

REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY 2 (1:9-20)

Introduction: Revelation is not a closed book - it is for us to understand. It is a tragedy to stop when getting to Revelation. Many say it is weird, strange, but not so. It is a climax to the whole Bible. It was preached by Jesus Christ, the Son of God, to John on the Isle of Patmos in 96 A.D. on a Sunday morning. Preached by the Son of God! If preached by Jesus Christ, it certainly isn't an unknown message or book and it should not be unknown to YOU. Revelation is UNION STATION of all the other books. It makes a few stops along the way, as in Daniel and other places to prepare you for the final book - Revelation.
Now verse 8 through the rest of the 1st chapter.

Chapter 1 - Introduction

Chapters 2, 3 - Story of the Churches - the "trend" of the 7 churches in Asia Minor (part of the Roman Empire).

Everything we find in Churches today is found in these 7 Churches.

Chapters 4, 5 - Describes the Church in heaven.

Chapters 6-19 - Describes the Tribulation. The last 7 years of the Jewish age. The Jews came back from captivity in Babylon and God promised them 70 weeks (490 years) in the land. Jesus' cross cut short those years by 7 years (1 week), having been there 483 years. These unfinished years will be given to the Jews at the end of the Church age. This period of 7 years (1 week) is called the TRIBULATION.

Chapter 20 - The 1000 year reign of Jesus Christ. It says it 5 times, yet there are those who don't believe in the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ. How many times does the Bible have to say something before one believes it? "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved..." The Bible says it again and again and again. "Christ shall reign on earth 1,000 years. At the END of 1,000 years the devil will be loosed for a while, then the devil and every unbeliever and all the demons will be turned into the lake of fire, THEN, God will establish His eternal kingdom. NOW..THAT'S THE BOOK WE ARE GOING TO STUDY.

Now look at the scripture.

v9 - Describes the Church service on the Isle of Patmos. Jesus Christ had been seated at God's right hand, He got up and came all the way down to this little isle, some 10x3 miles, to preach to the congregation of one.

v10 - The congregation was John who had been out of fellowship. What can one do alone to worship? (discuss)
All of a sudden John had a visitor - Jesus Christ had come to visit.

v11 - The distribution of the message. Jesus is going to preach, going to show John something and John is to write it down and send it to the 7 Churches - Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodocia.

vv12-16 - Here is the description of the preacher. His appearance is described. He had been gone 50 years and He is described on that Sunday morning on the isle of Patmos.

v17 - The congregation fainted. Jesus revived him, stood him on his feet and identified Himself.

v18 - The identification of the preacher

v19 - Outline of the sermon:

- Write the things which you have seen (Chapter 1)
- Write the things that are (7 Churches in Asia Minor)
- Write the things that shall be (immediately after these things) (Chapter 4 to the end).

v20 - A preview of what is going to happen in all the chapters following.

