



Book of Revelation

VISION TO STRENGTHEN THE SAINTS

Oakland International Fellowship

Calvin Chiang

Revelation 1:1-8: Handout

Prologue

Revelations 1:1-3

John Tell Us About the Book

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

1. V. 1 Shows the purpose of the book. In it, God will reveal about things that will happen soon. God – Jesus–Angel–John–Christians
2. Revelation (Latin word “revelatio”): means an “to bring light to what was formerly hidden, veiled and in secret.” It is also a translation of the Greek word “apokalypsis”.
3. V. 2 Apostle John tells us that this book has no human origin. It comes from God alone. Forty-four times in the book John wrote, “I saw”.
4. The angel did not show these things to John in plain speech. John saw and heard strange things as in dreams. He writes about these for us as descriptions.
5. V. 3 Tells us that those who read, hear, and obey this prophecy will receive a special blessing from God. Seven times in the book, God promises to “bless people”. These blessings are in (Rev. 1:3; Rev. 14:13; Rev. 16:15; Revelation 19:9; Rev. 20:6; Rev. 22:7, Rev. 22:14).
6. Prophecy tends to speak as if the end is ready to happen. It forgets the time between now and then. We should be aware that these things could happen at any time so we need to always be ready.

Revelations 1:4-8

John Addresses the 7 Churches

4 John to the seven churches that 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, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— 6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

1. V. 4 John sent the letter of Revelations to the 7 churches in Asia which is now present day Turkey.
2. The order of the church is the same as the main routes through the area. If someone were to start a journey is Ephesus, the road north goes through Smyma to Pergamum. Then the road to the south and

- east goes through Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and ends in Laodicea.
3. The seven Spirits:
 - a. Perfect and complete Holy Spirit (7 is used often in Bible and Revelations to mean perfection.
 - b. Isaiah 11:2 "The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him-the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of council and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord."
 4. V. 5 Joins Jesus with God and the Holy Spirit. John describes Jesus in 3 phrases:
 - a. Jesus is the true witness
 - i. Showed us what God is like when He lived on earth.
 - ii. Taught us what God said
 - iii. Did all things that God asked him to do.
 - iv. We can all know God now because of Jesus.
 - b. Jesus is the first person to be born again from death
 - i. Power over death and the place of dead people. Power to raise people to life after death.
 - ii. Promised to do this for all those who believe in Him.
 - c. He is the ruler of the kings of the earth.
 - i. Jesus is the one in control although it may not seem like it right now.
 - ii. King of Kings and Lord of all.
 - iii. Will return, defeat all of His enemies, and rule all nations.
 - iv. God's love for us is continuous fact. He has always loved us and will always love us. Through His death, He made us free from our sins.
 5. V. 6 Says that Jesus has made all believers a kingdom (corporately) and priests (individually).
 - a. The Lord has made each Christian a priest to serve God the Father. Because of Christ, Christians can now approach God the Father and do not need a priest to act on their behalf.
 - b. In the OT, the priest is the agent of the people. He is the mediator between God and His people. He is also the agent of God to the people. As priests, Christians are witnesses to the world about what God has done and bring the message of hope to them.
 6. V. 7 Prophecy of the Future
 - a. Key point and theme of the book is that Jesus promises that He will return physically to earth.
 - b. All who are alive at His second coming will see Him and weep (Daniel 7:13, Zach 12:10)
 - c. People in Jerusalem will weep because they will repent of their sins. (those who pierced Him)
 7. V. 8 God is now speaking and tells us that he is Alpha and Omega (first and last letters of the Greek alphabet), the beginning and the end.
 - a. Signifies God's comprehensive control over all things including time. He is the Lord of all from start to finish.
 - b. God was there before time began and will be there beyond the end of time.
 - c. There is nothing outside the control of God and no one can escape the power of God.

Summary:

This introduction points us towards the main event following revelation, that is, the return of Jesus Christ at His Second Coming (Rev. 19:11-16). It shows that the triune God as the Lord of time in the past, present and future. It presents God as one who is faithful to His promises and powerful to bring these events to pass.

Discussion Questions:

1. Being a follower of Christ results in many benefits and blessings. Can you name one way your obedience is connected to a blessing?
2. Throughout the 1st chapter of Revelation, many characteristics of Jesus are revealed. Can you list some of these?
3. How does the knowledge of Christ's second coming help to shape your life and the decision that you make?