

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

“The Second Coming of Christ”

Revelation 1:5b - 8

Introduction

1. A Revelation of Jesus Christ is not only the title of the Book, it is also a statement of what it is in content. God the Father gave it to His Son. The Son signifies it to His angel who passed it on to John the Apostle. The ultimate goal of the Revelation is Christ’s servants (slaves).

2. The slaves are those in the seven local churches of Asia (v. 4). John notes that his message comes from (repeated three times) the triune God -- Father, Spirit, Son (in that order). This accents the incredible importance of the Revelation.

3. The message of the triune God focuses on three affirmations:

1. PRAISE to the LORD vv. 5b - 6

The dignities afforded the Lord elicit an outburst of praise.

a. Present

While “loved” (aorist, _____) is an acceptable textual reading, in the face of the message, the present tense “loves” appears more applicable. Faced with the coming judgments, His present and changeless love is something to affirm (cf. Jn 13:1).

b. Past

Linked with our Lord’s love is His redemptive work expressed in the aorist tense (______). Twice the pronoun “us” is repeated, with both “loves” and “loosed.” The completeness of Christ’s atonement is patently taught here (cf. perfect tense in Jn 19:30). The separation from (_____) personal sins is declared. Moreover, the means is averred -- His blood (____).

c. Future

Added to His “love” and “loosing,” so as to be assured of these truths, the Word teaches He has “made” (_____) believers to have two significant positions:

1) Kings Some texts read “kingdom” but sovereignty is what is conferred upon heavenly saints. We are destined to an eternal rulership (1 Cor. 1:26-29).

2) Priests Parallel with “kings” is this term. Apparently believers will share in His eternal priesthood after the order of Melchizedek (not Levitical).

Note: To such an One who has covered the gamut of our loves with His activity, John now asserts praise (v. 6b). The articular nouns for glory and dominion express universality, i.e. all the glory and all the dominion. There is no verb expressed in the original, hence it might need a “be” supplied (thus an ascription of praise) or an “is” supplied (thus a confession of praise). All is forever and deserves an “amen.”

2. PROPHECY concerning the LORD v. 7

a. Christ will come

“Behold” excites the soul. Then the present tense verb “comes” (_____) adds vividness and intensity. This will be an open visible event. “With the clouds,” it is a reference to Christ’s coming to the earth, a major theme of the Bible (Jude 14; Zech. 14:5; Rev. 19:11-14) and is distinguished from the Rapture (His coming “in the air, 1 Thess. 4:13-18).

b. Christ will be seen

The employment of the singular “every eye” (_____) makes this matter very specific. There is a personal certainty established by the future middle tense “shall see” (____). Make no mistake, every one will get a view of His return. Singled out are “the very ones” (_____) who pierced or stabbed Him -- obviously a reference to both Romans and Jews (Zech. 12:10; Acts 4:26-28).

c. Christ will be mourned

The verb here means to “cut” and “beat the breast” and being middle voice adds personal involvement. The gaieties of this life will be changed to tears. It is clearly as predicted (Zech. 12:10). Israel will fulfill Isaiah’s prophecy (25:9) due to the cleansing by blood (Zech. 13:1). While the emphasis is on the Nation, surely some Gentiles will respond (Mt. 25:31-36; Rev. 7:9) as “all kindreds” (plural) implies.

Note: The validity of the predictive prophecy is sealed both in Greek “even so” (_____) and Hebrew “amen” (____).

3. PROMISE from the Lord v. 8

a. His Totality

Using the “a” and the “z” of the Greek alphabet, our Lord affirms that what is recorded is not the voice of man, but God Himself. He is the beginning and end of all revealed truth. Everything finds its answer in Him. All that divine truth should be or ever shall be is in Christ the Word. The KJV includes “the beginning and the end” (cf. 21:6; 22:13).

b. His Eternality

The verbs associated with the “Lord” connote Him as the ever subsisting eternal LORD (Jehovah Elohim). The three clauses from the interpretation of His essential and ever-abiding nature. He is the eternal “Is,” having a positive relation to the past and the future.

c. His Potentiality

This weighty introduction closes with the title of God as the “Almighty” (____). This is the Name “El Shaddai” and signifies omnipotent power and His sustaining resources (Gen 17:1). It is only heretics and who link this term with the Babylonian doctrine of the motherhood of God.

Conclusion If anything will draw you to your knees, this series of verses will. They point us to His all pervading glory and the need to worship Him. Have you bowed your knee to Him and acknowledged Him as your personal Lord and Saviour? Come while there is yet time lest the thunder of His wrath overwhelm you (Jn 3:36). Come! Come! Come!

Some major differences between the Rapture (Christ coming to meet the Church in the air) and the Revelation (Christ coming to the earth in power and glory).

a. Rapture: a mystery. Not a subject of the O.T.

Revelation: major subject of the O.T. (Zech. 14:3, 4).

b. Rapture: relates to church and those “in Christ” (1 Thess. 4:13-18).

Revelation: relates to Israel and Gentiles (Ro. 11:25, 26; Mat. 25:31-46).

c. Rapture: entirely imminent (Ro. 13:11-12; 1 Cor. 1:7; 15:51-53; Phil. 3:20, 21; 1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

Revelation: preceded by predicted events (Mat. 24:29-31).

d. Rapture: everywhere presented as a promise of comfort and deliverance from wrath (1 Thess. 4:18; 5:9-11; Rev. 3:10).

Revelation: pictured as time of ultimate execution of God’s wrath upon an unbelieving world (Zech. 12:1-10; 14:1-9; Mat. 25:31-46; Rev. 19:11-16).

There is a modern movement afoot to discredit the truth of the difference between the Rapture and the Revelation. The actual keys to understanding this matter are often neglected. Basically, it is this: the difference between the Church, Israel, and Gentiles (1 Cor. 10:32). When this distinction is consistently made, the truth is obvious.