

Review:

V.1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,

1) "God gave Him"

a) God gave to the Son – Who gave to an angel – who gave to John – who has given to us

V.2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he **saw**.

V.3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

1) "Blessed is he who reads"

a. The only book that promises a special blessing to those who **read it**, **hear it**, **heed it** – this book

V.4 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,

1) "to the seven churches that are in Asia"

a. "That are in Asia" – means Asia Minor now western Turkey

b. The churches fit within a square 50 mile area, in Asia Minor or today Turkey and they are addressed in order going clockwise starting w/ Ephesus in the southwest.

1) x "to the **seven** churches that are in Asia"

a. Why seven churches & why this seven churches?

i. There were certainly other churches in Asia Minor such as:

Colossae, Miletus, Hierapolis

ii. Why these & why 7 of them?

b. God is in to **mathematics**

c. Everything seems to be fitted w/ a number of some kind

d. Even among men math is the only things that remains common

i. **Language** isn't the same w/ all men

ii. **Philosophy** doesn't remain the same

iii. **Values** don't remain the same

iv. **Math** remains the same – it doesn't matter what country or standard of life you are from 2 plus 2 equals 4

e. Even the elements that make up our physical world all have numbers that correspond to the number of protons in the nucleus of each element

- i. They are **listed** on the **periodic table**
 - 1. **Change** the number of protons & you **change** the element
- f. Our **universe** runs on specific numbers
- g. How can man shoot a rocket into space & land on **Mars**? By using numbers
- h. Man **intuitively knows** that a Supreme Being created everything b/c all of creation is mathematically calibrated
 - i. Pull a **leaf off a tree**, or catch a **butterfly** & put it under a **microscope** count anything countable in you will see symmetry
 - ii. Put a **needle** under a microscope & it will be the most ugly thing you can imagine – w/ no symmetry b/c man made the needle
 - iii. **Astronomers** can tell you **exactly** where each planet was on any given day in history b/c of mathematics
 - iv. God uses numbers in His Word also
- i. Before the book of Revelation can be understood to its fullest we must understand that God uses numbers as symbols
- j. This book uses an **extraordinary amount** of numbers

V.4 x 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,

- 1) x “to the **seven** churches that are in Asia”
 - a. x Again why **7** churches – there were other churches in Asia Minor?
 - b. x Again why **this 7** churches?
 - c. The number 7 represents completion, fulfillment, perfection, plentitude, power
 - d. It is used **54 times** in this book alone
 - e. It has the same meaning thru out Scripture
 - f. It is a number used in a sacred way showing that it is the way of fulfillment
 - i. In Leviticus the priest was to sprinkle the blood of the sin offering before the veil **7 times**
 - ii. Sprinkle the altar w/ blood **7 times**
 - iii. Israel marched around Jericho **7 days** – **7 times** the last day
 - g. Naaman had to dip in Jordan **7 times**, that he may acknowledge the God of Israel as the author of his cure. – he had to **completely obey** to be healed – wasn't mostly healed after 6 dips in water
 - h. It was used to speak of the complete contentment w/ those who wait on God in **1 Sam.2:5 (NP)**

1 Sam.2:5^(Hannah's song) "Those who were full hire themselves out for bread, But those who were hungry cease *to hunger*. Even the barren gives birth to seven, But she who has many children languishes.

- i. Number 7 speaks of God's complete & full **punishment** on those who don't follow Him

Lev.26:21 'If then, you act with hostility against Me and are unwilling to obey Me, I will increase the plague on you seven times according to your sins.

- j. All O.T. **feast** are **connected** to 7's are multiples of 7's

- k. The **7th day** was holy – to show completion of the week

- l. The **seventh year** was holy – **Sabbatical** year
 - i. Wasn't given so the land **rest** & thus produce more
 - ii. Was given so that **man** could **totally dedicate** himself to God
 - iii. The complete picture of life – showing **life** was to be **celebrated & enjoyed**

- m. Year of Jubilee – after **7 sabbatical years** was the year of Jubilee
 - i. The **50th year** was to be God's for the whole year
 - ii. It was the **completion of a cycle** where all debts were cleared
 - iii. The land went back to its **original owner** even though it had been sold to someone else (property never left the family for long)
 - iv. All **slaves were set free**

- n. In Joseph's day there were **7 years of plenty & 7 years of famine**
 - i. Representing tremendous plenty & complete total famine

- o. When Judah **ignored** God's Sabbatical years God commanded them to observe – they went into **captivity**
 - i. They were **captives for 70 years** to make up for the 70 sabbatical years they ignored

- p. Nebuchadnezzar heated the furnace 7 times hotter than ever before –
 - i. It represented heated it to the fullness

- q. Nebuchadnezzar was insane for 7 years for denying God's sovereignty
 - i. Represented – complete insanity –
 - ii. When man who **thinks he's great** & **he made himself that way** – He is **completely insane**

- r. In Matthew there are **7 loaves of bread** that feed 4000 w/ 7 baskets of fragments left

Isa.64:4 For from days of old they have not heard or perceived by ear, Nor has the eye seen a God besides You, Who acts in behalf of the one who waits for Him.

- s. **Multiples** of a number **increase** its **intensity**

- i. Peter wanted to know what does God's forgiveness look like?

Mt.18:21 Then Peter came and said to Him, "Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me and I forgive him? Up to **seven** times?"

