

Date: October 4, 2017
Title: Revelation: An Introduction - "It's HIM!" and "We're Here!"
Text: Rev. 1:1-3
Theme: What the "Old" spoke of in Shadow, Jesus is the Substance. The Veil is lifted.
Jesus in the Garden for the Joy of His People.

Introduction:

PURPOSE STATEMENT VS. MELODIC LINE

To the suffering Church, Jesus says, "I am in control and I am with you for your joy."
Future - I won and am winning.

Now - First, I am in control. Second, I am in your midst for your joy.

1. THE TEXT AND ME

A. **Clarity** - "AHA"

What draws your attention? What seems important to you?

B. **Question Marks?**

What is hard to understand? What do you wish you could ask the author?

C. **Claiming it**

What applies personally to your life?

2. THE TEXT AND ME

A. What do these verses tell us about who God is?

B. What do these verses tell us about who Jesus Christ is?

C. What do these verses tell us about what Jesus Christ has already done for those who believe in Him?

D. What do these verses tell us about believers?

E. What do these verses tell us about human history?

THE BIG PICTURE:

CHAP DIVISION

Prologue 1:1-8 [The 1st of Seven Beatitudes {1:3}]

1st Cycle The **Seven** Churches of Asia Minor 1:9-3:22

2nd Cycle The Book with **Seven** Seals 4:1-8:1

3rd Cycle **Seven** Angels with **Seven** Trumpets 8:2-11:19

4th Cycle **Seven** Signs / Seven Symbolic Histories 12:1-14:20

5th Cycle **Seven** Bowls of Wrath from the Temple 15:1-16:21

6th Cycle **Seven** Stages in the Fall of Babylon 17:1-19:8

7th Cycle **Seven** Sights 19:9-22:5

Epilogue 22:6-21 [The 7th of Seven Beatitudes {22:14}]

Outline:

I. Prologue 1:1-8 [The 1st of Seven Beatitudes {1:3}]

OT Preface - Daniel 2:28-30, 45-47

- A. VERSES 1-3 (Cf. Rom. 11:36 "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.")
1. The revelation is *about* Jesus Christ.
 2. The revelation *from* Jesus Christ (Rev. 5).
 - a. The first speaks of **content**.
 - b. The second speaks of **channel**.

Jesus is bringing the *Story* full circle. What was in the Garden and is in the Church will be on the Earth.

See further, GOD WITH US pages 4-13.

B. The PROCESS

- a. God - Jesus - Angel - John - Churches - [US] (vv. 1-4)
- b. "Bond-servant" = **doulos**

C. The PURPOSE

- a. Cmp. 1:1, 3 w/ 22:6, 10. "To show the things which must soon take place"

"10 And he *said to me, "**Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is near.**" This is in direct contrast to the word to the prophet Daniel.

- b. The intent is to reveal, not to conceal.
- c. Soon take place - **tachos** "a brief space" 1:1; 22:6
- d. "QUICKLY" - **tachu** Rev. 2:5, 16; 3:11; 11:14; 22:7, 12, 20
- e. What does "quickly" imply?
- f. "without delay"
- g. There is no "distance/far off" in Revelation.

There is something **pressing** on the church. In the overarching purpose/*Story* of God, the **TIME is NOW.**

¹"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, **the things which must soon take place**; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, ² who testified 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** [eggus]" (Rev. 1:1-3).

- “Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand**” (Rev. 1:3).
- “And he saith unto me, Seal not the sayings of the prophecy of this book: **for the time is at hand**” (Rev. 22:10).

John must have a near/far view of the events described. They must be things that have happened, are happening, and will happen (vv. 4, 8, 19).

What inaugurated this “time?”

Notice Daniel 12:1ff

¹“Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. ² Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt. ³ Those who have insight will shine brightly like the brightness of the expanse of heaven, and those who lead the many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever. ⁴ But as for you, Daniel, **conceal these words and seal up the book until the end of time**; many will go back and forth, and knowledge will increase.

⁵ Then I, Daniel, looked and behold, two others were standing, one on this bank of the river and the other on that bank of the river. ⁶ And one said to the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, ‘**How long will it be until the end of these wonders?**’ ⁷ I heard the man dressed in linen, who was above the waters of the river, as he raised his right hand and his left toward heaven, and swore by Him who lives forever that it would be for a time, times, and half a time; and as soon as they finish shattering the power of the holy people, all these events will be completed. ⁸ As for me, **I heard but could not understand**; so I said, ‘**My lord, what will be the outcome of these events?**’ ⁹ He said, ‘Go your way, Daniel, **for these words are concealed and sealed up until the end time**. ¹⁰ Many will be purged, purified and refined, but the wicked will act wickedly; and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand. ¹¹ From the time that the regular sacrifice is abolished and the abomination of desolation is set up, there will be 1,290 days. ¹² **How blessed is he who keeps waiting** and attains to the 1,335 days! ¹³ But as for you, **go your way to the end**; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.’” (Dan. 12:1-13).

Everyone who read the Book of Daniel asked the same question, when? They were all asking, “Is this Him?” they were all asking, “When will God fulfill His promises?” “Is this Him and are we there?”

Daniel 12 finds a hard stop in Matthew 1. Revelation 5:1ff is the revealing of this concealed time. When did Revelation 5 happen?

