born from the dead, arche-, pro-totokos* – **the preeminent One! the principle, the first-born from the dead; the principle of our resurrection,** as well **as the first-born Himself.** All our hopes and joys take their rise from Him who is the author of our salvation. Not that He was the first who ever rose from the dead, **but the first and only one who rose by His own power,** and was **(Rom. 1:4) declared to be the Son of God, and Lord of all things.** And He is the head of the resurrection, and has given us an example and evidence of our resurrection from the dead. **He rose as the first-fruits-never to die again! (1Co 15:20-23!)**. **(Rom 8:29)** That which is herein chiefly designed is the honor of Jesus Christ, that **He might be the first-born among many brethren;** that is, **that Christ might have the honor of being the great pattern, as well as the great prince, and in this, as in other things, might have pre-eminence.** It was in the first-born that all the children were dedicated to God under the law. The first-born was the head of the family, on whom all the rest did depend: **now in the family of the saints Christ must have the honor of being the first-born.** And blessed be God that there are many brethren; though they seem but a few in one place at one time, yet, when they come all together, they will be a great many. There is, therefore, a certain number predestinated, that the end of Christ's undertaking might be infallibly secured. Had the event been left at uncertainties in the divine counsels, to depend upon the contingent turn of man's will, Christ might have been the first-born among but few or no brethren - a captain without soldiers and a prince without subjects - to prevent which, and to secure to Him many brethren, the decree is absolute, the thing ascertained, that He might be sure to see His seed, there is a remnant predestinated to be conformed to His image, which decree will certainly have its accomplishment in the holiness and happiness **of that** chosen race; and so, **in spite of all the opposition of the powers of darkness, Christ will be the first-born among many, very many brethren.**

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and the **ruler over the kings of the earth.**

To Him **who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.**

Rev 1:6 and **has made us kings and priests to His God and Father.**

3. **"and the ruler (Greek - archon) over the kings of the earth"** Cf. **Daniel 2:47; 1 Timothy 6:15; Rev. 17:14; 19:15-16 (all CAPS in 95 manuscripts)** 3. **"The ruler of the kings of the earth" speaks of His ultimate position during the Millennium. "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Php. 2:9-11).**

4. **"To Him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood" – "loved" - John 3:16; Ephesians 5:25; 1 John 4:9-10**
"washed" - to take a bath. Noun - Ephesians 5:26 and Titus 3:5 - compound verbs - 1 Cor. 6:11 - New American Standard - "released us" New International - "freed us". They take MSS evidence to be luo, not louo. 4. "To Him that loved us" is actually in the present tense and emphasizes His constant attitude toward His own. The Book of Revelation should not frighten us too much because of the fact that it is from the One who loves us. Jesus Christ didn't love us only when He died on the cross, although He loved us at that time, but He also loves us today. Right at this very minute. Jesus loves you.

5. **"has made us kings and priests to His God and Father". Some MSS read "kingdom" instead of "kings" cf: 1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 5:10**
"Washed [loosed] us from our sins in His own blood." The blood of Christ is very important. It is not just a symbol. In the Old Testament, God taught His people that the "... life of the flesh is in the blood ..." (Lev 17:11). In this verse God goes on to say, "I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls...." When Christ shed His blood, I think every drop came out of His body. He gave that for you and for me. He gave His life, if you please. He died, and I am not inclined to belittle the blood of Christ as some men are doing today. Peter wrote, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" (1Pe 1:18-19). Because of that shed blood, Paul could write to the young preacher Timothy, "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (1Tim 2:5). He loosed us from our sins in His own blood. What a wonderful, glorious thing!

(Dan. 2:47) - That your God is a God of gods - Is superior to all other gods; is supreme over all. Compare Rev 17:14; 1Tim. 6:15. The idea is, that whatever subordinate beings there may be, He is supreme.
And a Lord of kings - Supreme over kings. They are all inferior to Him, and subject to His control.

(Tit. 3:5) – "not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit", By the washing of regeneration - The word rendered "washing" (loutrou) occurs in the New Testament only in this place and in Eph 5:26, where also it is rendered "washing" - "That he might sanctify and cleanse it (the church) with the washing of water by the word." The word properly means "a bath;" then water for bathing; then the act of bathing, washing, ablution.
"(palingenesia-regeneration) - occurs in the New Testament only here and in Mat 19:28, - "in the regeneration when the Son of man," etc. It means, properly, a new birth, reproduction, or renewal

(1Pe 2:9) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood (same root word as priests), 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; (Rev 5:10) And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

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to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Summary:

Rev 1:4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

Rev 1:6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Questions:

1. Who do you think is being referred to, “Who is, who was and who is to come?”
2. Who do you think the “seven Spirits” are?
3. What period of time does the following apply, from verse 5? “the ruler over the kings of the earth.”
4. How would you explain that Jesus “washed us from our sins in His own blood.”?
5. What are you looking forward to the most? – Jesus coming in the air calling the church out OR Jesus coming as a King to rule and reign over the earth?
6. To whom can it be said that His tomb was His womb?

THOU ARE WORTHY!

*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.*

INTERPRETATION

6. “to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen”

Doxology: Psa. 15:1; Rev. 4:11; 5:13; 7:12 "And has made us kings and priests [a kingdom of priests] to His God and Father"—believers are never called kings. They are a kingdom of priests and are going to rule with the Lord Jesus. The King is coming, all right, but when He comes as King, He will come to the earth, and at that time He is going to put down all unrighteousness. But before He comes to earth as King, He will come in the air, an event we call the Rapture. At that time He will come as my Savior. He comes as the Bridegroom for His bride, the church, whom He loves and gave Himself for. He comes as the lover of my soul. For this reason I am not as thrilled with "The King Is Coming," as I am with the fact that He will soon call His church to Himself. My relationship to Him is much closer. He is my Lord. He has not made us "kings and priests," He has made us a kingdom of priests, and we are going to reign with Him.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!!

ALL GLORY TO OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST - HE IS INDEED KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!!!

APPLICATION

(Ps. 15:1-2) LORD, who may abide in Your tabernacle? Who may dwell in Your holy hill? He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;

(Rev 4:11) "You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

(Rev. 5:13) And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honor and glory and power Be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the Lamb, forever and ever!"

(Rev 7:12) saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."