

Revelation's HOPE

Lesson 3: Revelation's HOPE

I. Revelation 1

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show unto his servants, even the things which must shortly come to pass: and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John; ² who bare witness of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, even of all things that he saw. ³ Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein: for the time is at hand" (ASV unless otherwise noted).

- Blessing: the reader (usually in front of congregation)
- Blessing: the hearer (the congregation)
- Blessing for keeping: Leader & Congregation
- I hope we can all leave here with this blessing tonight!

II. Why are we not experiencing the blessing?

A. The book is sealed:

- "And he saith unto me, Seal not up the words of the prophecy of this book; for the time is at hand" (Rev 22:10 ASV).
- Maybe we have not experienced the blessing because we did not know there was one there to receive!
- Another excuse→

B. It pertains to John's time

- "And he saith unto me, Seal not up the words of the prophecy of this book; for the time is at hand" (Rev 22:10 ASV).
- Maybe we are not experiencing the blessing because we think it does not apply to us!
- Or we think it is too hard to understand.
- **Why would God offer a blessing if we could not access it?**
- Reality is: All of heaven is interested in YOU being blessed by this book! Read and you will see→

III. The Blessing that awaits

⁴ "John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from him who is and who was and who is to come; and from the seven Spirits that are before his throne; ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loveth us, and loosed us from our sins by his blood; ⁶ and he made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father; to him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (Revelation 1:4-6).

- More than 7 Churches in Asia (Colossae, Troas). Probably universal appeal and words for ALL who choose to believe.
- Sevenfold spirit = perfect spirit
- Trinity Formula here: God the Father; Perfect Spirit; Jesus Christ.

- Tuck this away for there is a false trinity later on.

IV. Revelation Has HOPE for You!

Revelation 1

“Unto him that loveth us, and loosed us from our sins by his blood; ⁶ and he made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father; to him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they that pierced him [LATER]; and all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over him. Even so, Amen. ⁸ I am the Alpha and the Omega, saith the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

- The First and Last WHO is the first and last?
- 13 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end. ¹⁴ Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have the right to come to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city. . . ¹⁶ I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things for the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright, the morning star” (Rev 22:13-16 ASV).
- The First and Last in the Hebrew Scriptures
“Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I, Jehovah, the first, and with the last, I am he. (Isa 41:4 ASV)

“Thus saith Jehovah, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, Jehovah of hosts: I am the first, and I am the last; and besides me there is no God” (Isa 44:6 ASV).

“Hearken unto me, O Jacob, and Israel my called: I am he; I am the first, I also am the last” (Isa 48:12 ASV).

V. Jesus, the First and Last Still calls →

A. What Jesus did for us

“Unto him that loveth us, and loosed us from our sins by his blood; ⁶ and he made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father; to him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen” (Revelation 1:5-6, ASV).

- HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?
- WHY WOULD HE GIVE BLOOD FOR US?

B. How it Happened

“. . . I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright, the morning star” (Rev 22:13-16 ASV).

- **ROOT** – Lion / Lamb in Revelation (5:5). This means He was BEFORE David.
- Isaiah 53 says He would come as a tender root out of a dry ground and die for us!
- **OFFSPRING** – Born through David’s lineage (See Matthew 1). Jesus became one of Us

VI. Good News: God is Merciful & Just

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16, MKJV).

- God does not want anyone to perish – go without this friendship that leads to life.

“The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptation, and to reserve the unjust for a day of judgment, to be punished. . .” (2 Peter 2:9).

- God is just = We all chose a path that would lead us away from Him.
- He will uphold His law, so there are consequences. Another way of saying it→
- We have all “unfriended” God!
- There are consequences of un-friending the Life-giver

VII. “Bad” News

“. . . as it is written: ‘There is none righteous, no not one; there is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God.’ ‘They are all gone out of the way, they have together become unprofitable, there is none that does good, no, not one’ “**(Romans 3:10-12)**.

“. . . for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God” **(Romans 3:23)**.

- Sin = miss the mark; but here it lends itself to knowingly breaking the law!
 - How? Thought or action! More bad news
 - We Cannot Save Ourselves
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” **(Romans 6:23)**.
- What can we earn? Death.
 - There may be “good” thoughts and actions that transpire, but that goodness is prompted by the One who made us in His image.
 - This is why God in His mercy gave us the Bible to show us what is right and wrong. To guide us safely home because we cannot do it ourselves.
 - Back to the Good News→

VIII. Good News – God re-friends

- We “unfriended” God, but He did not give up on us.

“For by grace you are saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to good works, which God has before ordained that we should walk in them **(Ephesians 2:8-10)**.

- Grace = kindness that changes us. Ex: Prodigal.
- Faith = not only “knowing” but “trusting”.
- Not of yourselves = all we do leads us away from this Friend and towards death.
- How do we have our debt forgiven? Recognize WHO did this for us→
- Who Brought this Request?

IX. The Ultimate Sacrifice

- John 1:1, 14
- Hebrews 2:17
- This is the Infinite God-man Jesus. The Creator Himself!
- The Creator would come and accept our record as His record. Accept our guilt and give us His peace. Accept our death and give us His life!

X. How do we Accept this Request?

- Choose to believe / trust that what He did is enough (John 1:12).
- This is different than just knowing the facts – it is choosing to believe that the words of the
- Bible really happened for us! See James 2:19.
- One key text to accepting this friend request→

“He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him (1 John 5:12-15).

XI. Once we Accept this “Life”

- Sins are forgiven
- We are a new Creation
- Called Sons and Daughters of God
- We can have a winning life
- By faith now we have eternal life and will experience life that never ends with Him when He returns.
- **Do you see what Christ wants to do for you?**
- **Do you want to receive the gift of eternal life – His friend request?**
- **Do you see that Christ left heaven and died on the cross to give you this opportunity?**
- **Christ wants to be your Friend, but also wants to guide you in your life – do you want to trust Him to save & guide you?**
- **Story of Grandfather praying for grandchildren.**

XII. My Journey

XIII. Revelation 1

⁹ I John, your brother and partaker with you in tribulation and kingdom and patience which are in Jesus, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet ¹¹ saying, What thou seest, write in a book. . .

- The book has been written, passed down, and we have experienced the blessing of understanding it tonight!
- Your Decision: Won't you pray a simple prayer right now to accept this wonderful gift? *“Jesus, I recognize that without You I am on a path that leads to death. I know that I have made choices that put me on this journey, and I now ask that You can forgive me, give me a new start and help me continue to allow You to guide my life. Take control of my life today. Thank You for the gift of eternal life, in Jesus' name. Amen”*