

## The Lion and The Lamb

### Revelation 1:1-6

- The book of Revelations is the last inspired book of the Bible and so it is positioned as the New Testaments final instructions to the Church. It was written by the Apostle John with most scholars dating it to A.D. 95, and its name gives us its readers what the content is going to be about.
- Revelation comes from the Greek word Apokalupsis, which means an unveiling, it's where we get our English word apocalyptic or apocalypse from, which is a synonym for catastrophe, and the reason why many have stayed away from reading it fearing what it says about man's future. But as we'll see its only a catastrophe for those who refuse to obey God's Word, but for those who do listen it's a blessing and not a curse
- Which is why believers should always want to know what God has said about His plans and purposes to His people and His Church, to protect us from the lies and deceptions that come from ignorance or fear because people haven't studied God's Word, and therefore have formed an opinion based on what somebody has said instead of from what they have read amen!

### V1-6

- **V1-2** says Who this book is about, who it is for, and who wrote it, > **1<sup>st</sup>** the book is about Jesus and called > "**The revelation of Jesus Christ**" some have wrongly labeled it as "the revelation of St. John the Divine" or "The Revelation of future events" but here we see this is a book that is all about Jesus. **2<sup>nd</sup>** the book is for us "**His servants**", **3<sup>rd</sup>** God sent it by His Angel to "**His servant John**" to deliver it to us.
- Remember in **Dan 12:4** > he was told to "shut up the words and seal the book until the time of the end". But John is given opposite instructions **V1** "to show God's servants, and to not seal up the words of this prophecy for the time is at hand".
- Interesting that I was told to not read Revelations as its too scary, and rarely have I seen it posted in Churches that they are going to study through it, yet in scripture were told not to avoid it but to read it as its been given to us His children, for the purposes of understanding God's will and His plans.

- Also, if you ever doubted whether the Apostles knew they were writing The Word of God these two verses answer that question, as John says he bore witness to the Word of God calling it a revelation from God that is also a testimony of Jesus His Son
- **V3** also offers a particular and unique blessing to those who read and keep the message of this book, it's the first of seven blessings mentioned, the rest in Chapters 14, 16, 19, 20, and two in chapter 22.
- Notice there is a difference between just **reading for information**, and **reading for application**, as the blessing doesn't come because you open and read the book, but you also must hear the words. Meaning they need to take hold of our hearts and then Keep means to guard and to keep from escaping, it comes from a word meaning fortress. I'm to put these words where no one can steal them from me.
- Some say they are not concerned about prophecy, that it is a frivolous exercise, but if God was concerned enough to talk about it then we should be concerned enough to listen, and here **V3** were told that > "the time is near, even **V1** says "**things which shortly must take place**", this is predictive, meaning its going to happen.
- **V4-6** John starts by bringing a greeting to the seven churches located in the Roman province of Asia, which is the western part of modern-day Turkey. This greeting includes grace and peace **1<sup>st</sup>** from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come, this is God The Father, and it speaks of the eternal timeless nature of God.
- The seven Spirits Who are before His throne speaks of the Perfection and Completion of the Holy Spirit. This comes from Is **11:2** where Isaiah describes seven aspects of the Holy Spirit > **1.** The Spirit of The Lord shall rest upon Him, **2.** The Spirit of Wisdom, **3.** The Spirit of Understanding, **4.** The Spirit of Counsel, **5.** The Spirit Might, **6.** The Spirit of Knowledge, **7.** The Spirit to have the fear of The Lord. Without The Holy Spirit man cannot and will possess these qualities and traits.
- Finally Jesus Christ, The Faithful Witness, The Firstborn from the dead, The Ruler over the kings of the earth, to Him Who loved us, washed us from our sins in His own blood, and made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion, forever and ever amen! We see greetings from The Father and Spirit, and now from The Son, the description given to Jesus points back to > **Rom 5:6-8.**

- John wanted to make very clear exactly what Jesus has done for us, but for that to happen we first must understand the depth of our own sinfulness, which is why John himself the writer of first John penned **1 Jn 1:9** - if we confess our sins, He is Faithful and Just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- His is what happened when Jesus loved us at the cross, He washed us and cleansed us from the deep stain of sin that no amount of bleach, detergent, or man's righteousness, could get out. Notice the order > **1<sup>st</sup> loved, 2<sup>nd</sup> washed**, so it wasn't that Jesus washed us out of some sense of duty and then loved us because we were then clean, no He loved us while we were still dirty and then made us clean.
- Which is why it had to be done by Jesus Himself, if there was any other way God would've done it > **Matt 26:39**- it had to be done through His own blood, the ultimate sacrifice of God The Son. When people try and diminish Who Jesus is point to the Jewish priests who could only cleanse with the blood of bulls and goats that only covered sin therefore had to be done continuously, only if Jesus being greater than man, and fully God sacrificing Himself could our sin be fully taken away.
- The result is He has made us kings and priests, in the OT, it was forbidden to combine the offices of king and priest, Uzziah tried and failed, but because of Jesus and His sacrifice being both King and Priest, He has made us like Him. For that we give Him glory and dominion forever. **Rev 4:10-11** this is why we cast our crowns before Him on the throne and say, "You are worthy O'Lord, to receive glory, honor, and power, for You created all things, and by Your will they exist, and were created".