

WHAT DOES JESUS WANT TO SAY TO OUR CHURCH?

Introduction to the Book of Revelation ~ Part Three

Revelation 1:7-20

INTRODUCTION: John is instructed to address this prophecy to the seven churches which were in Asia Minor. Seven is the number of completion, thus referring to all true churches of all the ages. John likewise lets us know who is the true author of the Revelation—God. We see the Trinity in verses 4 and 5: God the Father (“*from Him which is and which was, and which is to come*”, vs. 4b), God the Spirit (“*the seven Spirits which are before His throne*”, vs. 4c), God the Son (“*and from Jesus Christ . . .*”, vs. 5). At the name of Jesus, John goes into a doxology of praise (vs. 5, 6).

I. THE THEME OF THE ENTIRE BIBLE IS STATED: “BEHOLD, HE COMETH”

A. Our Lord’s coming is revealed in its different stages in Revelation.

1. In the first vision, our Lord’s coming is promised to His churches (Revelation 1-3).
2. In the next vision, our Lord’s coming is the grand climax of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 19).
3. The coming of our Lord in conquering and reigning glory is the catastrophic climax of the conflict between God and Satan (Revelation 20:1-10).
4. In the concluding vision, the coming of our Lord in unquestionable judgment over the wicked, ends with the introduction to the New Heaven and the New Earth and the new order of God’s heavenly things (Revelation 20:11-22:7).

B. “Behold, He cometh” is the cry that will reach to the bottom of every grave, the depth of the sea, and wake the sleeping millions (those who have died).

C. When will you hear this cry? It depends on your standing with God.

D. This theme is declared throughout the Bible beginning in Genesis 3:15.

1. God has declared it.
2. The prophets proclaimed it.
3. Jesus explained it.
4. The disciples inquired of it – “*What will be the signs of thy coming?*”
5. The apostles preached it.
6. God confirmed it.
7. Christians should look for it. “*Behold, He cometh.*”

E. The remainder of this verse has to do with the coming of Christ in Revelation glory which will take place at the end of the Tribulation (II Thessalonians 1:7-10; Matthew 24:27-30).

F. To the people of God, His coming will be a glorious triumph and our final vindication and reward.

1. The most precious thing on earth or in the universe to God is His redeemed people.
2. You and I, the redeemed of God, have cost God more than any of the rest of His creation put together. We cost Him the sacrifice, suffering, and shed blood of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ (I Peter 1:18, 19).
3. He is coming soon for His redeemed.

G. To the unsaved, His coming will be the most terrible, indescribably horrible day of despair ever known in the history of mankind.

H. "Even so, Amen" (verse 7) means "do it now, do it soon; Even so come, Lord Jesus."

1. How many of you will be left behind if He should come today?
2. How many of your loved ones would be left behind?
3. How many of your friends and acquaintances would be left behind?
4. Every Christian should live and witness in such a way that he can say, "Even so, Amen. Come now, Lord Jesus."

II. CHRIST REVEALS WHO HE IS. THIS IS JESUS' STATEMENT ABOUT HIMSELF (VERSE 8)

A. He is Creator or Completer – "Alpha and Omega."

1. Jesus Christ is the creator of all things. Genesis – He is the beginning of all things (Notice Genesis 1:1; John 1:1-3; Colossian 1:16).
2. He is the sustainer of all things (Genesis, Colossians 1:15-18, Jude 24-25).
3. He is the completer of all things (Revelation). He is the ending of all things.

B. He rules and reigns with resistless authority.

C. He is the Unchanging One (verse 8c).

D. He is the Almighty God (verse 8).

III. HERE IS REVEALED THE RELATIONSHIP IN CHRIST OF ALL TRUE BELIEVERS TO ONE ANOTHER (VERSE 9)

A. In Christ there is a brotherhood of all believers, but not all of humanity.

B. In Christ we are to be companions in tribulation.

1. Those who live and stand for the Lord will suffer tribulation (II Timothy 3:12).
2. Consider John's suffering for Christ's sake:
 - a. He was exiled to the rocky island of Patmos.
 - b. He was exiled for the Word of God.
 - c. He was exiled for the testimony of Jesus Christ.
3. The enemies of God tried to silence God's man but, even in exile, God gave him the world for a congregation.

