

The Lion and The Lamb

Revelation 1:7-13

- Last week The Holy Spirit revealed to us through John that God has an unique blessing for all who read, hear, and keep the words of this prophecy in the book of Revelation. A stark contrast to what many people have heard which is don't read or study the book of Revelation as its too hard to understand, too much doom and gloom, too depressing and scary, as it's all about judgment and not blessings.
- But the first three verses removes that myth, and as we know anything that is all about revealing The truth of Jesus, to a world that is deceived about Who He is should be celebrated instead of criticized or hidden away. Yet most churches don't read this book to their congregations, or encourage them to study it for themselves, but as we'll see knowing it only reinforces what is presented in the gospels, Paul, James, John, and Peter's writings, that Jesus will return to earth for us His bride.

V7-13

- **V7-8** show us that not only is Revelation a misunderstood book but also a Messianic book for in these two verses are found the synopsis of what the book is all about. There are two primary purposes of the book of Revelation: **1.** The presentation of The King, **2.** The program of His Kingdom.
- **V7** says in a short sentence that on one special day Jesus Christ is coming again, and every eye on earth will see Him, and everyone will know He's here, as all will mourn because of His prior treatment and death in His first coming by mankind.
- The Greek word "**coming**" is Parousia, it means advent, and is applied to the second coming of Jesus, why is that so important? Because it proves that Christ physical appearance in the heavens and upon planet earth is separated from the rapture of the Church, where only those who get called up will see Him, and no one else.
- Where **V7** is **the presentation**, then **V8** is **the program**, as Jesus is declared to be "The Alpha, and Omega, The beginning and The End. To simplify this is merely saying > "**I Am in charge**" for all that is written in scripture man is still in need of being told plainly that we are not in charge of anything only Jesus our Lord is!

- I just want you to know that before I come, and while I'm coming, I'm The King, I'm in charge, and by saying He is The Alpha and Omega, He uses the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet to let His readers know that He is The A-Z, The Beginning and The End, but also don't miss this, and everything in between!
- So, this speaks of The eternality of Christ, Existence without beginning or end, timelessness, endless duration, boundless existence, He has no beginning and neither does He have an end. Therefore He is The One Who is in charge, He is The Authority > **Col 1:16-17**- all things are created for Him and by Him, being kept through Him, as He is both **The Creator** and **The Sustainer** of all things.
- Also in **Acts 1:9-11** it says Jesus was taken up into a cloud, and return in like manner, this is true literally as we see here, but also figuratively, how so? **Heb 12:1** says multitudes of believers are called clouds of witnesses, and when Jesus returns we will be surrounding Him as clouds being witnesses of His and our Resurrection. So when the world sees Jesus they will also see us The Church returning with Him.
- **V9-11** after our introduction to Jesus we come back to John the writer of the letter, he is on the isle of Patmos as punishment for speaking, living and representing Jesus. History says they tried to boil him in hot oil the last of the living Apostles, and he didn't burn, so they exiled him to this remote island.
- The thought was they would never ever hear from him again, this was another attempt to silence the gospel but all it did was produce the book of Revelation. John penned this while in the same condition under which many of the Bible authors wrote: (suffering). Perseverance and the Kingdom go hand in hand > **Acts 14:22**, and it's in this place in his life that John receives this vision, being told by The Alpha and Omega that what he sees write into a book and send it to the seven churches.
- **V12-13** the churches are represented by seven golden lampstands, their lampstands but described as golden, we'll get to that in a moment. Lampstands are a symbol of light and are used to illuminate the dark, they're useless during the day, but when night comes they are essential. When Jesus was rejected, crucified, and physically removed from the world, then His Church became the light from which God would speak to the world, declaring His presence in the midst of darkness.

- **V13** as notice the position of Christ in the vision > He is in the midst of the seven lampstands. **Math 18:20** Jesus should always be found in the midst of whatever we the body of Christ, His Church is involved in, if He is in any other position, usually that means it is not His will being done but ours. Next week we'll get into what powers the lampstands which is the oil that represents The Holy Spirit.