THUS A BRIEF OUTLINE OF THIS STUDY 2

- v9 - "I, John" - John is the author, the writer. Jesus preaches it, John writes it down. The same John as before who wrote the Gospel of John, and John 1, 2, 3, one of the 12 disciples, etc. Now in his late 90's, had pastored and now was cast off on this isle to die.
- "brother" - Am also a believer (he thought himself nobody special)
 - "companion" - translated better as "partner."
 - "in Tribulation" - Domitian was the ruler (81-96 A.D.), but a few weeks after this message, he is going to die and John is going to return to the mainland and carry this book himself to the Churches to be distributed and read by all the world.
 - Caesar demanded to be called "kurios" - LORD and one must ball the fist, place it over the chest and salute, saying, "Caesar is God." Christians refused to do this. John was spared death because he was so popular with the Christians and the rulers feared more trouble from the Christians if they killed him, so they just cast him on this desert isle to starve to death.
 - "in the kingdom" - identifying with the eternal kingdom.
 - "patience in Jesus Christ" - once a believer, then forever in Jesus Christ (1 of 34 things that happen to us at salvation).
 - "came to be in the isle" - John was pastor at Ephesus when he was picked up by the Romans and cast onto the isle of Patmos. "came to be" in point of time when Domitian decided to banish John to this isle.
 - "because of the Word of God" - John was on the isle of Patmos BECAUSE of the Word of God. Because of his testimony of Jesus Christ. He had been a faithful minister. He had been picked up and exiled on Patmos BECAUSE he preached God's Word.
- v10 - "came to be in the spirit" - The verb (came) indicates a condition that was not but came to be. Thus John had been out of fellowship with God but came back. Something not before - why out of fellowship? Perhaps John had been feeling sorry for himself (describe - self pity, etc...) All of a sudden he rebounded, got back in fellowship with God. DON'T EVER try to worship all tied up in sins for the world you need to rebound, to confess, get back into fellowship with God. John had been out of fellowship but now on this Sunday morning he is back. "I became something I had not been before..."
- "in the spirit" - John had rebounded and was going to listen to the living God .. thus he CAME TO BE in the spirit on the Lord's Day.
 - Lord's day " - the first day of the week - Sunday - the first word day for the Jews. Sabbath was their day of worship. They never understood why so many of their feasts began on SUNDAY, the first day of the week. "First Fruits" gave of the first of their crops. "Feast of Pentecost" ALWAYS on Sundays and they never got used to it.
 - The Lord's Day is the most important of all because Jesus Christ rose from the dead on SUNDAY.; Far more important than Saturday. God ended creation and the Jews worshiped God's rest day.
 - The Lord's Day emphasizes the fact that the RESURRECTION is more important than resting from the act of creation.
 - Don't become involved with anybody who is a 7th day person for they don't know what they are talking about. It is contrary to the Scripture (the Church) we are not to worship on the 7th day but on the 1st, the Lord's Day. It was on the Lord's Day that John got back in fellowship with Jesus Christ and Jesus was going to give John a message.
 - "and I heard" - While John was worshipping, he heard something (describe the loneliness John must have been under) but now he hears something unusual.
 - "behind me, a great voice as of a trumpet" - Bursting out "JOHN!!!" and it frightened him..(describe...)

v11 - "saying, I am the Alpha and Omega" - the first letter and last letter of the Greek alphabet.. "Alpha" before anything I was - "Omega" after all is gone, I will be - the eternal one, the first and the last."

"what thou seest" - Jesus is the first to ever use an overhead projector - He was going to give John many visions."

"write" - What you see John, write and send it to the 7 Churches. But John is going to get to carry the book back himself as Domition is going to die in a few weeks after this great Sunday.

"send it to the Churches" - The 7 Churches - Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Ladocia. (Will discuss these 7 Churches as we come to them on).

NOW COMES A DESCRIPTION OF THE PREACHER:

John had not seen Jesus in 50 years when Jesus ascended into heaven from the Mt. of Olives, John was there and had not seen Jesus since, but he sees Him now again.

v12 - "voice that spoke with me" - The idea is that it was a voice that used to speak and now is speaking again. John recognized the voice (as we recognize a voice on the phone of a relative or friend).

"turned to see the voice" - Used to hear it, now he is hearing it again.

"7 golden candlesticks" - Though it wasn't going to be hard? v20 tells what they are....7 stars are messengers...7 candlesticks are the 7 Churches and Jesus Christ is in the middle of the Churches. Today Jesus Christ is in the midst of the Church and it is not going to fail or cease until the end of the Church age. Jesus Christ is in the midst.

v13 - "Son of Man" - Spoken 85 times in the bible and Jesus used it 83 of those times. You want to call Jesus by His favorite name/title, it is the SON OF MAN.

"robe" - not like a Roman robe, to the knees, but like a Priest, all the way to the feet.

