

- I) V1-8 INTRO: The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave Him to show His servants
The last time I taught Revelation was on Wednesday nights in 2014
The last time I taught the book on Sunday mornings was in 2004
- II) I believe that this is the right time to once again look at the Book of Revelation
- III) Allow me to lay a foundation with a brief introduction of the Book
- IV) FIRST: The Book of Revelation has also been called the Book of Consummation
It concludes God's plan of redemption and reveals His victory over *His enemies*
- V) ENEMIES? The psalmist asked the question
Ps 2:1-6 Why do the nations *rage*, And the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, And the rulers take counsel together, *Against the LORD* and against *His Anointed*, saying, "Let us break Their bonds in pieces And cast away Their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; The LORD shall hold them in derision. Then He shall speak to them in His wrath, And distress them in His deep displeasure: Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."
- VI) The psalmist asks Why do the nations *rage*
The word *rage* speaks of banding together to conspire and cause a commotion
It speaks of joining together with evil intent
- VII) Why do the nations (goyim-heathen) join together to *plot evil*
They have *set themselves* (with hostile intent) and made plans against God
They are plotting against God, and against His anointed (Messiah)
- VIII) This is something the church needs to remember
We need to remember that the battle is not against us, the church alone
Jn 15:18 If the world hates you, you know that *it hated Me* before it hated you.
- IX) It goes deeper than that
We only represent what the world rejects
- X) The world is plotting to overthrow God, even as Satan did
Let us break their bonds in pieces: Let us rebel against His rule and His laws
Is 14:13-14 For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'
- XI) The rebellion is against God Himself but the church is His visible representation
I) Today we are seeing what rebellion against God and His Anointed *looks like*

Anything that represents Him is a target

- II) In the first nine chapters of Genesis God established three institutions
The church, marriage, and human government
All three are under massive and constant attack
- III) The vandalism that is targeting churches is more than defacing property
It is a rejection of God, His authority and symbols that remind them of this
- IV) Churches in California, Florida, Minnesota, New York, Kentucky, Texas, Tennessee and Colorado have been attacked during recent violent protests as have many synagogues
- V) On July 11 Arsonists torched the historic mission church in San Gabriel Valley
On the same day a 24 year old man crashed his car into the lobby of the Queen of Peace Church in Ocala, FL and then poured gasoline and lit the church on fire
In August a statue of Jesus was toppled and beheaded in Miami
- VI) Just last Sunday Aug 30th, 2020, a statue of the Virgin Mary erected in front of the Our Lady of Lebanon church in Toronto was decapitated
- VII) Across Europe, there has been a growing rise in attacks on church buildings including violent acts of desecration. Vandalism was carried out in 1,063 attacks on churches and Christian symbols
- VIII) Many wonder when the Lord will move to deal with this kind of evil
Rev 6:9-10 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"
- IX) The Book of Revelation answers this question
- X) It is called Revelation because it is the only NT book that is *primarily* prophetic
Revelation: Apokalupsis: Unveiling; disclosure of truth about things before unknown
- XI) Ch 1:1 Shows that this book is primarily intended to reveal the glory of Jesus Christ
- XII) The date of writing is thought to be around the years 90-96 AD
- XIII) Irenaeus (130-202 AD) was a student of Polycarp, who was a student of the Apostle John I)
In his book *Against Heresies*, he wrote that the book was written "almost in our day, towards the end of the Emperor Domitian's reign" (81-96 AD)

