

-LIFE BY THE WORD MINISTRIES-

Saturday, September 19, 2009

Text:

INTRODUCTION:

Rev. 1:1-8

THE UNVEILING OF REVELATION

Intro: Why study this book? Several reasons! Satan hates it; It applies to our day; God will bless the study of it, we need to hear it, we are commanded to preach the whole council of the word and Revelation is a part of it. Some people believe that we are not supposed to mess with this book. They declare that it cannot be understood. Well, it is the Spirit's job and not man's to ensure that the Word is understood. The title of the book is found in verse 1. THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST. It is given to reveal unto us the purposes, the person and the plans of the Lord Jesus. Instead of these things being hidden as some say, even the name Revelation means "an unveiling." We can understand the book and we can learn much from it. Let's take some time tonight and study the first 8 verses of Revelation. Notice:

I. v.1-4

THE UNVEILING OF HIS PURPOSE

A. v.1a-b The Significance of the Book - (An Unveiling - Ill. Statue)

1. v.1a The Person Of Christ Unveiled - Jesus is revealed in all of his glory.
2. v.1b The Purpose Of God Unveiled - To reveal what will shortly happen.

B. v.1c - 2 The Signature of the Book

1. v.1c The Marvelous Way He received This Revelation - Ill. Signified; Lamps = assemblies; Stars = angels; incense = prayer, etc.) (Ill. All of the symbols are explained in this book or elsewhere in the Bible) (Ill. Words change = Symbols do not!)
2. v.2 The Meticulous Way He Recorded this Revelation - He recorded what he was commanded, not contradicting, but building on the testimony of Jesus.

C. v.3 The Singularity of the Book - It stands alone in Scripture.

1. Embodies A Special Promise - A three fold blessing - (Ill. Rev. 22:14; 18-19)
2. Embraces A Special Period - Ill. These are the last days - Ill. Israel - Mt. 24:32-34. (It reveals events relates to our days!)

Benediction - In verses 4-5 John begins to address the seven churches of Asia Minor. He tells them of two things:

1. Grace - That God's mercy is available to all, and that He will see His people through.
2. Peace - That even in the midst of turmoil, He is still the Prince of Peace.

He also reveals who this message is from:

1. God the Father - Ex. 3:14
2. God the Spirit - In the plenitude of His power (Ill. First of many sevens!) (Ill. Stars, churches, lampstands, 7 times 7, etc.)
3. God the Son - Adonay Yeshua Meshach

-LIFE BY THE WORD MINISTRIES-

II. v.5-6

THE UNVEILING OF HIS PERSON

A. v.5 The Threefold Ministry Of Jesus

1. His Prophetic Ministry - Faithful Witness He witnesses to:
 - a. The Nature of Sin
 - b. The Necessity of Righteousness
 - c. The Nearness of Judgment
 - d. The News of salvation (Ill. Isa. 55:4; John 18:37)
2. His Priestly Ministry - First Begotten from the dead
 - a. The offerer of the perfect sacrifice - His pure Blood, and the intercessor for men's souls, Heb. 5:6; 7:25.
 - b. The first to rise to die no more, the promise of more to come - 1Co.15:3-23 (Ill. First Begotten = Protokos - The prototype of what is to follow!!)
3. His Prospective Ministry - Ultimately, He will be ruler of Heaven and earth - 1 Tim. 6:15

B. v.5b-6 The Threefold Reason For Praise (John's Doxology)

1. v.5b He Loves Us - (Present tense)
 - a. Personal love - John 3:16
 - b. Everlasting Love, Jer. 31:3
 2. v.5b He Loosed Us - (Past tense) (Ill. Washed = Louo - Dual Trans)
 - a. He Washed Us From Sins Stains - 1 John 1:7 - Total cleansing - Immersed
 - b. He Loosed Us From Sins Chains - Rom. 6:6-7
 - c. He Freed Us From Sins Claims - Rom. 6:23
 3. v.6 He Lifted Us
 - a. Kings - Reign with the Lord Jesus - 2 Tim. 2:12
 - b. Priests - Need no other stand in. We have direct access to the Holy of Holies. Heb. 10:19.
- (Ill. He is worthy to be praised. Ill. Dominion will be returned to him some day very soon!)

III. v.7-8

THE UNVEILING OF HIS PLAN

A. v.7a An Immediate Plan - To return in glory - Zech. 13:6 (Ill. Second Coming is in 2 parts - Rapture and Glory)

B. v.7b An Ultimate Plan - To Rule over all - Heb. 10:12-13

C. v.8 The Key To His Plan - (All revolves around who He is!)

1. The Alphabet of God - (Ill. Who He REALLY is!)
2. The Almighty - (Ill. History is...His Story!) (Ill. Is, Was, Is to come!)

