

ENCOURAGEMENTS BEFORE TESTINGS

Revelation 1:4-6

Introduction:

- A. On the evening of June 5, 1944 General Eisenhower visited the fighting men of the Allied forces to offer encouragements just before they were to be engaged in the time of great testings which is referred to as D Day.
- B. The Book of Revelation reveals extreme testings that shall come upon those addressed before the promised final victory.
- C. Before God reveals the awful testings, He speaks words of encouragement.

I. TO WHOM ARE THESE ENCOURAGEMENTS ADDRESSED?

- A. Not to the world of lost sinners. Neither is it to those who are saved but have never honored God's will and become a part of His ordained witness in the world.
- B. The encouragements are addressed to God's own chosen people – those who make up His chosen witness – His true churches.
 - 1. v.4 The seven churches of Asia.
 - 2. Why seven? The number 7 stands for completion; it speaks of all true churches.
 - 3. Why this seven? The seven named in chapters 2 and 3 existed at that time. Each had distinctive characteristics that would symbolize the changing nature of the Lord's churches during the centuries before Jesus comes again.

II. OF WHAT DO THE ENCOURAGEMENTS CONSIST?

- A. God spoke "grace" to them and to us in our time. Grace is giving us what we do not deserve. We fail God every day of our lives. We treat Him much like a Linus' blanket. What have we done to deserve our God taking time to encourage us?
- B. God also spoke "peace" to His people then and now. He spoke peace even as He is about to reveal the great testing and suffering they were about to endure. He spoke of the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, which shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:7) When we are at peace with God and at peace with self, we are encouraged to fight on.
- C. These encouragements also include our being reminded that Jesus Christ has made us to be kings and priests unto God and his Father.

III. FROM WHOM DO THESE ENCOURAGEMENTS COME?

- A. V. 4 From the eternal God – Him which is, and which was, and which is to come.
- B. V. 4 From the seven Spirits which are before the throne of God. This must refer to the Holy Spirit in all of His being.
- C. V. 5 And From Jesus Christ -- The faithful witness; The first begotten of the dead; and the prince of the kings of the earth.

IV. THROUGH WHAT AVENUE DO THESE ENCOURAGEMENTS COME?

- A. V. 5 Love is set forth as the avenue through which God deals with sinful man before and after salvation. "Love brought my Savior to die in my stead; why should I love Him so?"
- B. But then it is the love of God that chastises us in this life.
- C. V. 5 also points out that the blood of Jesus Christ is an avenue through which we are encouraged. This same One who saved us will deliver us through all the troubles of life.

V. IN WHAT WAY DO ENCOURAGED PEOPLE RESPOND?

- A. V. 6 In the face of troubles and tribulations, truly encouraged

people say, "To God be the glory. Great things He hath done."

B. V. 6 To God be dominion -- power -- strength -- might. This simply means that we recognize the omnipotence of God and proclaim it to all.

Conclusion:

- A. Let each of us ask self, Was this Revelation addressed to me?**
- B. Have I been washed from my sins in the blood of the Lamb of God?**
- C. Am I a member of a true church of the Lord Jesus Christ?**
- D. Am I being the kind of witness that will help others who need salvation?**