

REVELATION 1

-In these lessons, we will study the last book of the Bible.

-The last book of the Bible is called the Revelation of Jesus Christ or simply Revelation.

Let's read Revelation 1:1

1-The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John.

-What does the word revelation mean?

-To open or to make known.

-In the book of Revelation, what is being opened or made known?

-That which God the Father gave to the Lord Jesus to show us Christians what must soon take place.

-The book of Revelation, just like the other books in the New Testament after Acts, is only for us Christians.

-This is because God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are opening or making known to us Christians what will happen in the future.

-Who alone knows the future?

-God.

-Who alone can tell us about the future?

-God.

-This is because it is God alone who has prepared the future.

-What will happen in the future?

-The Lord Jesus will punish all evil, put an end to sin, death, and Satan, and return to begin His reign on earth.

-How did the Lord Jesus make this known?

-By sending His angel to His servant John, one of Jesus' disciples whom He chose to be an apostle.

-When will these things take place?

-Soon.

-Even though the book of Revelation was written 2,000 years ago, these things have still not happened.

-While 2,000 years is a long time for people, it is not a long time for God.

-For God, there are no nights, no days, no weeks, no months, or no years.

-Since the resurrection of Christ, the Word of God tells us that we are living in the last days.

-Why is it important for us Christians to know that we are living in the last days?

-So that we can live our life expecting Christ to return soon at any time.

-When we live our life expecting Christ to return soon at any time, how will this help us?

-We will use our life for God, and not waste our life on the things of the world.

-Why did God through John write the book of Revelation?

-To encourage all Christians that the Lord Jesus will return soon.

Let's read Revelation 1:8

8-"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

-What does the Alpha and the Omega mean?

-Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, and Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet.

-The Alpha and the Omega mean The First and the Last.

-Who is the Alpha and the Omega?

-The Lord Jesus.

-Why did the Lord Jesus call Himself the Alpha and the Omega?

-To teach us that He has no beginning and no ending.

-To teach us that He is God eternal.

-To teach us that He is God Himself.

Let's read Revelation 1:9

9-I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

-In this verse John calls himself a brother and companion in the suffering.

-John was being persecuted for his faith in Christ, and was sent to the island of Patmos.

-Patmos is a small island in Greece, and far from Israel.

-In this verse, John also calls himself a brother and companion in the kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus.

-What does it mean to be in the kingdom?

-To be in the kingdom means to be under the care and protection of God Himself with God as our king.

-If we believe in Christ, can persecution and suffering separate us from the kingdom of God?

-No.

-Even if we are persecuted here on earth, as Christians, we are very much a part of the kingdom of God.

-The early Christians were persecuted for their faith in Christ.

-Christians today are also persecuted for their faith in Christ.

-Yet, as Christians, we should know that we are a part of the kingdom of God, and that our Lord Jesus will soon punish all evil, and return to begin His reign on earth.

Let's read Revelation 1:10

10-On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet.

-One Sunday when John was on the island of Patmos, God the Holy Spirit came over him.

-What did John hear behind him?

-A loud voice like a trumpet.

-In the past, people used trumpets to call soldiers to fight or to call people for important teachings.

-In the verse above, John heard a loud voice like a trumpet calling him for a very important teaching.

-Whose voice did John hear?

-The voice of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let's read Revelation 1:11

11-Which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

-John was told to write on a scroll that which the Lord Jesus was going to open or make known to him.

-What is a scroll?

-A scroll is a long piece of paper that was rolled up.

-In the past before there were books, people would write on scrolls.

-After writing what God wanted, John would then send the scroll to seven churches.

-These churches were located in Asia which is now called the country of Turkey.

-Why did God want John to send the scroll to these seven churches?

-These seven churches were chosen because they were in cities where the scroll would be read and then passed on to other churches in other areas.

-God wants all of His children to read these words and be encouraged, knowing that the Lord Jesus will soon punish all evil, and return to begin His reign on earth.

Let's read Revelation 1:12-13a

12-I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13-and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man.

-When John turned around to see the voice that was speaking to him, what did he see?

-He saw seven golden lampstands, and in the middle of the lampstands was "someone like a son of man."

-Who is this "someone like a son of man"?

-The Lord Jesus Christ.

-When the Lord Jesus lived on earth, He often called Himself the Son of Man.

-Christ called Himself the Son of Man because He is teaching us that even though He is fully God, He is also fully man.

-In Matthew 20:28, our Lord Jesus said this:

-"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

-Although the Lord Jesus is God, He came to earth to become a Son of Man to serve us and to die for us so that we might live.

-In Revelation 1:20, we learn that the seven golden lampstands are a picture of the seven churches.

-And because seven is the biblical number for being complete, the seven churches are a picture of the complete Church of the Lord Jesus Christ.

-John saw the Lord Jesus Christ among His complete Church.

-Even now, the Lord Jesus is among us Christians, His complete Church.

-As He promised His Church before He left for heaven, Christ said this:

-"And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age" (Mt 28:20).

-Turning around to see the voice that was speaking to him, John saw Christ in all of His glory.

-The glory of Christ that John saw was not a glory that our Lord Jesus will have in the future.

-No.

-The glory of Christ that John saw is the glory of our Lord Jesus that He has now.

-This glory of Christ that John saw is the glory of the Lord Jesus that He has had from eternity past and that He will have forever.

-First, John saw Christ in His glory in a priest's robe:

Let's read Revelation 1:13b-14

13-Dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

14-The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

-While kings and prophets also wore robes, this robe with a sash around the chest is a robe that the high priest wore.