C. There will be a special companionship with Christ in the coming Kingdom. "If we suffer, we shall also reign with Him . . ." (II Timothy 2:12).

IV. GOD ALWAYS MEETS WITH HIS CHILDREN WHEN THEY ARE WHERE THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE, DOING WHAT THEY ARE SUPPOSED TO BE DOING (VERSES 10-11)

A. Though exiled to a prison island, John was "in the Spirit on the Lord's day," worshipping God.

1. This is how Christians should live, in spite of the circumstances of life.
2. John leaves us an example to follow.

B. "On the Lord's day" is referring to Sunday.

1. The first day of the week.
2. The day of the Lord's Resurrection.
3. The day of the Lord's appearance in the Upper Room.
4. The day set aside for New Testament worship.

C. John heard behind him a great voice, as of a trumpet (verse 10).

1. A trumpet sound will be used to awaken all the saints who have died before (I Corinthians 15:52; I Thessalonians 4:13-16).
2. All living saints will be alerted to His coming by the sound of His trumpet (I Thessalonians 4:16, 17).
3. The trumpet is also to sound the warning.
4. This will be the Lord's trumpet of announcement – Jesus is near.

V. CONSIDER WHAT JOHN SAW WHEN HE TURNED AND LOOKED UPON CHRIST (VERSES 12-20).

A. He saw Jesus Christ among His churches (verses 12, 13, 20).

1. Seven separate and distinct lampstands (His churches).
2. Seven lampstands with no light of their own.
3. Seven lampstands dependent upon the Holy Spirit.
4. Seven lampstands for the night season (the night of sin).
5. Seven lampstands of gold and precious to Him.
6. Seven lampstands with Jesus Christ at their center.

B. He saw God's exalted and glorified Son.

1. Clothed and girded with a golden girdle, signifying His Kingly rank (verse 13).
2. His head and hair white as wool recalls His transfiguration (verse 14).
3. His eyes as a flame of fire show His Omniscience.
 - a. Nothing is hidden.
 - b. Eyes that look with favor upon the blood-bought believers.
4. His feet were "like unto fine brass" speaks of His judgment against everything unholy (verse 15).
5. His voice was as the sound of many waters (verse 15).
 - a. This speaks of Christ, the water of life.
 - b. There is ample salvation for all.

c. It is satisfying salvation to all who drink.

C. He saw Christ as God's director and defender of His Preachers of the Gospel (verse 16).

1. The stars represent Christ's ministers.
2. These stars are upheld by His right hand, showing their protection and authority.
3. His stars are to serve as givers of His light in the night.
4. His stars are upheld and guided by His right hand.
5. These stars receive their power to give light from Jesus Christ Himself.

D. He saw Christ as God's Judge of preachers and churches (verse 16).

1. His churches will be judged by His Word.
2. His pastors will be judged by His Word.

E. He saw Christ as God's revelation of man's sinfulness (verses 16-17).

F. He saw Christ as God's ever-living and life-giving One (verse 18).

VI. GOD'S THREE POINT OUTLINE OF THE ENTIRE BOOK OF REVELATION IS GIVEN HERE (VERSE 19).

A. Things which thou hast seen (Revelation 1).

B. Things which are (Revelation 2-3).

C. Things which shall be hereafter (Revelation 4-22).

VII. HERE IS GIVEN THE ANSWER TO THE SEVEN GOLDEN CANDLESTICKS AND THE SEVEN STARS (VERSE 20)

A. Note: The Pastors of the Seven Churches of Asia:

1. Ephesus – Paul, Timothy, John the Apostle.
2. Smyrna – Polycarp (Martyred in 155 A.D.).
3. Pergamos – Antipas (one of the first leaders) Revelation 2:13.
4. Thyatira – A woman was allowed to hold this position (Revelation 2:20).
5. Sardis – A dead spirit. No pastor mentioned by name.
6. Philadelphia – None mentioned by name.
7. Laodicea – None mentioned by name.

CONCLUSION: Are you ready to meet Jesus Christ? *"Behold He Cometh"*! Tell how to be saved. Christian, are you ready for The Judgment Seat of Christ? *"Behold He Cometh"*!