

Revelation 1v1-8: West End Bible Reading notes

14th February 2012

v1-3: General Introduction

v1: The Title of the Book - "The Revelation (*Apocalypse*, unveiling) of Jesus Christ".

The subject matter of the book will be "things which must shortly come to pass".

v2: The Testimony of the Writer; 3-fold aspect of testimony.

1. John "bare record (testified) of the Word of God".
2. John upheld "the testimony of Jesus Christ".
3. John also testified "of all things that he saw"

v3: The Blessing of the Book; 3-fold aspect of blessing.

1. Blessing for the reader, "Blessed is he that readeth".
2. Blessing for those who listen, "they that hear the words of this prophecy".
3. Blessing for those who obey, who "keep those things which are written therein".

v4-6: Salutations from John

The recipients of the book, "John to the seven churches which are in Asia".

Distinct presentation of the 3 Persons of the Godhead

1. God the Father - "Him which is, and which was, and which is to come" (v4).
2. Holy Spirit of God - "the seven Spirits which are before His throne" (v4).
3. The Son of God - "from Jesus Christ" (v5).

A: Who He is

1. "the faithful Witness" (v5) - *preeminent in His testimony for God.*
2. "the first begotten of the dead" (v5) - *preeminent in His resurrection.*
3. "the Prince of the kings of the earth" (v5) - *preeminent in His sovereign rule.*

B: What He has done for His own

1. "loved us" (v5) - *preeminent in His love for His own.*
2. "washed us from our sins in His own blood" (v5) - *preeminent in His sacrifice for His own.*
3. He "hath made us kings and priests (i.e. a kingdom of priests) unto God and His Father" (v6) - *preeminent in the worship of His own.*

v7: Coming in Glory of the Lord Jesus

The climax of "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" (v1) will be His coming again in power & glory, "Behold, He cometh with clouds"; a global unveiling, when "every eye shall see Him".

This will encompass Israel, "they also which pierced Him" and Gentile nations, "all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him", i.e. global recognition of the Lord Jesus Christ, global vindication for Him and global trepidation in view of imminent divine judgment.

v8: Divine Glory & Pre-eminence of the Lord Jesus

1. "I am Alpha and Omega"; what He is in divine revelation.
2. "the beginning and the ending"; what He is in divine purpose.
3. "which is, and which was, and which is to come"; what He is in His divine eternal being.
4. "the Almighty"; what He is in His divine omnipotent power.