

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,

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.

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,

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—

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. ^(doxology)

V.7 BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

1) "HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS... all the tribes of the earth will mourn"

a) In **Acts 1** we see **Jesus** w/ His disciples & then **He leaves** them! The angels make a promise!

Acts 1:6 So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?"

7 He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority;

8 but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

11 They also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven."

- b) He didn't leave slowly like men on a wire in a play
- c) Even Elijah left w/ more vigor than that
2 Kings 2:11 As they^(Elijah & Elisha) were going along and talking, behold, there appeared a chariot of fire and horses of fire which separated the two of them. And Elijah went up by a whirlwind to heaven.
- d) You **know** that if Elijah went up like that Christ went up in style!
- e) We **are** to be **looking** for **His return**
- f) **One** out of every **20** verses in N.T. **speak of His coming**
- g) This is **not** the **rapture!!!**
- h) You notice **all** the **people** of the earth **see** Him
- i) That doesn't happen at **the rapture**
- j) Paul distinguishes between rapture & 2nd coming
- k) **First** – Paul separates the **2nd coming** of Christ from the **rapture** w/ the **words** he uses
2 Thes.2:1 Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our **gathering together** to Him,
- l) **Second** – He shows **the events** that surround the 2nd coming are **different** when compared to the **events** in place at the time of the rapture
- i) The rapture is something that the world does not see when it occurs
- ii) The believers at Thessalonica even **thought** they had **missed seeing** it
- iii) The people in Thessalonica were told by someone that the rapture had already occurred & they were starting into the tribulation
- iv) Paul wrote to tell them that it was **n't** possible & **circumstances** made that clear
2 Thes.2:1 x Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him,
 2 that you not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit^(prophetic utterance) or a message^(oral message) or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come.^(starts w/ rapture)
 V.3 (NP)

2 Thes.2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it^(Day of the Lord) will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

v) The **circumstances** at the **beginning** of "day of the Lord" are: at the beginning, the **antichrist** makes a **public** showing

m) **Third** – He also makes it clear that **believers** won't be caught **unaware** like the world

1 Thes.5:1 Now as to the times^(χρόνος – period of time) and the epochs^(καιρός – measured time) brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you.

2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord^(begins w/ rapture of Church) will come just like a thief in the night. (the world is caught unaware b/c rapture will catch them off guard)

3 While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

4 **But you**, brethren, are **not** in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

5 for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

n) **Forth** – He clearly says that the **tribulation** is **not for believers** b/c it is God's wrath on a Christ rejecting world

Thes.5:3 x While they are saying, "Peace and safety!" then destruction will come upon them suddenly like labor pains upon a woman with child, and they will not escape.

4 x But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day would overtake you like a thief;

5 x for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness;

6 so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.

7 For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night.

8 But since we are of *the* day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation.

V.9 (NP)

V.9 For God has **not** destined us for **wrath**, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
10 who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we will live together with Him.
11 Therefore **encourage** one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.

V.7 x BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

2) "every eye will **see** Him"

a) When Christ returns to the earth **everyone** will **see** Him

b) The word "see" – means to see w/ understanding – the world will recognize Him

3) "even those who pierced Him"

a) This is speaking directly to the Jews

Zech.12:10 "I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.

11 "In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo.

b) But it may mean more than just Israel at His return

i) The religious leaders in Christ day were **warned** that the next time they saw Him it would be different

Mk.14:55 Now the chief priests and the whole Council kept trying to obtain testimony against Jesus to put Him to death, and they were not finding any.

56 For many were giving false testimony against Him, but their testimony was not consistent.

57 Some stood up and *began* to give false testimony against Him, saying,

58 "We heard Him say, 'I will destroy this temple made with hands, and in three days I will build another made without hands.'"

59 Not even in this respect was their testimony consistent.

60 The high priest stood up *and came* forward and questioned Jesus, saying, "Do You not answer? What is it that these men are testifying against You?"

V.61 (NP)

V.61 But He kept silent and did not answer. Again the high priest was questioning Him, and saying to Him, "Are You the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?"

62 And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see THE SON OF MAN SITTING AT THE RIGHT HAND OF POWER, and COMING WITH THE CLOUDS OF HEAVEN."

*I believe from hell itself they will see His triumphant return

V.8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

1) "I am the Alpha and the Omega"

a) **Alpha** is the 1st letter of the Greek alphabet – **Omega** is the last letter of Greek alphabet

i) He is saying that He is first in all things – everything finds its beginning in Him

Col.1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

16 For by Him all things were created, *both* in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been **created through Him** and for Him.

17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

18 He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, **so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.**

ii) He is the final authority in all things

iii) God doesn't deal w/ man on any other level than thru Christ

b) "Alpha" is spelled out – but "Omega" isn't

i) Christ is the beginning of everything & the beginning is completed

ii) But the Ω (omega) isn't spelled out b/c the end is not yet completed

V.9 (NP)

V.9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

- 1) "I, John"
 - a) "John" – Apostle John
- 2) "your brother and fellow partaker"
 - a) This speaks of a **tight bond** between Apostle John and believers
- 3) "your brother and fellow partaker in tribulation...kingdom...perseverance"
 - a) "tribulation" – debunks the prosperity gospel
 - b) These three words "**tribulation, kingdom, perseverance**" are together for a reason
 - i) There is a process of becoming a mature believer & receiving the inheritance of a mature believer

Acts 14:19 But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having won over the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead.

20 But while the disciples stood around him, he got up and entered the city. The next day he went away with Barnabas to Derbe.

21 After they had preached the gospel to that city and had made many disciples, they returned to Lystra and to Iconium and to Antioch,

22 strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and *saying*, "Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God."

Rom.8:16 The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with *Him*.

2 Tim.2:10 For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus *and* with *it* eternal glory.

11 It is a trustworthy statement: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him;

12 If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He also will deny us;

13 If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

James 5:7 (NP)

James 5:7 Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious produce of the soil, being patient about it, until it gets the early and late rains.

"was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God"

*Godliness is a process (not a McDonalds)

- 4) " was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God"
 - a) Roman government used the island as a place of banishment for criminals – John would have worked in a mine on the island.
 - b) Patmos was a 10 mile x 6 mile barren rocky Island
 - c) John was old by now maybe in his 80's – that is a hard life for someone of age
 - d) **Circumstances indicated** God was thru w/ him – but He wasn't
 - e) **Circumstances indicated** maybe God was mad at him over something
 - i) He was completely in God's will while on that desolate Island

V.10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,

V.11 saying, "*Write in a book what you see, 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."

- 1) "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches"
 - a) Literally "Promptly write what you see & promptly send it to the 7 churches"
 - b) Instead of God being thru w/ John – He was about to use John as He had never used him before
 - c) Don't let Satan & circumstances tell you what God is doing
 - d) God wasn't mad at John putting him on Island of Patmos
 - i) He had to pt him there so all the other things of life didn't drown out his hearing & clutter his thinking
 - ii) Daniel could have thought God was mad at him when he went into Babylonian captivity
 - iii) Joseph very easily could have thought that God was mad at him when he went into slavery, was framed for crime he didn't commit, forgotten about in jail
 - iv) But God had a plan!
 - v) HE has a plan for you too!