

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Book of Majesty not Mystery

Given for Security not Speculation

Written by Elderly, Exiled Beloved Apostle John – Last Living Apostle
Author of Gospel of John and 3 NT Letters

1.9 “I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”

“in the last days scoffers will come...They will say, “Where is this ‘coming’ he promised? Ever since our fathers died, everything goes on as it has since the beginning of creation...But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years”

2 Peter 3.3-8

PRIMARY AUDIENCE of this Book – STRUGGLING CHRISTIANS

Sent to BOTH - 1st Century – Asia Minor / AND 21st Century Iraq

1. The Message of Jesus
2. The Presence of Jesus
3. Our Response to Jesus

1. The Message of Jesus

a. REVEALED

Revelation = LATIN WORD / GREEK WORK = Apocalypse
Meaning “uncovering” – “to show forth”

TITLE NOT REVELATIONS – singular Revelation of Jesus Christ
TO Jesus / FROM Jesus / ABOUT Jesus

Heavenly Links of Revelation Chain – beginning with

1. God - 1.1 “which God gave him”

5.1 “I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides”

“For from him and through him and to him are all things.” Rom 11.36

2. Jesus Christ - 1.1 “the revelation of Jesus Christ”

“For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ.” 2 Corinthians 1.20

3. His Angel - 1.1 “he made it known by sending his angel”

1.10 “I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: Write”

4. John -1.1,2 “to his servant John...who testifies to everything he saw”

5. The Reader - 1.3 “Blessed is the one who reads the words”

6. Listeners – 1.3 “those who hear it and take it to heart”

JESUS - “No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him”

b. WONDERFUL

LUTHER “everyone thinks of this book whatever his spirit imparts”

J.B. Phillips “This book carries the reader into another dimension – he has but the slightest foot-hold in the time-and-space world with which he is familiar. He is carried, not into some never-never land of fancy, but into the ever-ever land of God’s eternal values and judgments.”

1.3 “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.”

BLESSING for All People of God / All Time / All Places

From John’s First Readers in 7 Churches of Asia Minor
to The Final Generation before the Return of Christ

William Hendriksen “The book of Revelation is a series of pictures. The pictures move. They are full of action. Everything is constantly astir. You see one picture. It soon makes places for another; again, another, and another. If you really wish to understand the book, you must imagine that you are enjoying a movie”

Thomas CARLYLE “Wonder is the basis for worship”

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”

c. URGENT

1.1 “what must soon take place”

1.3 “the time is near”

22.20 Jesus “Yes, I am coming soon”

ALL IS READY – SALVATION IS ACCOMPLISHED

Victory on Cross – Grave is Empty – Reigns in Heaven

JESUS HAS WON – COMING SOON – ALL IS ACCOMPLISHED

PAUL “understand the present time...the hour has come for you to wake up from slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here” Romans 13.11

2. The Presence of Jesus

a. IN THE CHURCH

1.13 “among the lampstands was someone like a son of man”

1.20 “the 7 lampstands are the 7 churches”

JESUS “2 or 3 come together in my name, there I am with them”

b. OVER THE WORLD – Risen Jesus is the Ruling Jesus

Faithful Witness – EVEN TO THE POINT OF DEATH

Firstborn from Dead – HIGHEST OF THOSE RAISED FROM DEAD

Ruler of the Kings of the Earth – SOVEREIGN OVER ALL RULERS

1.7 “those who pierced him will mourn – all peoples of the earth”

1.17 “I am the First and the Last”

12th Century – Commentary on this text by Richard of St. Victor
 “First because before me a God was not formed; last because after me there shall not be another. First because all things are from me; last, because all things are to me; from me the beginning, to me the end. First, because I am the cause of origin; last, because I am the judge and the end”

1.18 “I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And lo I hold the keys of death and Hades”

“For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to judge because he is the Son of Man”
 John 5.26,27

PETER MARSHALL “It is better to fail in a cause that will ultimately succeed than to succeed in a cause that will ultimately fail”

c. The Presence of Jesus is GLORIOUS

1.6 “to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen

Son of Man – form of man, glorified God-man

Robe to his feet, golden sash on chest – Glory that is deservedly His

Head & hair like wool, white as snow – describes purity and eternity

Eyes blazing like fire – nothing is hidden from his gaze

Feet like bronze in a furnace – splendor and strength

Voice like rushing waters – sovereign authority over all earth’s creatures

Right hand 7 stars – power and protection for his people

Mouth held double edged sword – Executive authority of His Word

Face like the Sun – Glorious Lord of Transfiguration

3. Our Response to Jesus

a. AWED by God's Presence

1.17 “when I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead”

4.10 “24 elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, & worship”

IF JESUS IS HERE AS WE GATHER IN HIS NAME – where is he?

b. EAGER FOR GOD'S WORD

1.3 “Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it

1.11 “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches”

1.5 “loves us and has freed us (loosed us) from our sins by his blood and made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father”

“To the angel of the Church WRITE – these are THE WORDS

“He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”

c. FAITHFUL IN ADVERSITY

“You will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me...because of the increase of wickedness the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved”
Matt 24.9-13

1.9 “companion in suffering and kingdom and patient endurance”

Pathway to the Crown is by way of the Cross

What is our RESPONSE TO THIS GLORIOUS JESUS?

AWE – OBEDIENCE – ENDURANCE