

He Hath Made Us

Rev 1: 4-8

He Hath Made Us

- There are a couple of things in this book we should take note of.
 - First the use of “7’s”
 - Interestingly John uses the term “I saw/beheld/witnessed” 49 times ($7 \times 7 = 49$)
 - He uses the phrase “I heard” 28 times ($4 \times 7 = 28$)
 - There is also the use of “3’s” in various forms
 - Vs 2....testified to the Word, testimony of Jesus, even all that he saw.
 - Vs 3....he who reads, who hears, and he who heeds

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- Vs 4....who is, who was and who is to come
- Vs 5....faithful witness, firstborn of the dead, ruler of the kings of the earth
- Vs 8...repeat of vs 4
- All of this is not co-incidental.....
 - These things compel us to examine carefully the text
 - By doing so we will be blessed (Vs 3)

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- Vs 4....to the seven churches
 - Note John does not address “to the church”
 - This tells us the message is to be delivered by local churches
 - This is the first of the “7’s” in this book
 - Interestingly Paul also wrote to “7” churches
 - Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colosse and Thessalonica
 - Also, Paul always starts with “Grace and Peace coming from God the Father and from Jesus Christ

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- John, however, invokes the entire Trinity
 - “From Him who is, and who was and is to come”
 - James 1: 17...Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.
 - Isaiah 57: 15...KJV.. For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name *is* Holy; I dwell in the high and holy *place*, with him also *that is* of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.

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- Vs 4...from the seven Spirits
 - Why "7" the number of completeness?
 - Grace and peace does not come from any other source. It is the work of the Holy Spirit alone.
- Vs 5...and from Jesus Christ
 - Listing the three aspects of His ministry
 - The faithful witness (martus).....martyr
 - The firstborn of the dead (John 10: 17-18)
 - Ruler of the kings of the earth (Rev 19: 11-16)

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- Vs 5...released us from from our sins
 - Luke 4: 14-21; 28-29
- And then Vs 6...
 - He made us to be a kingdom
 - He made us to be priests
- There are two things that occur in this statement
 - First.....coronation
 - Second.....consecration

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- This passage is a direct reference to Ex 19: 5-6...Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth *is* mine: and ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.
 - Ex 19: 5 is the original charter for Israel
 - It is their mission statement, their constitution

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- You will note a slight variation in the text
 - To be a kingdom.....
 - To be priests.....
- First...we must take note of words of Vs 6
 - “He hath made us to be”
 - Note the past tense usage of the word “hath”
- For this reason, we know there are two aspects of this kingdom
 - The present state of the believer (1 Pet 2: 9)
 - And the future state of the believer (Rev 2: 26)

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- The present state of the believer
 - A statement that is worthy of contemplation
 - “He that is king over himself is the true king”
 - Rom 7: 15-17
 - Vs 24...wretched man that I am....”who will rescue me from this body of death?”
 - Rev 1: 5....”and released us from our sins by His own blood.”
 - How does Christ do this?
 - By pouring into us His own Spirit
 - Royalty begins with ruling my own nature
 - I John 5: 4-5

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- Secondly....”He hath made us to be....”priests”
 - His death has made a path to the Holy of Holies
 - Every child of God has direct access to the Throne
 - Matt 27: 51....”and behold the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.”
- We must not forget that every priest did not come empty handed
 - Rom 12: 1....KJV....”I beseech you brethren”
 - I am begging you to present your bodies”

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- Two other aspects of sacrifice
 - Heb 13: 15-16
 - Let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise
 - “to give thanks to His name”
 - “Do not neglect doing good and sharing”
- What are we to learn this morning from our passage?
 - Two things that are practical and reasonable for the child of God

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- First.....
 - Rule yourself for the glory of God
- Secondly.....
 - Since we are priests unto God
 - See to it that the path to the throne room of Grace is well worn.
- These things can only happen when Christ reigns in our hearts