

Introduction

Revelation 1:1-3

I. Introduction:

A. The Book of Revelation

- *A few noteworthy things regarding the Book of Revelation by way of introduction follow:*
 1. – Author
 - a. This book was written by the apostle John. He was banished to the Island of Patmos as punishment for his faith in Jesus, essentially imprisoned on the island.
 - b. It was while he was imprisoned on this island that God gave him this revelation.
 2. – The date
 - a. This book was written in 95 or 96 AD. It was the last inspired book written.
 - b. It's last of the canonized books. It's appropriate to be the book describing time's end
 3. – The interpretive challenge
 - a. We cannot ignore the challenges that come with properly interpreting this book.
 - b. It is the most difficult book in the Bible to understand. Because of that, it is one of the most misused and misunderstood books in the Bible.
 - c. We'll use hermeneutical & exegetical practices to properly understand this book.
 4. – Blessing
 - a. Great reward exists for those who read, hear, understand, & respond to this book.
 - b. For God's child, it's a rich blessing to understand & to know what God has in store.
 - c. For the lost soul who understands what's coming & accepts the gift of salvation now, there are rich blessings.

II. Prelude (Revelation 1:1)

- *The first three verses (the prelude to this book) set the context of what follows.*

A. The Revelation of Jesus Christ

1. The word “**revelation**” is the Greek word Apokalupsis from which we get our English word Apocalypse. *Apokalupsis* is a compound word.
2. *Apo* means away from. *Kalupsis* means to veil or cover. *Apokalupsis* means to unveil.
3. That means this is a book of the unveiling or uncovering of Jesus Christ.
4. Specifically it's uncovering or revealing of Jesus w/regard to events at the end of time.
5. The Book of Revelation is an unveiling of Jesus with regard to specific future events.
6. These future events included are: **a.** the rapture of the church, **b.** the Tribulation period (7 years), **c.** the second coming of Jesus in power and glory, **d.** the battle of Armageddon, **e.** the kingdom age, **f.** the final judgment, **g.** eternity

B. Timing of this unveiling

“**Things which must shortly take place.**” (Three things)

1. – Perspective

- a. This timing statement is made from God's perspective.
- b. According to **2 Peter 3:8**, 1,000 years is but as a day to God.
- c. In relation to all eternity, 2,000 years is shortly!

2. – Shortly means quickly

- a. When events of this book begin, they'll continue as God has determined to full completion. We are right now in the church age.
- b. Rapture of the church will take place in the timing God has sovereignly determined.
- c. Following the rapture, next events will transpire in rapid uninterrupted succession.

3. – The assurance

- a. The events and times revealed to us in this book are fixed by God Himself.
- b. Things revealed in this book must happen. God always does what He says He'll do.
- c. Rapture of the church, the tribulation, & the great white throne judgment will happen

C. **Messenger**

1. Angel dispatched by God delivered the unveiling of what Jesus will do in the end time.
2. Throughout human history God has employed angels as messengers.

III. John the witness (Revelation 1:1-2)

A. **John bore witness**

1. John (proven, faithful witness) was who God chose to be the conduit of this revelation.
2. John had already born witness to Jesus and who He is. (John 1:1-5)
3. The truth concerning our sin & our need of a Savior has been clearly declared by John.

B. **A word about truth**

- *Men chafe at the idea of absolute truth for which they're responsible to know & obey.*
 1. – Comes from God
 - a. All revelation, all truth originates w/ God. We don't create truth; we get it from God
 - b. Truth was and is determined by God, not man! All truth comes from God.
 2. – Binding upon all
 - a. Because truth comes from God, it is binding upon all creation. That means we are responsible for receiving and obeying God's word.
 - b. We don't have authority to contradict or change God's standards of right & wrong.
 - c. God's truth (narrow and exact) is the standard for every generation.
 3. – We are his witnesses
 - a. God chooses men and women to bear witness to His truth.
 - b. We are responsible to proclaim the truth of God. We are to bear witness today.
 - c. We are to speak, share, preach, and teach the whole counsel of God.

IV. Blessings (Revelation 1:3)

A. **Blessed is the reader.**

1. This means the person who reads it out loud in the congregation.
2. In the early church literacy was a problem. Many people could not read.
3. The apostle's letters, which were put together as the Bible, were passed around to the churches and read out loud for everyone to hear.

B. **Blessed is the hearer.**

1. Blessed are those who have the opportunity to hear the word of God read & explained.
2. Do not take for granted the opportunity to read, hear, and understand God's word.

C. **Blessed are the doers.**

1. Blessed are those who not only hear but respond by doing.
2. Blessed are those who keep or respond to what they hear in this book of the Bible.
3. Hearing is of little value if we don't respond to what we hear & what we now understand, as was also said by James. (**James 1:22-25**)
4. The full blessing comes in hearing and then responding to what we hear.