

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“A Revelation of Jesus Christ”

Revelation 1:1-3

### Introduction

1. The Gospels speak of the Person of Christ and appeal to faith. The Acts through Epistles speak of the Church of Christ and appeal to love. Revelation speaks of the rule of Christ and appeals to hope.
2. The entire book may be summarized this way: a. Christ -- 1. b. Church -- 2, 3. c. Cosmos -- 4-19. d. Consummation -- 20-22.
3. Revelation has more references to the O.T. than any other N.T. book with 285. Compare Matthew with 92 and Hebrews with 102.
4. The author is John (1:4, 9:22:8). He wrote five books in the N.T. (Gospel, 1, 2, 3 John, Rev.). He wrote about A.D. 95-96 and this Book from Patmos (1:7).

5. The preface of the book (vv. 1-3) has three significant statements:

1. The NATURE of the Prophecy v. 1

#### a. Its Source

Clearly God gave it to His Son Jesus Christ. The aorist verb shows an historical event. May be a post-resurrection experience within the Godhead. The word “revelation” has no definite article, so the nature of the book is emphasized. The substance of the revelation is Christ as representing of the Father (Jn 1:18).

#### b. Its Purpose

With the cover off and something revealed, the purpose infinitive is evident ( ). The verb means to make a public display or exhibition (cf. 4:1; 17:1; 21:9-10; 22:1, 6, 8). So John was made a spectator of the great pictorial drama of things to come. These things must ( ) of necessity come shortly or speedily ( ). This phrase suggest imminency (Ro. 16:20; Luke 18:7, 8).

#### c. Its Intent

The Father gave the message (ultimate source) to the Son (mediate source). The immediate source was “His angels” who then passed it on to John (the final source). Note the prominence of angels entrusted with messages from God (Acts 1:53; Gal. 3:19; Heb. 2:2). “Signified” ( ) indicates the message was “sign-i-fied,” hence the book has many “signs.”

Note: John is described as a “servant” ( ). Believers are the same “servants” ( ). Think of it -- God Himself gives information to His beloved Son for His “slaves.” Moreover, the Son sent the message by angels to His “slave” John. Know anything about “slavery?”

2. The CONTENT of the Prophecy v. 2

The verb “bare record” is really the term for witness ( ) and the root from which we get the word “martyr.” Two items are distinguished here. The second “and” in the verse should be disappear. For “all things that he saw” is not a third

division of testimony, rather it is explicatory and limits the two previous members of the text.

#### a. The Word of God

This has a double reference: the communication included in this book and the very Person of Jesus Christ as the expression of divine judgment (cf. Jesus as the Word in the Gospel as God). Hence, John’s visions set forth the Word.

#### b. The Testimony of Jesus Christ

This is not the testimony “to,” but “of” Jesus. So the emphasis is on Christ as the faithful witness. The character of His testimony is prophetic (cf. 19:10).

Note: Inasmuch as John saw visions and recorded them, he belongs to the class of prophets as Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, etc. We should, therefore, tremble at what is recorded here.

3. The VALUE of the Prophecy

#### a. Personally

The word “blessed” ( ) is a reference to those who love this book and its truth. The reference is to what one is in one’s own character and nature. Scripture does not say “blessed shall be,” but blessed!

#### b. Individually

The “he that reads” is singular and refers to public reading (cf. 1 Tim. 4:13). Synagogues always have public reading as part of their services (cf. Lk 4:16-20; Acts 13:14, 27; 15:21). SIMHAT TORAH is the “Rejoicing of the Law” at the time of Sukkos (Feast of Tabernacles). It is at the conclusion of the last public reading of the Law in the synagogue. This practice may be alluded to here.

#### c. Corporately

“They that hear . . . and keep” are plural participles with one definite article controlling them both, referring to those who respond to the public reading. To hear means to show interest in while keeping refers to the passion to conform one’s life to the events of the future (Jn 14:21-24). “Written” is a perfect passive verb denoting a settled record.

#### d. Temporally

Here is the reason to hear and keep what stands written. There are no dates for the time marked out is within the time of patient grace. “At hand” ( ) means not remote while “time” ( ) means season or fitting time period. Warning: there is no event to be considered between the believer and Christ’s return at the Rapture.

Conclusion God has spoken to His Son. The Son has spoken to an angel. The angel has told John the apostle. John has told you and me. Big question?! -- Do you hear the prophetic Word? Do you get the testimony of Jesus Christ? Are you keeping it? Warning: the time is not remote, it is imminent.