- II) John wrote this book when he was exiled because of his effective witness of Jesus (V9)
Patmos was one of several places criminals were banished to by Rome
- III) QUOTE: Early tradition says that John was banished to Patmos by the Roman authorities. This tradition is credible because banishment was a common punishment used during the Imperial period for a number of offenses. Among such offenses were the practices of magic and astrology. The Romans viewed prophecy as belonging to the same category whether Pagan, Jewish, or Christian. Prophecy with political implications, like that expressed by John in the book of Revelation, would have been perceived as a threat to Roman political power and order.
- IV) The Study of the Book of Revelation is approached in various ways
Some think Revelation simply presents spiritual principles, others teach that all the prophecies have been fulfilled in the past
Others consider Revelation to be a history of the church in the form of an allegory
They view it like a fable; people, things, events have symbolic meaning
- V) We hold to what is called the Futurist View
This view acknowledges the influence Rome had as it warred with the early Church, and influenced the theme of the Book. It accepts the bulk of the Book (4-22) as prophetic, looking at the events occurring as immediately preceding the 2nd Coming and containing teaching concerning the Tribulation (6-18), the Return of Jesus (19) and His new creation (20-22)
- VI) Revelation *unveils* the character and purposes of God as they are revealed in Jesus
God reveals His plans for the church throughout eternity
- VII) This would include those who first read the book, those living up to His 2nd coming and up until the establishment of the New Heavens and the New Earth
- VIII) It is a book that is filled with prophecy
God created and controls Time, and He would know all things
Is 46:9-10 Remember the former things of old, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things that are not yet done, saying "My counsel shall stand, and I will do all My pleasure."
- IX) God occasionally reveals the future to us to prepare us for what He is going to do
Dt 29:29 The secret things belong to the LORD our God, but those things which are revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.
- I) He does this through His prophets
Amos 3:7 Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he reveals his secret to his servants the prophets

2 Pe 1:19-21 And we have the word of the prophets made more certain, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation. For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

- II) V1 The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave Him to show His servants
- III) The book opens with a chain of progression
 - The revelation of Jesus Christ: The theme of revelation
 - Which God: Reveals that God is the source of revelation
 - To show His Servants: The recipients of the revelation
 - He sent and signified it by His angel: Who is the intermediary of God's revelation
 - To His servant John: Who is an eyewitness declaring the revelation he received
- IV) V2 Who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ
 - John is testifying here, but testified in other places: Gospel, Epistles
 - He is making it clear that he is testifying and witnessing of the Word of God
- V) V3 Blessed is he who *reads* and those who *hear the words* of this prophecy
 - The prophecies will bless those who read, hear and keep the words of the Revelation
 - This is how scripture is normally understood: to read, understand and obey
- VI) V3 The things that have been revealed to John are things which must *shortly* take place
 - Some of the things that began to take place within a short time after the writing
- VII) This does not mean that everything would take place in a short time
- VIII) It speaks more of being aware that the time is short and we should be prepared
 - 1 Pe 4:7 But the end of *all things is at hand*; therefore be serious and watchful in your prayers.
 - Jas 5:9 Do not grumble against one another, brethren, lest you be condemned. Behold, *the Judge is standing at the door!*
- IX) This is to encourage our patient and steadfast witness as we give this urgent message
 - Rev 22:10 Then he told me, Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the *time is near*.
- I) This is so important that he says He who has ears, *let him hear* eight times
 - Ch. 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22, and finally 13:9
- II) V3 Blessed is he who *reads* and those who *hear* the words of this prophecy, and *keep*

This blessing is on the public reader, as well as those who *hear* and *keep* this word

- III) **OBVIOUSLY:** It is not only in the hearing but the doing that results in being blessed
Sadly there are people who have heard but refuse to do what God says
Lu 6:46 Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?
Jn 14:15 If you love me, keep my commandments
1 Jn 5:3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome

- IV) Others hear God's word and it brings them great joy
Ps 119:111 Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, For they *are* the rejoicing of my heart.
Jer 15:16 Your words were found, and I ate them, And Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; For I am called by Your name, O LORD God of hosts.

