

Introduction

Revelation 1:4-8

I. Review & Context

A. **Prelude to Book of Revelation is 1st 3 verses.** (High points)

1. – Revelation of Jesus Christ

- a. This book is the revelation of Jesus Christ. Revelation is Greek word *Apokalupsis* meaning an unveiling or an uncovering so that we can see and understand.
- b. This is not a revelation of His person as that is clearly articulated in the Gospels.
- c. Bible from Genesis to Revelation is a progressive revelation of the person of Jesus.
- d. This final book of the Bible is an unveiling of Jesus as Lord and King.
- e. It's an unveiling of what He'll do in the culmination of human history in this world.

2. – Threefold blessing

- a. There is a threefold blessing for those who: (1) Read what is written in this book
(2) Hear what is written in this book (3) Keep or obey what's written in this book.

II. Introduction (Revelation 1:4-6)

- *John began with an introduction to seven churches of Asian Minor.*

A. **Standard biblical introduction**

1. Biblical writers always put their names first rather than at the end of the letter.
2. Thus the author identified both himself & recipients of the letter in the first few lines.
3. This book was written by the apostle John & the recipients of this letter were seven local churches that existed in the Roman province of Asia Minor.

B. **Grace and Peace**

1. – Grace

- a. Grace is what God has done for us. We deserve judgment for our sin.
- b. God extended mercy and grace to us so we might be saved by faith in Jesus.
- c. By the unmerited favor of God's grace He forgave our sin & granted us eternal life.

2. – Peace

- a. We enjoy peace with God because our sin has been forgiven and forever removed from our spiritual account. There is no peace apart from Jesus.
- b. Only way to know true peace in this life is to know Jesus as Lord and savior.
- c. Application: The sin of a lost man makes him the enemy of God. Jesus will forgive and remove your sin debt if you ask Him, thus giving you peace you can never find in this world.

III. The Trinity (Revelation 1:4-5)

- *John speaks of God in terms of the Trinity.*

A. **God the Father**

1. **"Him who is and who was and who is to come."** - This is a common title for God the Father. When speaking with Moses, God said, **"I Am who I Am."**

B. **God the Holy Spirit**

1. **"The seven spirits who are before His throne"** - interesting way to speak of the H. S.
2. Explanation is most likely connected to the seven churches to which John is writing.
3. The Holy Spirit is active in the world, particularly in the ministry of the church.
4. The church of Jesus Christ in this world is a living spiritual entity.

C. God the Son

1. **“And from Jesus Christ.”**-not the normal order of the Trinity we find in the Bible.
2. Normally it is God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
3. Possibly Jesus is listed last here because He’s the central person of the Trinity in Rev.
4. John mentioned Jesus last because he has most to say about Him.(3 particular things)
 - (1) – The faithful witness
 - a. Jesus is the one giving this revelation bearing testimony to what He’s going to do.
 - (2) – First born of the dead
 - a. Jesus was the first one to be resurrected with an eternal resurrection body.
 - b. We will one day have a resurrection body like His.
 - (3) – Ruler over the kings of the earth
 - a. This is a reminder that Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords.
 - b. He’ll return one day in power & glory to rule over this earth in the kingdom age.
 - c. Every knee& nation will bow before Him. His 2nd coming in great power& glory.

IV. **What Jesus did for us. (Revelation 1:5-6)**

A. Jesus loved us. (*Amazing statement*)

1. – Before time began
 - a. Jesus loved us before He created us. Jesus loved us before time began.
2. – In spite of our sin
 - a. Jesus loved us in spite of our sin. He loved us when we’re at our worst, not our best.
3. – Agape love
 - a. Jesus loved us with an agape love. He loved us when we did not love Him back.

B. Redeemed us.

1. His love for us moved Him to do something about our sin. Jesus redeemed us.
2. Redemption means to regain possession of something by payment.
3. Jesus’ death on cross paid for our sin. He paid our sin debt so we can be free in Him
4. Application: Love of Jesus is continual. He loved us past tense& loves us present tense

C. Kings and Priests to the Father

1. – He made us royalty.
 - a. Since we are children of the king, we are now heirs and joint heirs with Jesus.
 - b. Application: Perhaps some should begin living like we are children of the King.
2. – He made us priests. (2 ways)
 - (a)Representatives of God.
 - i. The O.T. priest represented the people to God and God to the people.
 - ii. In the N.T. we are representatives, ambassadors of Christ to the world.
 - iii. The world should SEE us living in such a way as to empower words we speak.
 - (b) Worshippers
 - i. We’re priests before God in that we worship Him.(individually and corporately)

V. **Jesus’ second coming (Revelation 1:7-8)**

A. Second coming of Christ (world-wide event)

1. Church’s rapture is next prophetic event followed by 7 years of tribulation on earth.
2. At the end of the tribulation, Jesus returns, & the battle of Armageddon will take place.
3. It’s that return for which John is speaking when whole world sees Jesus return as King

B. Alpha and Omega

1. Jesus is the first and the last. Jesus is Almighty God.
2. The Greek word for “Almighty” means all power. No one is greater than Jesus.