"golden girdle" - Jesus Christ is wearing the garments of a High Priest. The golden breastplate of the High Priest. Jesus is the High Priest of the Church and he is going to preach to His Church. He is the High Priest after the order of Melchizedek. WHAT A PICTURE OF JESUS CHRIST - THE PERFECT HIGH PRIEST.

v14 - "white head" - Jesus' head wasn't white when He ascended, why white now? Perhaps because "white" stands for perfection - for Godly perfectness. what other color could His hair be? he is now the crowned Son of God, the Head of the Church, the Lord of all creation, the Victor. He was now taken away from the sin and worldliness, He had accomplished His task...THAT'S WHY HIS HAIR IS WHITE. The white hair of the Son of God.

"eyes as a flame of fire" - This speaks of flaming judgment (eyes were just sparkling) when fastened on you. Judgment of God is coming. Jesus came the first time as Savior, He is coming again as JUDGE.

v15 - "feet like fine brass" - Brass stands for judgment. In front of the temple was an altar of brass for sacrifice. It was of brass and called the brazen altar. It represents the Cross. God's judgment of sin at the Cross and therefore Jesus' feet were of brass and He was going to JUDGE all the world. THE CROSS IS THE DIVIDING POINT OF HUMANITY.

"voice" - Rumbling, echoing, pronouncing doom on sin and upon the human race.

NOW WE COME TO A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE OF HOW GOD IS GOING TO CARE FOR HIS PREACHERS (Stories, illustrations can be given here how God has taken care of His preachers, personal testimonies)

v16 - "He held in His right hand 7 stars" - v20 tells us that these "stars" are pastors. Jesus holds His preachers in His hand. (Who among us preachers is worthy?)

"out of His mouth a sword" - The Word of God.

"countenance" - His face was far brighter than the sun.

(What happened to the congregation when he (John) saw Jesus?)

v17 - "John fainted" - He was so shocked to see and hear Jesus that he just passed out and fell to the ground.
"right hand" - The only place in scripture that mentions that Jesus was right handed. John and Jesus had a close friendship when Jesus was doing His ministry with the disciples. There were times when Jesus had comforted John before and had laid His hand on John's shoulder and so now for 50 years John had not felt that hand and now here it is again...the same old familiar way. John KNEW who it was...what a thrill.

NOW, 4 REASONS TO NOT FEAR:

"stop fearing" - Jesus Christ was the first and is the last.

v18 - "am He" - Jesus had lived in the past before the world was ever created and He was living in the present and He will live on after the world is gone. (1 reason)

"was dead" - Jesus had died and was crucified. (2 reason)

"am alive forevermore" - The eternal Son of God (3 reason)

"amen" - John says "amen" I believe that.

"keys of death and hell" - Why did Jesus have the right to have the keys? Because He had been to the Cross and had died and had been made alive forever. (4 reason).

v19 - HERE IS THE OUTLINE OF THE COMING BOOK

"write the things thou has seen" - (Chapter 1, the introduction)

" write the things which are" - (the Churches, chapters 2, 3)

"write the things which shall be" - (the things after what John will witness on this Sunday and to the end of history)

v20 - "mystery" - of 7 Churches, 7 stars are pastors, 7 candlesticks are Churches, so why a mystery? In the New Testament, "mystery" always refers to the Church age. In the Old Testament, Jesus Christ, His crucifixion (coming, birth, life, etc), burial, ascension, resurrection, sitting at the right hand of God is all mentioned, BUT IT STOPS there...Not a word of the Church in the Old Testament. The Old Testament mentions the tribulation in Daniel, Isaiah, Jeremiah. The "mystery" there is going to be a Church age, which we are a part of this very day.

There was going to be a NEW category..going to have pastors/teachers. The Old Testament had prophets, leaders, kings, BUT NO pastors/teachers and Jesus calls them 7 stars.

"in right hand" - Jesus will hold them in His right hand while they go out to preach for Him;

" candlesticks" - are the 7 Churches.

"stars" - are the pastors of the 7 Churches - "angelos" is messenger, thus preachers.

GOD SAYS WE WILL BE BLESSED AS WE STUDY, MEDITATE ON THIS BOOK.....