

# WHAT DOES JESUS WANT TO SAY TO OUR CHURCH?

## Introduction to the Book of Revelation ~ Part Two

Text: Revelation 1:4-7

**INTRODUCTION:** Let's take a few moments and review what we covered in our message last week. The true title of this last book of the Bible is given by God Himself. It is "*The Revelation of Jesus Christ*" (Revelation 1:1a). The true purpose for God's giving of this last book of the Bible is to ". . . *shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass . . .*" (Revelation 1:1b). The human author of this prophecy is John, the Apostle (Revelation 1:1c). God pronounces a blessing connected with this last book of the Bible (Revelation 1:3).

- a. Blessed is he that readeth.
- b. Blessed are they that hear it.
- c. Blessed are those who keep it or live by its teachings.

### I. GOD DIRECTS THE MESSAGE OF THIS BOOK OF PROPHECY TO HIS CHURCHES (VERSE 4).

A. The human author is revealed by name five different times in the Revelation  
(Revelation 1:1; 1:4; 1:9, 21:2; 22:8).

B. Consider the following characteristics of John's writings. We might call them "peculiarities" in his writings.

1. He is the only writer who uses the word "Logos," meaning "The Word," as a personal name for Christ (Revelation 19:11; John 1:1).
2. He is the only one who refers to Christ as "the Lamb of God." He uses this term 22 times.
3. John is the only one in the New Testament who refers to the spear that pierced the side of our Lord (Revelation 1:7; John 19:34, 37).

C. The greeting ". . . Grace be unto you and peace . . ." is really not from John. He is the messenger who delivers the message from the three Persons of the Trinity  
(Revelation 1:4-5).

1. Peace always follows grace.
2. Peace is dependent upon grace. It is impossible to have peace without grace.
3. Peace is one of the first fruits of grace.
4. Peace and grace come only from "Him which is, which was, and which is to come" – the Heavenly Father.
5. One cannot possibly face the end times, or study about them, without God's grace and peace.

**D. The prophecy is addressed to the seven churches of Asia Minor (verse 4). Seven is the number of completeness, so we can say that He is writing to all His churches including Liberty Baptist Church of Suffolk, Virginia.**

1. The number seven (7) is a key word in the study of Revelation. Remember, it pictures completeness.
  - a. The seven spirits (Revelation 1:4).
  - b. The seven churches (Revelation 1:4).
  - c. The seven golden candlesticks (Revelation 1:12).
  - d. The seven stars (Revelation 1:20).
  - e. The seven lamps (Revelation 4:5).
  - f. The number seven is used 36 times in the Revelation and numbers that are a division of seven are used again and again.
  - g. The number seven is a sacred number and has been so as far back as is known in antiquity.
2. The term "*seven spirits*" is revealing the completeness of the personality of the Third Person of the Trinity (Isaiah 11:2).
  - a. By many He is looked upon as an "It" or as of lesser importance than the Father or the Son.
  - b. Our Lord reveals the completeness of the Holy Spirit here.
  - c. Our life as a Christian is not complete until we are filled by Him (Ephesians 5:18).

**II. NOTICE THE WONDERFUL DESCRIPTION OF CHRIST AS GIVEN IN REVELATION 1:5.**

**A. This is Heaven's description of Him (Revelation 1:5a).**

1. Christ, who is the faithful witness.
2. Christ, the first begotten of the dead.
3. Christ, the prince (ruler) of the kings of the earth.

**B. John now gets beside himself and in praise gives his description of Christ. This is the saved person's description of the Savior (Revelation 1:5b).**

1. "*Unto Him that loved us.*" This depicts Jesus Christ's character of love.
2. "*Washed us from our sins.*" This points out the work He performed for us. He freed us. He untied the chains of sin that bound us.
3. "*In His own blood.*" This refers to the price of our redemption. The suffering and dying of Jesus to provide the atonement for our sins – "His own blood."
4. "*Hath made us kings and priests unto God*" (verse 6). This pictures the product of His redemption. Read Ephesians 2:1-13 to see what we were before His redeeming love.
5. "*Unto Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever*" (verse 6). This pictures Christ's position. He is to be worshiped, honored and exalted, for He is God and Savior.

### III. IN VERSE 7, THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF ALL AGES IS GIVEN.

#### A. This is the recurring theme of the entire Bible. Remove this theme from the Bible and we have nothing but another book. "Behold, He cometh . . ."

1. From Genesis through Malachi, the theme is "Jesus is coming."
2. From Matthew through John, the theme is "Jesus is come."
3. From Acts through the Revelation, the theme is "Jesus is coming again."

#### B. Here in one verse, the Revelation is told in its entirety.

1. The cry of the archangel will announce His coming and this cry will pierce every grave and every ear.
  - a. In this book we will see Him coming in Rapture glory, in the clouds, for His saints.
  - b. In this book we will see Him coming with His saints in Revelation glory.
  - c. In this book we will see the future of the doubter and the rejecter as they see the King of Glory coming again.
  - d. In this book we will hear the wails of rejecting Israel and rejecting sinners as they groan under the burden of the great Tribulation and Judgment to come.
2. Dear soul, He is coming again. It will be sure, sudden, and soon.
3. "*Even so, amen.*" This means "do it now, Lord; come on now and so let it be." Can you say this?
  - a. The unsaved will not say this.
  - b. The backslidden will not say this.
  - c. Only those who are saved and in fellowship with the Savior can say "*Even so, Amen*" to the coming of Christ.

**CONCLUSION:** Are you saved; are you ready to meet God? Tell how to be saved? Christian friend, are you living as if the Lord Jesus Christ could come back today?