

"Guess Who's Here?"

Revelation 1.1-20

PEOPLE COME TO CHURCH FOR WHO THEY'LL SEE

FRIENDS AND FAMILY - THIS IS A GOOD THING - PEOPLE NEED LOVE

LAST BOOK IN BIBLE - CAPSTONE OF REVELATION

ONLY UNDERSTOOD AS PART OF ENTIRE BIBLE
- Scripture interprets Scripture

GOD IS ALPHA AND OMEGA - BEGINNING AND END - FIRST AND LAST
Genesis - Creation // Revelation - Consummation/Completion

HISTORICAL SITUATION

v. 9 - 11

PEOPLE OF GOD UNDERGOING PERSECUTION FOR THEIR FAITH

LAST LIVING APOSTLE - EYEWITNESS OF JESUS - EXILED & IMPRISONED

1. The Message of Jesus

a. Revealed v. 1 9.20,21 Matt 11.27

REVELATION (Latin word) APOCALYPSE (Greek word) -
"uncovering" "showing forth"

TO JESUS - from the Father

FROM JESUS - through John to his servants

ABOUT JESUS - Risen from the Dead - Residing in Church -
Ruling the World - Returning to Earth

NOT BOOK OF REVELATIONS - BUT "the revelation of Jesus Christ"

WITHOUT REVELATION WE ARE LOST - NEED REVELATION NOT EDUCATION
REPORT ON SEXUAL ACTIVITY AMONG AMERICAN TEENS
HIGH LEVELS - OF ACTIVITY, OF REGRET AND REMORSE
ANSWER?? OBVIOUS!! MORE SEX EDUCATION - AND MORE CONDOMS!!

RESULT - MORE ACTIVITY, MORE EDUCATED ACTIVITY

Šb. Wonderful v. 3 1 Cor 2.8 Mark 10.15

STYLE OF WRITING "a gorgeous picture book"

PERSECUTION - VEILED MEANING - FOR ALL TIME ALL ENEMIES OF GOD

TOO COMPLICATED FOR MANY - GIVE UP IN FRUSTRATION

MAKE IT TOO COMPLICATED - THINK THAT IT IS SO DEEP

NEED TEACHERS - MEANING OF EVERY CROWN, HORN, AND SYMBOL

MARTIN LUTHER SAID OF THIS BOOK -

"everyone thinks of the book whatever his spirit imparts"

INTENDED TO CONVEY BLESSING v. 3

NOT JUST TO CHRISTIANS IN 1st Cent Roman World or 20th Cent USA

ALL PEOPLE OF GOD THROUGH ALL AGES IN ALL PLACES

MOST OF GOD'S PEOPLE NOT INTELLECTUAL THEOLOGIANS

CALLED TO BE LIKE CHILDREN WITH SIMPLE FAITH

Mark 10.15

SENSE OF WONDER

"a thing that causes astonishment, marvel, surprise"

OUR FAITH CAN BECOME SO PREDICTABLE - have God all figured out

PLANNED DEVOTIONS - SERMON OUTLINES - ONE HOUR FOR WORSHIP

BISHOP WILLIAM QUAYLE - 1910 -

"we are dwellers in the land of explanation"

EVERYTHING - INCLUDING GOD - ALL FIGURED OUT

PUT MAN ON MOON - DOCUMENTED PROCESS OF CONCEPTION - ERUPTION OF □
VOLCANO - FLOWERS GROW - FISH SPAWN - STARS BECOME SUPERNOVAS

THOMAS CARLYLE "wonder is the basis for worship"

EMERSON "wonder is the seed of science"

ALFRED NORTH WHITEHEAD "Philosophy begins in wonder"

CHILDS LEVEL OF WONDER (creativity & imagination)

DIMINISHES BY 90% BETWEEN AGES OF 5 AND 7

J. ROBERT OPENHEIMER "there are children playing in the street □
who could solve some of my top problems in physics, because they □
have modes of sensory perception that I lost long ago"

Mark 10.15

APOSTLE JOHN IS ARTIST WITH WORDS - DESCRIBING THE INDESCRIBABLE

EYES SEE WHAT NO HUMAN CAN COMPREHEND - TOO GLORIOUS FOR WORDS

colors, smells, monsters, demons, complex number schemes

NOT INTERPRETED WITH THEOLOGICAL PRECISION OF PAUL'S WRITINGS
OR HISTORICAL ANALYSIS OF LUKE'S

TALKING PICTURES TO STIR OUR IMAGINATION

"1/3 of sea turned to blood" - NOT FOR OCEANOGRAPHER TO STUDY

"beast with 10 horns & 7 heads, 10 crowns on horns"
NOT FOR THE STUDY OF ANATOMY

1 Cor 2.8

c. Urgent vs. 1,3 22.20 2 Peter 3.8 Romans 13.11,12

v. 1 "what must soon take place"

v. 3 "the time is near"

URGENCY

2. The Presence of Jesus

a. Victorious vs. 5-8,18 11.15 19.16 Colossians 2.15

v. 5 TO ENCOURAGE HIS READERS TO PERSEVERANCE IN TRIAL

"faithful witness" - EVEN UNTO POINT OF DEATH

"first born from dead" - PROMISE OF RESURRECTION IN HIM

"ruler of the kings of earth" - SOVEREIGN OVER CAESAR AND CLINTON

"freed us from our sins by his blood" - JOHN THE PRISONER IS FREE

"made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father"

"to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen"

v. 7 COMING AS THE VICTOR - IN GLORY TO JUDGE THE WORLD

NO SUCH THING AS SECRET COMING OR SILENT RAPTURE - "every eye"

v. 8 Alpha (Greek A) Omega (Greek Z) - from First to Last

ONE WHO HOLDS ALL THINGS IN HIS CONTROL - WORLD NOT GOD-FORSAKEN

§ VICTORY OF CHRIST - GIVES COURAGE TO FAINT-HEARTED

b. Glorious vs.6,12-16 19.1 2 Corinthians 12.4

STRING OF OT QUOTATIONS - MOST FROM DANIEL - DESCRIBING GOD

NOT PRECISE DESCRIPTION FOR A POLICE ARTIST

AWESOME MANIFESTATION OF GOD OF GLORY - INCOMPREHENSIBLE

c. Stupendous v. 17 4.10 5.8 Ezekiel 1.28 Acts 9.3

PHILIP HUGHES "Any encounter with the Lord in his glory must be a □
stupendous experience which drives mortal man to the ground"

POSTURE OF PEOPLE IN REVELATION

3. The Response to Jesus

a. Aware of God's Presence v. 10 Isaiah 64.1

PERHAPS MORE SO THAN AS A THEOLOGIAN NOW AS A PRISONER

b. Eager for God's Word vs. 3,11 1 Thess 2.13

BLESSING "those who hear it and take to heart what is written"

c. Sensitive to God's Holiness v. 17 John 18.6

d. Faithful in God's Service v. 9 2.10