

Covenant Bible Study

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Revelation 1:1-8 (The Prologue)

November 15, 2009

Revelation Introduction Review

Title:

The Revelation – Means the Unveiling.

God's desire is that we understand the future as best we can!

1 Thessalonians 4:13

13 And now, brothers and sisters, I want you to know what will happen to the Christians who have died so you will not be full of sorrow like people who have no hope.

Author:

Revelation 1:9

9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

John is imprisoned on the island of Patmos.

Symbolism:

Why did John use Symbolism?

1. Protect the Letter.
2. Symbolism is **not** weakened by time.
3. Symbols not only convey information, but impart values and arouse emotion.
4. It was a common form of literature in Old and New Testament days.

An Outline of Revelation

Revelation 1:19

19 "Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things.

Chapter One: The Things You Have Seen
Chapters Two and Three: The Things That Are (Seven Churches)
Chapters Four - Twenty Two: The Things That Will Take Place

Prologue

- Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 1:1-8*)

Things You Have Seen

- Vision of the Glorified Christ (*Revelation 1:9-20*)

Things Which Are

- Christ's Messages to the Seven Churches (*Revelation 2:1 – 3:22*)
 - Ephesus (2:1-7)
 - Smyrna (2:8-11)
 - Pergamum (2:12-17)
 - Thyatira (2:18-29)
 - Sardis (3:1-6)
 - Philadelphia (3:7-13)
 - Laodicea (3:14-22)

Things That Will Take Place

- Vision of Heavenly Throne Room, Where John Witnesses the Worship of God the Father & Jesus Christ (*Revelation 4:1 – 5:14*)
- Vision of Judgments Upon the Earth that Increase in Magnitude While God in His Mercy Continues to Call Humankind to Repentance (*Revelation 6:1 – 18:24*)
 - Judgment of the Seven Seals (6:1 – 8:1)
 - Judgment of the Seven Trumpets (8:2 – 11:19)
 - Vision of the Dragon, Woman, and Beasts (12:1 – 14:20)
 - Judgment of the Seven Bowls (15:1 – 16:21)
 - Judgment of Babylon (17:1 – 18:24)
- Return of Christ and the Battle of Armageddon (*Revelation 19:1-21*)
- Reign of Christ and His Resurrected Saints Over the Earth (*Revelation 20:1-6*)
- Final Destruction of Satan, Evil, and Death (*Revelation 20:7-15*)
- Ultimate Eternal Peace and Perfection (*Revelation 21:1 – 22:5*)

Epilogue

- Final Promises of Blessing for Reading, Hearing, and Keeping the Words of the Book (*Revelation 22:6-21*)

Revelation 1:1-8

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who bore witness 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.

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 first-born 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. Even so. 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."

The Purpose of Revelation

Revelation 1:1-8

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must shortly take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

- The Book of Revelation Unveils Christ's glory and reign Over the Earth

- The Book of Revelation is prophecy that Jesus Reveals to John for Him to Record

- The Book of Revelation is a record of the gift from the Father to the Son as Promised in Scripture

Philippians 2:5-11

5 Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. 9 Therefore also *God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those who are in heaven, and on earth, and under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

- ❑ The Book of Revelation's Stated Purpose (verse 2) is to unveil the Things Which Must Soon Take Place

2 Peter 3:8

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

2 Peter 3:8 is in context of future events:

2 Peter 3:3-8

3 Know this first of all, that in the last days mockers will come with their mocking, following after their own lusts, 4 and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all continues just as it was from the beginning of creation...

8 But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. NASB

What does it mean – it is imminent.

- ❑ As he measures it – it will soon occur.
- ❑ As we measure it – it will happen at any moment.