

The Revelation of Jesus Christ: Behold I Am Coming Soon

We began our study of Revelation by looking first at the Doctrine of God the Son. This was important as we observed around us that the Name and Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ has been degraded in the public square, and in many, “so-called” Christian circles and enterprises. It is our deeply held conviction that we exist as a local fellowship of believers to *Behold the radiance of the glory of God in the person of our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit and through the Scriptures.*

With that in mind, we begin our study in Revelation by remembering that one of humanity’s greatest displays of rebellion against God is found in these Biblical words: “There is no fear of God before their eyes!” –Romans 3:18

Our Great God and Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son, is not to be trifled with. Scripture gives clear instruction on this point:

“Fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.” Proverbs 1:7

“Moses said to the people, ‘Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.’” Exodus 20:20

“When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, He will sit on His throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. He will put the sheep on His right and the goats on His left.” Matthew 25:31-33

“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father, take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’” Matthew 26:34

“Then He will say to those on His left, ‘Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’ ... “Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.” Matthew 25:41, 46

Scripture sets before us the promise of the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Yet, because of our low view of God and of Scripture many so-called Christians have forsaken the

doctrine of the Second Coming of Christ. Do not forsake this doctrine: it feeds faith, hope and love! Look:

He is coming again!

“After He said this, He was taken up before their eyes, and a cloud hid Him from their sight.

“They were looking intently up into the sky as He was going, when suddenly two men dressed in white stood beside them. ‘Men of Galilee,’ they said, ‘why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven.’” Acts 1:9-11

He is coming again to take us to be with Him forever! For example,

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, “For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever!”

We must be patient and wait with hope. James exhorts the Church,

“Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord.”

And when He comes the second time it will be to put an end to all His enemies.

“But when this priest had offered for all time one sacrifice for sins, He sat down at the right hand of God, and since that time He waits for His enemies to be made His footstool.” Hebrews 10:12-13

“...so in Christ all will be made alive. But each in His own turn: Christ, the firstfruits; then, when He comes, those who belong to Him. Then the end will come, when He hands over the kingdom to God the Father after He has destroyed all dominion, authority and power. For He must reign (note: on the throne of David) until He has put all His enemies under His feet.” 1 Corinthians 15:22-25

The Doctrine of God the Son: The Revelation

The book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ is the *unveiling*, *the revealing*, or the *apocalypse* of Jesus Christ. God is making known to us what we otherwise could not know. Now the question

interpreters have wondered is, is this the *subjective* revelation of Jesus Christ, or is it the *objective* revelation of Jesus Christ? In other words, is this the revelation *about* Jesus Christ (subjective)? Or, is it the revelation *from* Jesus Christ (objective)? I personally think it tells us a great deal about the glorified Christ; yet, as we see in the very beginning of The Revelation, it is the revelation from God, through Jesus Christ concerning the things which must “shortly take place.” So, it is mainly an *objective* revelation!

Wow! What a book! In this book we see what John wrote down concerning, “What was, What is, and What is to come.” So, for you, if you have been born-again, having new spiritual eyes and ears with which to see and to hear, you will increasingly both behold the glory of God in the face of Jesus, the Son; the Risen and Ascended Son as He is revealed in this book. And you will behold the future mighty acts of God as He vindicates His holiness and righteousness through the saving of His people, whose names have been written in the Lamb’s book of life before the foundation of the world (Revelation 13:8)¹, and the eternal judgment of the devil and his servants as well as of the eternal judgment of the bodies and souls of wicked, God-hating, Christ-denying unbelieving men!

Now we turn to the Revelation, or *revealing* of Jesus Christ.

Most Biblical commentators see three main points in the Revelation. Many have viewed this summary as being found in Revelation 1:19. The three main divisions are as follows:

- I. The Revelation of what was (What John saw)— Revelation 1
- II. The Revelation of what is (What John was seeing)— Revelation 2-3
- III. The Revelation of what is to come (What John was seeing, yet future) Revelation 4-22

How does Revelation *reveal* our Lord? What does John see? What does He hear? How does He respond?

Part 1: What was. (What John saw.) Revelation 1

¹ While the NIV and KJV, for example, have the phrase, “from the creation/ foundation of the world” connected with, “the Lamb who was slain,” other reliable translations such as ESV, NASB95 connect the phrase, “from the creation of the world” with people. Revelation 13:8 is stated in the negative concerning those people whose names were *not* written in the Lamb’s book of life before the foundation of the world. These, whose names were not written in the book before the foundation of the world, will **indeed** worship the beast of Revelation 13. But we will get to that later.

Note: It is interesting that in the first chapter there are clear statements concerning “what was”, or the things John says he saw. For example see 1:5b-6; 1:9-20. But there are hints of “what is”, or the things current, and “of things to come”, that is, things future. I point this out because Scripture is not easily tamed and wrangled by those who like neat and tidy outlines.