- V) V3 For the *time* is near
The word time is not speaking of the hours on a clock or the days on a calendar

- VI) It's what could be called a season of opportunity
The next great era of God's redemptive history is near, *Jesus is returning soon*
Ro 13:12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand

- VII) V4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him

- VIII) These seven churches each receive a letter from Jesus
V11 Ephesians, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea

- IX) V4 Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come

- X) V4 A threefold greeting:
God (from Him who is, who was, and who is to come) who inhabits eternity

- XI) V4 The Spirit: 7 fold Spirits intends to communicate His fullness (3:1, 4:5, 5:6)
Is 11:1-2 And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the *spirit of the LORD* shall rest upon him, the *spirit of wisdom* and *understanding*, the spirit of *counsel* and *might*, the spirit of *knowledge* and of the *fear* of the LORD
- I) V5 And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness the firstborn from the dead and the ruler JESUS: Is also given a threefold description
- II) He is the *faithful witness*
Jesus fulfilled the will of His Father completely, unto the death (2:10)

- III) He is the *Firstborn*: Preeminent, prominent: (the first one raised permanently)
Col 1:18 And he is the *head of the body*, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.
- IV) He is Ruler over the kings of the earth who will confess Him as Supreme Lord
No king or earthly ruler has jurisdiction over Jesus
- V) When standing before Pontius Pilate, Pilate told Jesus that he could have Him executed
Jn 19:11 Jesus answered You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above.
- VI) Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords
Jer 23:5 Behold, *the days are coming*,” says the LORD, “That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth.
1 Ti 6:15 which He will manifest in His own time, *He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords*
- VII) V5 To Him Who *loved us and washed us* from ours sins in His own blood
This speaks of redemption and purification: our release from sin through His blood
1 Jn 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, *purifies us from all sin*.
- VIII) V6 And has made us kings and priests to His God and Father
Being washed by the blood of Jesus is a picture of consecration (set apart for service)
- IX) In Jesus we are kings and priests set apart to serve Him
- X) We now have direct access to God the Father through Jesus the Son
1 Pe 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
1 Pe. 2:9 But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.
- I) V7 Behold He is coming with clouds and *every eye will see Him*
He says *behold* so that he might draw our attention
- II) It is like when John the Baptist pointed Jesus out to his disciples
Jn 1:36 And looking at Jesus as He walked, he said Behold the Lamb of God

- III) It is like when Paul wrote concerning the rapture of the church
1 Co 15:51-54 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."
- IV) It is like when Paul spoke of being completely transformed because of Jesus
2 Co 5:17 Therefore, if anyone *is* in Christ, *he is* a new creation; old things have passed away; *behold*, all things have become new.
- V) V7 He now says Behold He is coming with clouds and *every eye will see Him*
The book begins with the return of Jesus because He is expected at any moment
- VI) V7 He is coming with the clouds has various applications
Clouds in the bible can symbolize the awesome presence of God (Ex 33:9; Nu 10:34)
- VII) It could be making a reference to the saints returning with Jesus
Jude 14 Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints
1 Th 3:13 speaks of "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ *with all His saints*
- VIII) V7 Says *every eye will see Him* including Jews and Gentiles who are alive at His return
Many Jews will be saved during the tribulation
Zech 12:10 And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.
- IX) Jesus' return was an incredible promise that I had not heard before I got saved
In the 260 chapters of the New Testament, His return is mentioned 318 times
The return of Jesus is found in more than 500 verses throughout the Bible
One out of 25 verses in the NT refers to the return of Jesus
- I) The anticipation of *being with Jesus* is what fuels our lives and motivates us to *prepare*
It fuels us to live *openly* and *unashamedly* for Him before the eyes of the world (Jn 14)
Mk 8:38 Whoever is ashamed of Me and My words in this adulterous & sinful generation of him the Son of Man also will be ashamed when He comes in the glory of His Father with the holy angels
- II) JESUS SAID: He would come again and receive us unto Himself: Are you ready?

What kind of life are we to live? A life of faith, expecting to be with Jesus at any time:
Lu 12:39-40 But *understand this*: If the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into. You also *must be ready*, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

- III) V8 I am the Alpha and the Omega The beginning and the End says the Lord
God speaks only here and in 21:5, declaring that He is the Alpha and the Omega
- IV) ALPHA AND OMEGA: The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet
They represent more than a first and last letter
Alpha and Omega represents all the letters in between
- V) POINT: He is sovereign over the entire course of human history
HE IS THE ALMIGHTY: Meaning He is supreme over all things