

Sent: Thursday, September 9, 2021, 10:11 AM
Subject: MOB Study Overview of the Book of the Revelation

"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work."

And that would include the Book of the "Revelation of Jesus Christ" which was specifically given by God the Father, by way of His Son, and through "His angel," to "His bond-servant John" (the "beloved disciple")--"to show him the things that soon must take place"! And John "testified" and "bore witness to all that he saw" (which he records for "the churches--and for us--and for all posterity, in the Book of the Revelation)! And added, as an incentive for all to read: "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!" (Thus, summing up Revelation 1:1-3, and setting the tone for our study of the "revelations" of this book--fittingly, the last book of the sacred Scriptures!)

And John wastes no time in getting to the "bottom-line" revelation (in Revelation 1:7)--what's going to "take place," concerning Jesus Christ! "Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes will mourn over Him! So, it is to Be! Amen!" Thus echoing (as MacArthur notes) the promise of Daniel (in Daniel 7:13) and other Old Testament prophecies!

It was this same John who had recorded earlier in his gospel account (in John 14) the scene of Jesus telling His disciples--right before His crucifixion--and much to their confusion, and chagrin, that He was going to be leaving them--"going to prepare a place for them...but coming back to receive them to Himself"! And Matthew's recording (in Matthew 24) of how the disciples asked the "big" question (obviously inspired by God to do so): "What will be the sign of Your coming, and the end of the ages?" To which Jesus proclaimed about a "time of great tribulation that was coming, such as has not occurred since the beginning of the world until now, nor ever will..." and how that "immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun would be darkened, and the moon would not give its light, and the stars would fall from the heaven...and all the tribes of the earth would see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory!" (All of which is picked up and confirmed in the Revelation!)

The Book of the Revelation basically completes the Biblical account of "things to come"--mostly revolving around the Second Coming of Christ! John tells us, in Revelation 1:9-19, that "while he was on the island of Patmos, because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus, he was in the spirit on the Lord's Day, and heard a loud voice...and was told to write about the things which he had seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things"! And that's what he did!

And that gives us a simple outline of how John was instructed to "map out" the book of Revelation, and what we'll be getting into and sharing together in the weeks to come: (1) the things John "had seen"--referring apparently to the vision he had seen in chapter one; (2) the things that "are"--referring to the "letters to the seven churches, in chapters two and three (which apply to the churches throughout the ages, including today); and (3) the things that "will take place after these things"--referring to the revelation of future history, we believe, in chapters four through twenty-two (with a focus on what will happen before, during, and following the second coming of Christ)!

"Shepherd's Notes states that Revelation is a "fitting conclusion to the whole of the Bible...as we see the themes from earlier books come to completion! The kingdom of God is established, sinful rebellion in the world--and in heaven--is punished, and humanity is redeemed and restored to fellowship with God!"

Wilbur Smith, in the Wycliffe Bible Commentary, wrote that "the book of Revelation is pre-eminently a book for a troubled age, for an age in which darkness deepens, fear spreads over all mankind, and monstrous powers, godless and evil, appear on the stage of history, as they appear in this book"! (Sounds an awful lot like what's going on in our world today, doesn't it?)

And yet, as MacArthur observes, the book of Revelation "is one of the most encouraging books in the Bible, because in it we see our Savior vindicated before the world"! It all boils down to this, he said (which Paul Logan also picked up on last night): Jesus wins!

I hope you're as excited as I am as we get into our study in depth, beginning next week with John's "vision of the Son of Man," in Revelation 1:9-20!

May God bless your week!

Lowell