22 Jesus *said to him, "I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to **seventy times seven**."

- t. In Matthew there are **7 parables** that picture the entire Kingdom of Heaven

Summary:

- u. **The 7 churches represent the entire church age!**

V.4 x 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,

- 1) "Grace to you and peace, **from...**"

- a. There is no salutation like this in all of Paul's writings
b. He is going to say that peace & grace come from the Trinity
i. He will describe Each Member of Trinity

- 2) "who is and who was and who is to come"

- a. This is 3 forms of – "**to be**" – a participle – verbal adjective
i. He is – present tense – HE **is** in the act of being **Who He is**
ii. He was – imperfect tense – HE has always been being **Who He is & was**
iii. Who is to come – HE will always be in the of being – **Who He is & will always be**

- iv. **Grace & peace come from God the Father**

1. **He is immutable – unalterable – always** the **same**

- 3) "from the seven Spirits who are before His throne"

- a. This is a reference to the **Holy Spirit in His perfect fullness**
b. This is different than the way we know Him
i. WE know He is **perfect** – third Member of Trinity
ii. We **don't** know Him in His **fullness**

- c. Now He is **in man** – He **tolerates** a **lot** from man
- i. This is the Holy Spirit before the throne – revealing His power
 - ii. There is a **reference** to His **7 fold nature** in Isaiah
 - iii. In Isaiah the Holy Spirit is resting on Christ
 1. On Christ the Holy Spirit **can fully be all He is** & His **power is fully displayed**
Isa.11:2 The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him,
 The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.
 - iv. When He is seen before the throne – He is seen in all His power
Rev.4:5 Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the **seven** Spirits of God;
Rev.5:6 And I saw between the throne (with the four living creatures) and the elders a Lamb standing, as if slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which **are the seven Spirits of God**, sent out into all the earth.
- d. WE have a picture of Holy Spirit **in power** in **Zechariah**
Zech.4:1-6 Then the angel who was speaking with me returned and roused me, as a man who is awakened from his sleep.
 2 He said to me, "What do you see?" And I said, "I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold with its bowl on the top of it, and its **seven** lamps on it with seven spouts belonging to each of the lamps which are on the top of it;
V.4 Then I said to the angel who was speaking with me saying, "What are these, my lord?"
 5 So the angel who was speaking with me answered and said to me, "Do you not know what these are?" And I said, "No, my lord."
 6 Then he said to me, "This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel saying, 'Not by **might** nor by **power**, but **by My Spirit**,' says the LORD of hosts.
 *The temple would be finished **by the power** of the Holy Spirit – nothing could stand in its way

V.5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

1) "and from Jesus Christ"

- a. This is the only place in Scripture where the order is changed
 - i. Everywhere else it is: Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - ii. It is b/c this is the unveiling of Christ & the **story** of **Him** will **go on**
 - iii. Three things are said about Him

2) "the faithful witness"

- a. Christ is the faithful witness of the Father & of Himself
- b. He never said anything that was off the mark
- c. When they accused Him of being illegitimate having a demon He replied

Jn.8:46 "Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If I speak truth, why do you not believe Me?

47 "He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God."

- d. You can **totally trust** everything Christ says!

3) "the firstborn of the dead"

- a. Jesus Christ is the only One who has been **raised** from the dead in a glorified body
 - i. No one else has a glorified body yet
 - ii. The O.T. saints who rose from the grave when He was raised died again – only Christ has been raised in a glorified body

- b. His resurrection is our **guarantee** of our resurrection

1 Cor.15:20 But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep.

21 For since **by** a man *came death*, **by** a man also *came* the **resurrection** of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ **all** will be made alive.

23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,

4) "the ruler of the kings of the earth"

- a. There are **1845 prophecies** in O.T. that speak concerning the kingdom age – i.e. the day when Christ will rule this earth as King!

- b. Satan **offered** Christ the kingdoms of the world if He would bow down & worship him
Mt.4:8 Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;
9 and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, **if** You fall down and worship me."
- c. There are legitimate needs that **can be acquire** by illegitimate means
- d. Christ is the legitimate potentate of the world –
 - i. HE will acquire the kingdom by legitimate means

V.5 x and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

V.6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- 1) "to Him who loves us"
 - a. He is reminded that God **loves** us –
 - i. We can understand Him having pity on us b/c we were such a mess –
 - ii. But more than that He loved us when we were totally unlovable –
 - iii. And HE **loves** us still! – present tense
- 2) "released us from our sins by His blood"
 - a. We have been "**loosed**" from our sins
 - i. Aorist tense – point in time – never needing to be done again
 - b. We have been released from sin & from the penalty of sin
- 3) "He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father"
 - a. We are a kingdom **not** kings – believers are not kings but we make a kingdom
 - b. We are priest
 - 1 Pet.2:5** you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.
- 4) "to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen"
 - a. His **motive** was – His love for us
 - b. His **focus & mission** – were to loose us (free us) from our sins
 - i. He washed us clean w/ His own blood
 - c. His **goal** was – to make us a kingdom & priest
 - d. This is a doxology that we are looking at!
 - e. John **broke into a doxology** as he thought on these things **V.5 (NP)**

V.5 x and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. **To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—**

V.6 **and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.**

- f. He couldn't contain himself any longer
 - i. **If** someone had **silenced** him the rocks would have cried out!
- g. He isn't alone – other disciples have done the same
 - i. Paul did when writing to Ephesus
Eph.3:20 Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the power that works within us,
21 to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations forever and ever. Amen.
 - ii. Paul writing to Timothy
1 Tim.1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
 - iii. Jude when writing his epistle
Jude 1:24 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy,
25 to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.
 - iv. **Have you** seen what Christ to the degree that you couldn't remain quiet?
 - v. **Has there been a time** when you broke out into a doxology yourself?
 - vi. **I hope so** – I hope you have spent enough time meditating on God's greatness that you couldn't contain yourself