

Sermon Notes

First Baptist Church

Jan. 3, 2021

Understanding Revelation

Chapter 1

Revelation has imagery of end times that has scared many, but end times isn't the first and foremost purpose of this book. It's:

"The revelation of Jesus Christ..." Revelation 1:1a

The Primary Purpose

Revelation is about revealing Jesus Christ more fully. The Gospels focus on His life, death and resurrection. Revelation shows us the exalted Christ, the judging, ruling, reigning, warrior King.

God wants us to know Jesus.

The Setting

It's 95 AD and Domitian is Caesar of the Roman Empire. He is the first living Caesar to declare himself a god to be worshipped.

In Ephesus is a much older apostle John. He preaches worship of the one true God and refuses to bow to Domitian. He is exiled to the island of Patmos. While there, John receives a vision.

The Vision - Read Revelation 1:8-16

God reveals Himself to John, but upon closer inspection this is God the Son – Jesus. "Son of Man" was Jesus' favorite title to refer to Himself. It reveals His deity and comes from Dan. 7:13.

Symbolism

White hair represents holiness and unlimited wisdom

Fiery eyes represent His ability to see all things

Feet of glowing bronze represent a mission of divine judgment

Voice like rushing waters represents authority

Two edged sword from mouth represents God's Word (Heb. 4:12)

John's Response - Read Revelation 1:17a

In the presence of a glorified Jesus, John instantly realizes his sinfulness. It's essential that we understand who we are apart from Christ. He is God. He is holy. We fall infinitely short.

We deserve two things from Jesus:

1. _____
2. _____

(Read Romans 3:10-18 for our true spiritual state apart from Jesus)

Jesus' Response - Read Revelation 1:17-18

John knows Jesus. They have a relationship. John isn't apart from Christ and this changes everything. Jesus comforts John.

Three Life Changing Truths

1. We need to know who _____ is.
2. We need to know who _____ are apart from Jesus.
3. We need to see our need and _____ in Jesus.

This sets us on a life changing path: *knowing, growing and going*.

Outline of the book of Revelation - Read Revelation 1:19

1. "What you have seen" – Revelation chapter 1
2. "What is now" – Revelation chapters 2 & 3
3. "What will take place later" - chapters 4-22.

Read Revelation 1:20

The "7 stars" are angels, "messengers" - possibly the pastors of the churches. The "7 lampstands" are the 7 churches.

Notice in v. 12 Jesus stands in the midst of the 7 lampstands. Jesus is the head and leader of the churches. He is actively involved and very aware of everything going on in and with them.

For the Jews, numbers were more than just a unit of measure - they often held symbolic significance.

"7" is the number for "completion"

For this reason, many Bible teachers believe that the "7 churches" aren't just the 7 churches of Asia Minor but could also represent all churches or 7 sections of all church history. Whether this is the case or not, the letters to the 7 churches hold much with which we can examine and evaluate our lives.

Conclusion:

The book of Revelation is first and foremost revealing Jesus, in all His glory, to us. God wants us to know Him.

Do you know Jesus?

Do you know who you are - apart from Him?

Have you seen your need to trust in Him completely?

What is your next step? Prayerfully commit it to the Lord and then get someone to hold you accountable to accomplishing that step.