

**I. THE BOOK OF REVELATION IS A WORSHIP AND PRAYER MANUAL TO PREPARE THE CHURCH IN THE END TIMES**

***Rev 1:1-3 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.***

- A. God's primary purpose in the book is to reveal the heart and beauty of Jesus Christ. It is secondarily a book about events in the End Times to purify the church, bring in the harvest, and to replace all the evil governments on the earth as He drives Satan off the planet.
- B. There are 30 distinct aspects of Jesus in Rev. 1-3. It is the most complete picture of Jesus in the Bible. Revelation reveals His glory in a way not yet previously revealed in Scripture. This book is a great gift from Him to us.
- C. The church will be strengthened in the last days by being fascinated with the beauty and the brilliant leadership of Jesus.

***Rev 1:1 (NKJV) The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place...***

- D. God's plan is not better programs and more efficient organization, but His plan is His powerful Word. God will release revelation of Jesus and His heart to the church. This is what will equip the church to be victorious in love in the End Times.

***Matt 22:37-38 Jesus said to him, " 'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.' <sup>38</sup> "This is the first and great commandment.***

There is a blessing that is promised to those who read, hear, and keep the words of the prophesy. If you will study it and live it out, you will find great blessing in the Lord.

***Rev 1:3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.***

**II. JOHN ENCOUNTERS JESUS IN THE MIDST OF HIS CHURCH**

- A. Jesus, the One who walks in the midst of the lampstands.
  - 1. John is in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. He hears a loud voice, like a trumpet (the voice of a witness who warns of coming judgment. Ezek. 33:6). He turns and sees 7 golden lampstands. In the midst of the lampstands is One like the Son of Man.
  - 2. Son of Man is a Biblical title for the God-Man who rules all the nations as the King (Dan. 7:13-14)

- B. Jesus, how He looks now in heaven.
1. Garment down to His feet and the golden band. This resembles the garment of a High Priest, one who is sympathetic with our weaknesses (Heb. 4:15). It can also allude to Jesus' kingly authority.
  2. His head and hair are white as snow. His face is shining like the sun. At His transfiguration, His disciples saw a preview of Jesus in His glory (Matt 17:2). This speaks of Jesus as the ageless, eternal One, in perfect purity and full of wisdom.
  3. His eyes are like blazing fire. This speaks of how His passionate love for His Bride and His fire of holiness that will remove all that hinders love (Deut. 4:24)
  4. His feet like fine brass. He will trample His enemies under His feet (Psa. 110:1).
  5. Out of His mouth comes a sharp two-edged sword. He releases power by His words (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12).
  6. He holds the seven stars in His right hand – He holds His messengers to the churches (spiritual or human) by tenderly helping them. This reveals Jesus' heart over all of His church.
  7. Seven stars: angels of the seven churches. Seven lampstands: seven churches in Asia (or Asia Minor) is roughly the area of modern day Turkey.
- C. Jesus is with His church (Matt. 28:20)
- D. Jesus governs His church through His Word
- E. Jesus is the Word incarnate, come in the flesh (John 1:1, 14)
1. Whether it's the written Word of God, or the spoken, Rhema, "prophetic" Word of God, it all points to the revelation of Jesus. Personal prophesy is important (my life has been tremendously impacted by it), but if it's not based in the knowledge of God, it will be short-lived, and worse, harmful (Rev. 19:10).
  2. If you want to grow in the spirit of prophesy, get into the Bible and ask for revelation. Many people who are growing in the prophetic don't grow in their gifting or get weird because they are not rooted in the Word.
- Heb. 5:14 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.***
- F. Jesus shepherds us with His Word. He calls John to write to the seven churches.
- Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.***
- Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.***