

A study in the Book of Revelation 1/6/08

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SOME INTRODUCTORY THOUGHTS

Scripture: Revelation 1:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Let us understand the name of the Book is NOT plural; it is singular – one revelation.**
- B. Most chronologists set the writing of this revelation in the year 96 a.d.**
- C. This placed the writing in the days of the Roman Emperor Domitian whose rule was one of extreme terror against Jews, Christians and his own family.**
- D. The giving of this Revelation to the churches would offer them much comfort in those trying times. Your pastor's view of the chaotic conditions existing in the world has caused me to consider the need to bring these lessons.**
- E. I shall do my best to abide by the Scriptures and not be too speculative, though some might slip into my teachings.**
- F. I also purpose to make it as practical as possible while it is by content prophetic.**
- G. Much prayer and study should accompany its preparation, delivery and reception.**

I. LEARN THAT THIS BOOK IS THE UNVEILING OF OUR LORD

JESUS CHRIST. V. 1

- A. Although Jesus Christ spoke these words, this is not in the strictest sense the revelation given by Him. V. 1, vs. 10-19**
- B. This Book is in reality the uncovering, the revelation of Jesus Christ, the revealing of Jesus Christ in all His glory.**
 - 1. Jesus came the first time veiled in human flesh; the world could not see Him in His glory.**
 - 2. Mere glimpses of His glory were seen by a few of His most trusted disciples.**
 - 3. When He comes again, every eye shall see Him in His wondrous glory.**
- C. Verse two establishes what this book includes:**
 - 1. A record of the WORD of God – that is Jesus Christ, the Word.**
 - 2. A record of the testimony of Jesus Christ.**
 - 3. A record of the things given to him by the Lord Jesus Christ.**

II. LEARN THAT THIS UNVEILING IS SPECIFICALLY FOR THE SERVANTS OF GOD. Vs. 1, 4, 22:16

- A. This study is not for the casual eye and ear of the lost nor is it for the careless child of God.**
- B. It is for those who accept the God-intended role of “his servants” -- bond slaves.**
- C. This book with all its symbolisms falls into the same category as the parables which Jesus spoke to His disciples.**
 - 1. Matthew 13:10-12 and Mark 4:9-12 establish the reason Jesus spoke in parables.**
 - a. Jesus said, “But unto them that are without. Without where? Without the membership of His church.**
 - b. Jesus said, “seeing, they may see and not perceive; and hearing they may hear and not understand.”**
 - 2. God reveals the future only to His people**

3. Being saved by the gospel of Jesus Christ and being a member of one of His churches and being surrendered to Him make up the KEY to learning the teachings of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

III. LEARN THE SOLUTION TO A SUPPOSED PROBLEM CONCERNING THE TIME OF THE FULFILLMENT OF THE PROPHECY.

- A. Verse 1 states “things which must shortly come to pass.” Verse three states “the time is at hand.”
- B. Many try to discredit this book and the whole Bible by saying “The time has not yet come.”
- C. These are the words of God; and God is not held to time as we know it.
 1. Peter wrote, “But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” 2 Peter 3:8
 2. It has only been less than two days since this was written.
- D. Most people rush to chapter four as the beginning point for the revelation. That is a bad beginning which can interfere with a true interpretation of this book.
- E. Chapters three and four are as much a part of the revelation of Jesus Christ as the remaining chapters.
- F. The things concerning the churches did begin to come to pass “shortly” and “the time is at hand” revealed the beginning of the prophetic view of the church age to be then and it has continued to this present time.

IV. LEARN OF THE PROMISED BLESSINGS AND THE WAY TO CLAIM THEM.

- A. Verse 3 records our Lord saying, “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.”
- B. He did not say that we must understand them, but the name of the Book speaks loudly, “They can be understood.”
- C. The promised blessing is to the reader and to the hearer and to the keeper of the words of this prophecy.
- D. God does not want us to permit the devil to scare us from the study of this book, thus He promised this blessing.

CONCLUSION:

- A. Brethren, Sisters in the Lord, we are living in troublesome and dangerous times, very possible the very last days before the Lord Jesus Christ shall return to this earth.
- B. This book reveals Him coming in His glory and all things connecting with His coming.
- C. Let us enter into this study with dedication and perseverance and look to the Lord for help in understanding and in living up to what He expects of each of us.