Conclusion: These are very exciting days to be alive and especially to be a Christian. Prepare yourselves to be leaving this world soon! In the meantime, there are lost people all around who need the message, invite them to these studies and tell them of the Lord. The time is short, Satan is working and God's people need to be also!!

Rev. 1:9-20 THE BACKDROP FOR THE REVELATION

-LIFE BY THE WORD MINISTRIES-

Intro: To understand any book of the Bible, but especially Revelation with its complexity and depth, we must understand the setting, or backdrop against which it was written. Many books require in depth study to find out this information, but this one gives it all to us right here in these verses. Tonight, as we study this passage, let the Holy Spirit speak to your heart and I guarantee that you will be blessed. Let's look together at the BACKDROP FOR THE REVELATION.

I. v.9-10a THE PLACEMENT OF THE BOOK

A. Who Wrote The Book? John (90-100 years old!) (Ill. Older folk have a place)

1. Brother - (Ill. No distinction between ministry and congregation!)
2. Companion - Persecution, 2 Tim, 3:12; Service; Watching

B. Where Was John? Patmos - A 10 mile by 6 mile rock in the Mediterranean Sea. This island was used by Rome as a hard labor prison. (Ill. The providence of God - Domitian tried to kill John, but when he couldn't do it, he had him banished to Patmos. A place where God could get him alone and speak to him.)(Ill. He was there physically, but He was in the Spirit also!)(Ill. All believers are in two locations:

1. v.9b - Earthly location - Patmos
2. v.10a - Spiritual Location - In the Spirit (Ill. Need for balance)(Ill. We need to worship in the Spirit - John 4:24) (Ill. John alone at church - Any service is what we make it!)

C. Why Was He There?

1. His Preaching - 1 Cor. 1:18
2. His Testimony - Ill. Christianity was a criminal activity. It might be that again.

II. v.11b & 19 THE PARTITIONS OF THE BOOK

A. v.11b The Command John Received - Write it and Send it - Ill. Why these seven?

B. v.19 The Conditions John Received - (God's Divine Outline)

1. Past - (Ch. 1)
2. Present - (Ch. 2-3)
3. Prospective - (Ch. 4-22)

(This is the KEY verse of Revelation. You miss it and you will fall into false interpretations.)

III. v.10b, 11a, 12-20 THE PREOCCUPATION OF THE BOOK

(Ill Jesus is the centerpiece of the Revelation, v.1a)

A. v.12 Candlesticks - (Ill. Lampstands) A picture of the church, Mt. 5:16 (Vrs. 20)

-LIFE BY THE WORD MINISTRIES-

B. v.13 Jesus is in the midst of His churches! Mt. 18:20. He meets us here!(Ill. What is He doing when He comes to church?)

C. v.14-18 Jesus Displayed - Ill. When John Turned around he saw:

1. v.11a His Personality - Ill. The author and the finisher - Heb. 12:2; John 8:58
2. v.13 His Position - (Ill. Son of Man - John knew Him well! John 19:26; 13:25; 21:7. (Ill. He is Signified by His clothing) (Ill. Clothes do not make the man, they mark him) His garments mark Him as: Priest (Praying); King (Guiding); Judge (Examining)
3. v.14-16 His Person.
 - a. v.14 Head and hair - Purity, Age, Wisdom (1 Pet. 2:22; Dan. 7:9)
 - b. v.14 Eyes - Perception - Heb. 4:13
 - c. v.15 Feet - Persistence - (Ill. Will never quit, Ill. His Life) (Ill;. Judgment - Will stomp all of His enemies - Heb. 10:12-13)
 - d. v.15 Voice - Power - (Ill Voice of authority; Niagara, ocean) (Cannot be argued with) (Ill. He will have the final say!)
 - e. v.16 Stars in hand - Protection - (Ill. Safe in the hand of Jesus - Col. 3:3)
 - f. v.16 Mouth - Perfection - Heb. 4:12, Jesus always spoke the perfect Word.
 - g. v.16 Countenance - Peerlessness - (Ill He has no equals!) (Ill. The Sun!)

(Churches = Lampstands; Messengers = Stars; Jesus = The Sun - He outshines them all!)

4. v.17 His Peace - Ill. John's reaction and Jesus' touch. He was always dispensing peace - Ill. John 6:20; John 14:27.

5. v.18 His Power - This verse tells all we need to know to give us peace concerning the future! Jesus is in control of all, Mt. 28:18.

- a. Resurrection - His and ours.
- b. His Right - He holds the keys that unlock death's door! (He is the key man!)(Ill. Jail.) He has authority over death and judgment - Ill. Eph. 4!