

Sent: Wednesday, May 18, 2022 4:27 PM
Subject: Final MOB Study on 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!" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

And that would include the book of "the Revelation of Jesus Christ"! Interesting that Revelation 1:1 starts out by claiming that it 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 the things that soon must take place"! And John "testified" and "bore witness" to all that he saw, and ended up closing his writing with the declaration in Revelation 22:6 that "these words are faithful and true," and that "the Lord, the God of the spirits of the prophets, sent His (very) angel to show his bond-servants the things that must take place"! Then Jesus confirming again (in Revelation 22:16) that He "sent His angel to testify to him (for the "churches) about these things" and further, that if anyone adds to it, or takes away from it the words of the book of this prophecy God would take away his part from the tree of life"! Wow! These "words," that we've studied for the past 40 or so weeks are the very words of God, specifically intended to tell us all we need to know about the "things to come"! And it all began, and ended, with the promise that "the one who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it, will be blessed!"

So, what's the "bottom line" message for us?

Well, as we saw, John wasted no time getting right to it! In Revelation 1:7, John tells us that Jesus Christ is coming again! "Behold, He's 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 the promises of the Old Testament prophets! And ending with completion of God's redemptive plan!

We can only imagine the impression all this must have made on John himself! It was this same John, after all, 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 what a place he was shown!) And also, of Matthew's recording (in Matthew 24) of how the disciples asked the "big question" (obviously inspired by God in doing 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 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 was picked up by John and recorded to a tee, for all posterity, in the book of the Revelation!)

As we found, the book of the Revelation basically completes the Biblical account of "things to come," mostly revolving around the second coming of Christ! *Shepherd's Notes* notes that it is "a fitting conclusion to the whole of the Bible...as we see the themes from earlier books coming to

completion! The kingdom of God is established! Sinful rebellion in the world and in the heaven is punished, and humanity is redeemed and restored with fellowship with God! For all eternity!

Wilbur Smith, in the Wycliff Bible Commentary, wrote that "the book of the 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!" And yet, as MacArthur observes, the book of the Revelation "is one of the most encouraging books in the Bible, because in it we see our Savior vindicated before the world"! And, we discovered maybe for the first time (at least I did!) that the great tribulation period, with all its destruction and trauma, will turn out to be perhaps the greatest revival time of history, as we see the 144,000 missionaries (in Revelation 7:4) ministering to the world, and the resulting "great multitude which no one could number, from every nation and tribe and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb"! And the "two witnesses" (identified in Revelation 11:3-13) prophesying to the world and killed by the beast, but not until their work was done, then being resurrected and ascending up to heaven, with people "giving glory to God"! And, finally, the angel (described in Revelation 14:6-7) "flying in the mid-heaven preaching the gospel to every nation and tribe and tongue and peoples" And the understanding we get from it all that "God is patient toward us, and not wishing that any should perish but for all to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9) (And that's a great message to share!)

Wow! So much we still don't understand about the ways of God, and how that relates to "what's to come"! How about those angels (myriads of them, according to Hebrews 12:22) who we've seen playing such a huge role in the things to come! And probably even now in our times (though we may not be aware of it), as Hebrews 1:14 calls them "ministering spirits, sent forth to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation!"

As we came to the end of our study of the Revelation, I couldn't help but think of some of the great Christian songs and hymns which speak about and anticipate the coming of Christ and all the wondrous things that are to come, for those who trust and follow Him! Sing along!

- "When we all get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be! When we all see Jesus, we'll sing and shout the victory...!"
 - "He the pearly gates will open, so that I may enter in! For He purchased my redemption and forgave me all my sin...!"
 - "When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound and time shall be no more; and the morning breaks eternal, bright and fair...When the saved on earth shall gather over on the other shore, and the roll is called up yonder, I'll be there...!"
 - "I can only imagine...!"
 - "We'll understand it better by and by...!"
 - "In the sweet by and by, we shall meet on that beautiful shore...!"
 - "I'll fly away, O glory, I'll fly away; when I die, hallelujah, by and by, I'll fly away!"
- And on and on!

"The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all! Amen!"

"Even so, come Lord Jesus!"

Lowell