¹“I saw in the right hand of Him who sat on the throne a book written inside and on the back, sealed up with seven seals. ² And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, ‘Who is worthy to open the book and to break its seals?’ ³ And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the book or to look into it. ⁴ Then I began to weep greatly because no one was found worthy to open the book or to look into it; ⁵ and one of the elders said to me, ‘Stop weeping; behold, the Lion that is from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, **has overcome so as to open the book and its seven seals.**’

Revelation 1:1-3

⁶ And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, **as if slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God, sent out into all the earth. ⁷ **And He came and took the book out of the right hand of Him who sat on the throne.**

[When did the Lamb of God take from the Father's hand the scroll? When did the Lamb secure for Himself and His people this victory? Friends, it is at Calvary and His resurrection from the dead that Jesus becomes all that was claimed of Him.]

⁸ When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, **Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation.** ¹⁰ **You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth.** ¹¹ Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, ¹² saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing.** ¹³ And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, 'To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever.' ¹⁴ And the four living creatures kept saying, 'Amen.' And the elders fell down and worshiped" (Rev. 5:1-14).

We are in the "end." This "end" is a protracted period that began with Jesus and will end when the Lord's Prayer consummates, "Your Kingdom come, your will be done, **on earth as it is in heaven.**"

What we need to do is lay chapters 4 and following over the top of chapters 1-3. What He describes in chapters 4-19 is what has been, is, and will be. There is always an already/not yet aspect to all of it. A future, fuller day is coming when Jesus will return and set all things straight. Hebrews calls it a "time of reformation (Heb. 9:10)."

However, the Book of Revelation is for them and us right now, today.

D. APPLICATION

- a. To encourage the suffering [2:10, 13; 6:9, 10; 12:11; 13:15; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24] because Jesus is coming to straighten thoroughly all that is wrong. These passages and those like them (Acts 5:41; 2 Cor. 12:10; 1 Thess. 3:3; 2 Tim. 3:12; 1 Pt. 4:13, 16) strongly suggest that we as a church will suffer.
- b. To the non-believing, repent [**metanoeo**] and believe (Rev. 9:20, 21; 16:9, 11).

The believing show their faith by repenting (Rev. 2, 3 [the word is not found after 2 and 3 except in 9 and 16]). The unbelieving show their lack of faith by refusing to repent and believe the gospel.

E. THE PROMISE

- a. Blessed = 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14 [Cf. Beatitudes] "At peace, contented"
- b. "He who reads." This is singular while the next clause, "those who hear," is plural. This reflects the early form of worship and one of God's primary plans for taking in the Word. The Scripture was publicly read to the congregation.

“**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” (Rev. 1:3).

“And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, ‘Write, **Blessed** are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them’” (Rev. 14:13).

“(Behold, I am coming like a thief. **Blessed** is the one who stays awake and keeps his clothes, so that he will not walk about naked and men will not see his shame.”) (Rev. 16:15).

“Then he said to me, ‘Write, **Blessed** are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’ And he said to me, ‘These are true words of God’” (Rev. 19:9).

“**Blessed** and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years” (Rev. 20:6).

“And behold, I am coming quickly. **Blessed** is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book” (Rev. 22:7).

“**Blessed** are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter by the gates into the city” (Rev. 22:14).

BLESSED

- What is this?

Makarios – Perhaps best understood from the Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 5:1ff).

Cursed is the opposite of blessed.

- Who are they?

The “Blessed” are those who **believe** in Jesus and **persevere** in the same.

“Blessed” are those in the Garden with God and enjoy His presence forever.

- What do each of the “Bless” have in common?

F. THE PROMISE

- Read
- Hear
- Tereo** - “To guard, watch over, preserve” or “observe, apply, obey.” See further Acts 12:5, 6. Rev. 2:26; 3:3, 8, 10; 12:17; 14:12; 16:15; 22:7, 9. Obedience [keeping the Word] in Revelation is continued faith in the person and work of Jesus in the context of tribulation and suffering.

G. THE MELODY AND PRIMARY HARMONIZING NOTES

- The Melody – 1:17-20 [What does this text tell us about the Book?]
 - God is in control of His *Story*.
 - Christians are not to fear sin and death vertically nor the suffering that is inevitable horizontally (vv. 17, 18).

- iii. Revelation closes the loop from Genesis 1-3 (“Beginning at the End” Rev. 21; 22). God is with His people for their joy (vv. 12, 20 [Psalm 16:10]).
- b. Harmonizing Notes
 - i. God is in control of the *Story* and He will bring it to pass (1:4, 8, 19; 4:8; 11:17; 16:5 [cf. “I am the beginning and the end; the alpha and the omega”).
 - ii. God’s control does not exclude suffering and catastrophic calamity [2:10, 13; 6:9, 10; 11:3; 12:11; 13:15; 16:6; 17:6; 18:4].
 - iii. God is protecting His people and will lose none of them (Rev. 7:3; 9:4; 17:14).
 - iv. Satan is always opposing the people of God and will ultimately fail (Rev. 19:17-21; 20).

Shepherding God’s People (Where do we go from here?)

1. Do not believe in the midst of genuine suffering that God is not in your midst, controlling history, and bringing His purposes to completion.
2. If you are an unbeliever, you need to repent of your sins and trust in Jesus for the saving of your soul from sin and death.