I. The first Revealing: The Explanation, The Greeting, Doxology and Declaration (1:1-8)

A. The Explanation and encouragement

1. The Explanation (1:1-2)

- a) The Revelation originates with God.
- b) God gave the Revelation to our Lord Jesus Christ
- c) Our Lord Jesus communicated the Revelation through “His angel”
- d) His angel communicated the Revelation to John
- e) John wrote down the Revelation just as he was told to write.

2. The Encouragement (1:3)

- a) A wonderful promised “blessing”, or “happiness” to anyone who
 - (1) listens to (takes to heart, treasures), and
 - (2) keeps (obeys and does not forsake them by giving up hope)

B. Greetings to the Seven Churches (1:4-5a)

NOTE: the Seven Churches were located in our present day western Turkey

- 1. This Greeting is a summation of the revelation. What you see in these two verses you will see repeated throughout the revelation.
- 2. Greeting from God: The Father, the Spirit and the Son
 - a) The Father: Grace and peace from the One who is, Who was, and Who is to come
 - b) The Spirit: The seven spirits that are before His throne
 - c) The Son: “and from Jesus Christ, the Faithful Witness, the First-born from the dead and the Ruler of the kings of the earth.”
 - (1) He is living and reigning

- 3. Notice: That all grace and peace comes from The Father the Son and the Spirit! The Church is well fortified and supported by our triune God!

C. Doxology (1:5b-8) (note: *Doxology* is worship using “glory words”).

- 1. Glory Words for His *Saving* and *Sanctifying* work and its effects (1:5b-6a)

a) Saving work: The key here is “Loved us and freed us from our sins by His blood.”

(1) Loved us: John 3:16; Romans 5:8; Romans 8:37

(2) Freed us from our sins by His blood: Romans 3:24-25; Ephesians 1:7, 14, etc.

b) Sanctifying work: Having saved us, He sets us apart from the world and the world’s kingdoms and systems of service.

(1) 1 Peter 2:5; Romans 15:5-6

(a) God is the object of our praise, adoration and works of service!

2. Glory Words for His Supremacy (1:6b)

a) Romans 11:33-36 is a powerful example of doxology. And as you’ll see, John, in the revelation, writes down glowing “glory words” for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb!

3. Glory Words for His Second Coming (1:7)

a) Daniel 7:13: Daniel saw this in a vision: “I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven.”

b) (v7b) Global awareness, and global sorrow because of the magnitude of His Person and glory.

(1) Sounds like Zech 12:10 “They (the tribes of Israel) will look upon Me, the One they have pierced, and they will mourn for Him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for Him as one grieves for a firstborn son.”

(2) But also on a global scale, Zech 14:17, “If any of the peoples of the earth do not go up to Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord Almighty, they will have no rain.”

(a) So, the Lord will compel, or force all peoples of the earth to behold His Sovereign glory!

(b) You see this also in Philippians 2:9-11 as the Father exalts His triumphant and conquering Son!

(i) “...that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...”

D. Declaration (1:8): A definite and purposeful declaration.

1. “I Am

- a) Notice: "I Am". These are the words of Jesus in several places in John's gospel and an "intentional reference to the self-existent One of Exodus (3:6,14) for which the Jews attempted to stone Him." (from Tony Garland's commentary on Revelation).
 - (1) **John 8:24**: "Unless you believe 'I Am,' you will indeed die in your sins."
 - (2) **John 8:58**: "Before Abraham was born, I Am."
 - (3) **John 18:6**: when the soldiers came to arrest Jesus. As they asked for Him, he replied, "I Am [He]," and they drew back and fell to the ground.
2. "the Alpha and the Omega, [the Beginning and the End]* (*not included in every translation)
 - a) But this declaration is applied to both the Father and the Son in Revelation. Why is that important?
 - (1) Because it underscores the Biblical doctrine of the **Deity of the Son of God!!**
3. "Says the Lord God"
 - a) Ascribing the title "Lord" to anyone other than Caesar was an act of treason. **John was faithful to document the words of the Lord.**
 - b) But faithful Christians have chosen to die rather than to ascribe "Lordship" to anyone but Jesus Christ! For instance, Polycarp refused to acknowledge Caesar as his lord and was killed.
4. "Who is, who was, and who is to come"
 - a) Some disagreement concerning who is speaking: the Father, or the Son? It is probably the Son here in **1:8** because He is the subject of **1:7**. But as we see, the same statement in **1:4**, sounds like the Father speaking.
 - (1) The Godhead is pleased to share the title, just as they share equally in substance and deity.
5. "The Almighty"
 - a) As we think this is the Lord Jesus Christ speaking, do you hear what He is saying about Himself?
 - (1) He is Sovereign over all!!

- (2) Many references in the OT concerning the Servant becoming the Sovereign. None is more prominent than
 - (a) Dan 7:14: "He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations, and men of every nation worshiped Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and His kingdom is one that will never be destroyed."
- (3) Can you hear Jesus' words after His glorious resurrection?
 - (a) Matthew 28:18-19a, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given Me. Therefore, go..."

Look for the continued outline in Revelation listed on July 10.