

The Apocalypse

Chapter 1, part 1

I. Introduction

- a. Today, we begin a study of the Book of Revelation
 - i. This study will go through the entire book verse by verse
 1. We may, at times, take a passage as a whole to better understand it especially as we get deeper in the book
 - a. This will not be a topical study
 - b. We will not be skipping around as if we were doing a prophetic study
 - ii. This lesson will carry us 8 verses into the Book of Revelation
 1. In this passage, we will find a good introduction to our complete study

II. Commentary

a. Verse 1

- i. *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ..."*
 1. This is the title of the book and contains a wealth of information
 - a. Notice, it is not the "revelation of John" as some Bibles falsely call it
 2. Revelation
 - a. Just from a proper understanding of this word, we can gain some basic knowledge of what we are going to learn from this book
 - b. This word comes from the Greek Word "Apocalupsis"
 - i. This is the English equivalent of "Apocalypse"
 1. I have used this title on the notes to remind you weekly of this point
 - ii. This word does NOT denote the giving of a revelation as many suppose
 - iii. This word means "a revealing" or "a taking away of a veil"
 - c. This same Greek word speaks of Christ's "coming" in **I Cor. 1:7**
 - d. This same Greek word speaks of Christ's "appearing" in **I Pet. 1:7**
 - e. This same Greek word is rendered "revelation" as well in **I Pet. 1:13** where it obviously points forth to the glorious appearing of Christ
 - f. With a proper understanding of this word alone, we can see that this book unveils the events which precede and accompany Christ's return to Earth
 - i. The very title of this book (The Apocalypse) refutes any prophetic position which says that this book is merely history
 3. *"...which God gave Him..."*
 - a. As a result of being a faithful servant to the Father, the Son is given the glorious appearing by God
 4. *"...to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John"*
 - a. The Apostle John (of the Gospel of John and I, II, and III John) is given supernatural knowledge of the events that surround the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ
 - i. Much of this book is straightforward
 - ii. Some of the truth in this book is given in signs as we see from the word "signified"
 1. John uses signs when he sees something in his vision that he can't describe with the language of his day

- a. When he does, he points out that it is a sign with a phrase like *"I heard something like"*
 - i. Because of this, we can feel comfortable taking this book literally
- b. **Verse 2**
 - i. John bore witness to *"the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw"* in the Gospel which bares his name
- c. **Verse 3**
 - i. There are blessings which accompany the study of this book
 - 1. We should all pray that we will receive these blessings that are promised here in this study we are beginning today
 - 2. There are not only blessings in studying the book, but also with the reading and hearing of it
 - 3. There is no reason to avoid this book
 - a. On the contrary, there is every reason to study this book considering what we read in this verse
 - 4. There is no reason to fear the study of this book as many do
- d. **Verses 4-6**
 - i. Here begins the salutation of John's letter to the seven churches in Asia which accompanied this book when it was sent to them
 - 1. We will discuss this more in the next few lessons
 - ii. John prays for grace and peace from the Trinity
 - 1. The Father is the One *"who is and who was and who is to come"*
 - 2. The "seven Spirits who are before His throne" speaks of the Holy Spirit
 - a. The number 7 is the number of completion
 - i. Therefore, the *"seven Spirits"* speaks of the complete, perfect and righteous Holy Spirit
 - 3. Obviously, Jesus Christ is the Son
 - a. He was faithful to the Father when He walked on this Earth
 - b. He was the first to be raised from the dead never to die again
 - c. He is the King of kings and Lord of lords
 - i. He will reign over the world in His future millennial kingdom as we will see in the 20th chapter of this book
 - d. He washed us from our sins in His own blood
 - i. That is, when He died, He paid the debt of our sins
 - e. Not only has He purchased us, He has also made us to be "kings and priests"
- iii. **Verse 7**
 - 1. The Glorious Appearing of Christ
 - a. This is His coming at the end of the Tribulation when *"every eye will see Him"*
 - i. This is not the rapture of the saints which occurs prior to the Tribulation period
 - ii. Many will be at the Battle of Armageddon when Christ returns to stop the battle and they will see Him there
 - 1. Perhaps a miracle of God will cause people that aren't at this battle to see Him as well
 - b. This is the coming referred to in **Acts 1:9-11** where He will return the same way He ascended into Heaven
 - c. The nation of Israel will see Him
 - i. They are the ones who are charged with His crucifixion

1. Though He was actually crucified on a Roman cross, the Jews were the cause of His crucifixion (**Acts 2:23**)
 - ii. They will mourn when they realize that they rejected and killed their Messiah (**Zec. 12:10-11**)
 - d. The world will “mourn because of Him”
 - i. Not only have the Jews rejected Christ, but, most of the world has
 1. The Jews will mourn for having rejected their Messiah
 2. The rest of the world will mourn for rejecting the Gospel and for serving the Antichrist
- e. **Verse 8**
 - i. *“Alpha and Omega”* is the first and last letter in the Greek alphabet
 1. Like A and Z in the English alphabet
 2. This points to the eternalness of Christ
 - a. Of course, He is God