-The Lord Jesus is our great High Priest who gave His very life as the best and final sacrifice for our sins.

-Yet, sin and death are not more powerful than our Christ.

-The Lord Jesus rose from the dead, and continues to be our great High Priest.

-As our great High Priest, Christ continues to counsel us, lead us, and pray for us as we allow Him to live His life out through us.

-Then, John saw Christ in His glory with hair as white as snow.

-The hair on the head of Christ which was as white as snow teaches us that the Lord Jesus is God Himself.

-The white is also a picture of Christ's complete and perfect holiness which He has shared with all of us who believe in Him.

-One of Christ's greatest desires is for His Church to be completely and perfectly holy.

-Next, John saw Christ in His glory with eyes of blazing fire.

-Christ's eyes of blazing fire teach us that our Lord Jesus sees everything, and that nothing is hidden from him.

-People may try and hide their sin from God, but this is impossible because our God sees all sin.

-Another one of Christ's greatest desires is to keep sin away from His Church.

-And our Lord Jesus continues to protect His Church from sin.

-Then, John saw Christ in His glory with feet as bronze glowing in a furnace.

Let's read Revelation 1:15-16

15-His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

16-In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

-In the past, kings sat on a raised floor so that anyone who entered would be under the feet of the king.

-To be under the feet of the king meant that the king had power or control over everyone.

-Feet like bronze glowing in a furnace teaches us that our Christ continues to have power or control over all life and will protect His Church.

-In verse 10, we learned that Christ has a voice like a trumpet.

-Here in verse 15, we learn that Christ's voice is also like the sound of rushing waters.

-Rushing water is loud and powerful, able to rip large trees out of the ground and roll large rocks down river.

-It was the voice of Christ who created the world and the voice of Christ which raised Lazarus from the dead.

-What are the seven stars that Christ held in His right hand?

-As we learn in Revelation 1:20, the seven stars are a picture of the seven messengers of the seven churches.

-Some people have translated the seven "stars" in Revelation 1:20 as seven "angels" of the seven churches.

-But the Bible does not teach that angels are a part of the Church of Christ.

-These seven stars are messengers or elders of the Church of Christ.

-That these messengers or elders are in the right hand of Christ teach us that they belong to the Lord Jesus, and that He will protect them.

-In John 10:28, our Lord Jesus said this about all Christians:

-“I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand.”

-Next, John saw Christ in His glory with a sharp, double-edged sword coming out of His mouth.

-The sword from the mouth of the Lord Jesus is a picture of the Word of God.

-In Hebrews 4:12, we read this:

-“For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword.”

-The Word of God is the Lord Jesus in all of His power, and the Lord Jesus is His Word.

-It is the Word of God which protects the Church of Christ from those who are on the outside.

-Yet, it is also the Word of God which keeps the Church of Christ pure on the inside.

-Finally, John saw Christ in His glory with a face like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

-While the Lord Jesus was still on earth, John with Peter and James went up on a high mountain with Christ.

-On the high mountain, when the glory of the Father shone out through Christ, John said this:

-“His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light” (Mt 17:2).

-When Christ appeared to Paul on the road to Damascus, Paul said this:

-“I saw a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, blazing around me and my companions” (Acts 26:13).

-This light was Christ, and Paul was blinded until the Lord Jesus healed him.

-Seeing the Lord Jesus in all of His glory, what did John do?

Let's read Revelation 1:17-18

17-When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

18-“I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

-When Isaiah saw a little of the holiness of God, he thought that he was going to die (Isaiah 6:5).

-When the Lord Jesus was with Peter, James, and John on a high mountain, and the glory of the Father shone out through Christ, the disciples were terrified and fell to the ground (Mt 17:6).

-When Paul was on the road to Damascus and the Lord Jesus appeared to him, Paul and all of his friends fell to

the ground (Acts 26:14).

-God is more holy than we can even think, and the glory of His holiness caused John to fall at the feet of Christ.

-Just as the Lord Jesus had done on the high mountain, he touched John, and told him not to be afraid.

-As the head of the Church, Christ is the First and the Last.

-Even though evil people put Christ on the cross, He conquered death, and is now alive for ever and ever.

-What does it mean that the Lord Jesus holds the keys of death and Hades?

-Hades is a name in the New Testament for the place of the dead.

-And because the Lord Jesus holds the keys to death and Hades, He alone has authority over those who do not believe in Christ.

-When it is time to judge a prisoner, the police open the door of the prison with the keys.

-When it will be time for the Lord Jesus to judge those who do not believe, He will open Hades with the keys.

Let's read Revelation 1:19

19-“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.”

-In verse 11 at the beginning of John's vision of the glory of Christ, God told John to write on a scroll.

-Now, once again, God is telling John to write.

-First, John is to write “the things he had already seen” which is John's vision of Christ in all of His glory.

-Secondly, John is to write “what is now” which are the seven letters to the seven churches.

-Thirdly and finally, John is to write “what will take place later” which is the rest of the book of Revelation.

-Here is an outline of the book of Revelation:

I. Introduction & John's Vision of Christ (1)

II. Seven Letters to the Seven Churches (2 & 3)

III. The Future (4-22)

1. The Throne of God in Heaven (4-5)

2. The Tribulation (6-18)

3. The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus (19)

4. The 1,000 Year Reign of Christ (20:1-10)

5. The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)

6. Eternity with Christ (21 & 22)