

20210516 – THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Sunday AM – Revelation 1:1-20

I. PREFACE TO THE BOOK

A. The Writer of the Book

1. God is the divine author
2. 2 TIM. 3:16 – “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:”
3. He used the Apostle John to pen His words, responsible for 5 books

B. The When and Where of the Book

1. The Isle of Patmos – REV. 1:9
2. Approximately 96 A.D. / Fulfillment of Christ’s words
3. JOHN 21:22 & 23 – “Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. (23) Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee?”

C. The “Whom” of the Book

1. Book specifically written to the Seven Churches of in Asia – REV. 1:11
2. But it applies to all TRUE NEW TESTAMENT churches from then to now
3. REV. 22:16 explains that it is for us here today

D. The Worth of the Book

1. There is one main character, one theme – JESUS CHRIST
2. Many Bibles put titles over the books with incorrect attributions
 - a. The “Acts of the Apostles” should be the “Acts of the Holy Spirit”
 - b. The “Revelation of St. John the Divine” is crossed out in my Bible
 - c. He tells us EXACTLY whose it is! REV. 1:1
3. Satan knows the importance of this Book!
 - a. Satan has specifically attacked Genesis and Revelation
 - b. Attacks Genesis with confusing “science” (falsely so called)
 - c. Attacks Revelation with complex religious mumbo-jumbo

II. PLAN OF THE BOOK

A. The things which thou hast seen – REV. 1:19

1. Past tense, detailed in Chapter 1
2. God has perfect knowledge of the past
3. World attacks the Bible record, but God is TRUE (and every man a liar)

B. The things which are – REV. 1:19

1. Present tense, found in chapters 2 & 3
2. God has perfect knowledge of the present
3. Culture attacks the Christian life, but God blesses faithfulness!

- C. The things which shall be hereafter – REV. 1:19
 - 1. Future tense, laid out logically in chapters 4 – 22
 - 2. God has perfect knowledge of the future
 - 3. Religion mocks God’s prophecy, but Jesus is the VICTOR!

III. PECULIARITIES OF THE BOOK

- A. A book of fulfillment
 - 1. Creation in Genesis / Destruction of Heaven and Earth in Revelation
 - 2. Fall of Man in Genesis / Restoration of Man in Revelation
 - 3. Satan’s Rebellion in Genesis / Satan’s Removal in Revelation
 - 4. Beginning of Israel in Genesis / Consummation of Israel in Revelation
 - 5. Battles and Strife begin in Genesis / Jesus ENDS warfare in Revelation
- B. It is a book of potential
 - 1. It contains a special promise to obedient readers – REV. 1:3
 - 2. It contains speedy prophecies to listening readers – REV. 1:2
 - 3. It contains symbolic pictures to watchful readers – REV. 1:2 & 12
- C. It is a book of completion
 - 1. The number SEVEN mentioned over 50 times
 - 2. Seven is God’s number of completion (Seven days of Creation)
 - 3. Candlesticks, churches, seals, trumpets, vials, spirits, stars, thunders

IV. PURPOSE OF THE BOOK

- A. To exhort and encourage persecuted Christians
 - 1. We are blessed and encouraged by reading it today – REV. 1:3
- B. To explain God’s prophetic plan
 - 1. It would have been enough for Jesus to simply say “Trust me.”
 - 2. The chess master need not explain his moves to the pieces!
 - 3. JOHN 15:15 – “Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.”
- C. To point all men to Jesus Christ
 - 1. This is HIS Word – From the first prophecy of Christ in GEN 3:15
 - 2. To the final verse in REV. 22:21 – It’s ALL ABOUT JESUS!
 - 3. JOHN 12:32 – “And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.”
 - 4. He is the PERSON of the Book!

V. PERSON OF THE BOOK

- A. If you do know the Person of this book you will live the Penalty of this book
 - 1. He is Jesus Christ – REV 1:5-8
 - a. The Lamb that was Slain

- b. The Life of our Salvation
 - c. The Lord who is Sovereign
 - 2. He is the risen Christ, who is coming again
 - 3. His is the only name under heaven, given among men, whereby you must be Saved! There is Salvation found in NONE other!
- B. Christian – This book commands us to be active!
 - 1. Be active in our witness
 - 2. Be active in our worship
 - 3. Be active in our waiting!
- C. Lost friend - He calls to you to Salvation today!
 - 1. 2 PETER 3:4 – “And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.”
 - a. Verse 1 tells us! These things must shortly come to pass
 - b. Things are wrapping up!
 - 2. HEB. 9:27 – “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
 - 3. Be saved today!