

Revelation: An Introduction

June 26, 2022

I. Introduction

- A. The Bible it's the only book that tells us:
 - 1. How we got here: Creation
 - 2. What went wrong: Sin in the garden
 - 3. How to fix it: The cross
 - 4. How will it end: Judgement and recreation
- B. Purpose
 - 1. The main purpose of the book is to promote the redemptive and therefore, the moral and spiritual purposes of God.
 - 2. The purpose of Apocalyptic scripture is:
 - a. To purify the believer
 - b. To motivate the believer to service
 - c. To warn the non-believer
 - d. To document the pre-ordered plan of God (John 13:19)
- C. Various Methods of Interpreting the Revelation
 - 1. Preterist, or Past
 - a. All events fulfilled in the early history of the church
 - b. The entire book was fulfilled by 312 A.D.
 - 2. Historical or continuous-Historical
 - a. Events are in the process of being fulfilled throughout the history of the church
 - b. Most of the Reformers interpreted the book in this manner
 - 3. The non-literal or allegorical approach
 - a. The book does not portray actual events either past or future, but rather portrays the age long struggle between good and evil.
 - b. This view is also called "spiritualizing" the text
 - 4. The Futurist or plain interpretation
 - a. "When the plain sense of scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense, but take every word at its primary literal meaning unless the facts of the immediate context clearly indicate otherwise." (Dr. David L. Cooper)

- b. This view accepts the book as prophecy that primarily is yet to be fulfilled.

- D. Basic Outline – v. 19
 - 1. The Things Which You Have Seen - Chapter 1
 - 2. The Things Which Are – Chapters 2, 3
 - 3. The Things Which Shall Take Place – Chapters 4-22
- E. Jesus, The Key Character of the Book
 - 1. Chapter 1: seen in His risen glory
 - 2. Chapters 2, 3: seen as the Head of the Church – v. 20
 - 3. Chapters 4, 5: seen as the slain and risen Lamb to whom belongs all worship (Chapter 5: cf. 11-14)
 - 4. Chapters 6-19: seen as the Judge-the wrath of the Lamb of God – Revelation 6:16, 17
 - 5. Chapter 19:11-21: as seen in His second advent to Earth
 - 6. Chapter 20: His millennial reign and White Throne Judgment
 - 7. Chapters 21, 22: Host of the New Heaven and Earth

II. Today's Text: The Things Which You Have Seen – vs. 1-20 (The vision of the risen Christ)

- A. The Introduction – 1:1-3
 - 1. Title of the book and author – vs. 1, 2
 - a. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ"
 - b. "...the things which most shortly take place...", or the action will be sudden when it comes.
 - c. "...and communicated it by His angel..."
 - i. Communicated = to make known by signs or symbols
 - d. "...His bondservant John..." Paul, James, Peter, and Jude also identified themselves as "slaves" of Christ
 - e. John the Witness
 - i. To the Word of God
 - ii. To the testimony of Jesus Christ
 - 2. The promised blessing – v. 3
 - a. Read – Joshua 1:8; Psalms 1:1-3
 - b. Hear – 2:7; James 1:22 – you can hear and not read
 - 3. Heed – obey

III. The Salutation – vs. 4-8

- A. Grace to the Churches – vs. 4-5a
 - 1. John (1:1, 4, 9; 22:8) to the seven churches – v. 11
 - 2. Grace from
 - a. The Father: Him who is and who was and who is to come
 - i. You can't get any better coverage than that
 - b. From the Spirit: Isaiah 11:2, 3; Revelation 4:5; 5:6
 - i. The number seven occurs 54 times in the book.
 - See Ryrie's note on verse 1:4
 - ii. Some take this be a reference to seven angels
 - c. From the Son:
 - i. The faithful witness
 - ii. The first born from the dead
 - iii. The ruler of the earth
- B. Glory to the Son – vs. 5b-8
 - 1. Who loved us
 - 2. Who loosed us from our sins
 - 3. Who lifted us
 - a. Kingdom: corporate relationship
 - b. Priests: individual relationship
 - 4. Who is coming again
 - a. There are more references to Jesus' Second Coming than His first
 - b. His first coming was literally fulfilled.
 - c. This is the theme of the book
 - d. See Zechariah 12:10; Matthew 24:29, 30; 26:64; Acts 1:9-11
 - 5. Who is the Sovereign of the universe
 - a. This could be a reference to the Father as well. Compare to v. 4.
 - b. See 2:16 and 22:13
 - c. "Almighty"- used ten times in New Testament, nine in Revelation