

## BACK TO FUTURE: THE BOOK OF REVELATION IN THE LIGHT OF JESUS' PROPHECY

### *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ – The Vision of the Risen Lord"*

Revelation 1:1–20; Matthew 24:3

In order to truly understand the book, we must see that there are three judgements:



- Judgement on Jerusalem that rejected her Messiah.
- Judgement on Rome that persecuted His saints. And,
- Judgement on the nations that rise against Him throughout history.

But through it all, one theme resounds: The Lamb of God reigns! Jesus is Revealed as Lord and King through the Judgements!

*"The revelation of Jesus Christ" (Revelation 1:1)*

The word "revelation"—in Greek, *apokalypsis*—means unveiling.



The book of Revelation is heaven's response to the disciples' questions asked on the Mount of Olives in Matthew 24:

*"Tell us, when will these things be? What will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?" (Matthew 24:3)*

#### ❖ **The Source of the Revelation** (vv. 1–3)

*"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near." (v. 1-3)*

- **A Divine Chain of Communication**

- From the Father, the fountain of all authority,
- To the Son, the Mediator of all revelation,
- To the angel, the messenger of heaven,
- To John, the apostle in exile,
- To the Church, the bride on earth.

- **The Urgency of the Message**

John says: *"things that must soon take place"* in verse 1 and *"... the time is near"* in verse 3.

*"This generation will not pass away until all these things take place."* (Matthew 24:34)

- Jerusalem fell in A.D. 70,
- Rome persecuted the saints,
- The nations trembled at God's judgments.

- **The Blessing of Obedience**

*"Blessed is the one who reads... who hears... and who keeps"* (v. 3)

- ❖ **The Greeting of Grace and Glory** (vv. 4–8)

*"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 who are before his*

throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. <sup>8</sup> 'I am the Alpha and the Omega,' says the Lord God, 'who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.'"

- **A Trinitarian Greeting**

- From the Father: *"him who is and who was and who is to come."*
- From the Spirit: *"the seven spirits before his throne."*
- From the Son: *"Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, the ruler of kings on earth."*

Here Christ's threefold office shines:

- As *Prophet*, He is the faithful witness who testifies to truth.
- As *Priest*, He shed His blood to free us from sin.
- As *King*, He rules over every ruler.

- **The Doxology of Love**

*"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be glory and dominion forever"* (vv. 5–6)

- **The Thunder of His Coming**

*"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him" (v. 7)*

*"I am the Alpha and the Omega." (v. 9)*

- ❖ **The Vision of the Son of Man (vv. 9–20)**

*"I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet <sup>11</sup> saying, 'Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea.' <sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lamp stands, <sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the lamp stands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup> his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. <sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup> and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. <sup>19</sup> Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. <sup>20</sup> As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lamp stands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp stands are the seven churches.'"*



- **The Lamp Stands and the Lord**

- Seven golden lamp stands—the churches shining in a dark world.
- In the midst, *One like a son of man*—this is Daniel's prophecy fulfilled.

- **The Majesty of His Appearance**

- Robed like a Priest, crowned like a King.
- Hair white like wool—which speaks to eternal wisdom.
- Eyes like fire—piercing, searching, purifying.
- Feet like bronze—firm, immovable authority.
- Voice like rushing waters—drowning out every rival.
- In His hand, seven stars—the messengers of the churches.
- From His mouth, a sword—His Word that pierces.
- His face shining like the sun—glory unveiled.

- **The Comfort of His Presence**

*“Fear not. I am the first and the last, the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.” (Vv. 17-18)*

❖ **Application: What Does This Means for Us**

- Christ before Crisis.
- History is Covenantal.
- Christ’s Presence is Our Comfort.
- Judgment Begins with God’s House.