

Revelation- Part 3 | 5/7/17

- And behold he is coming with the clouds - The second coming of Christ
 - **Read Revelation 1:7**
 - In the opening description of Jesus Christ, we are presented with description of His 2nd coming.
 - At times the various passages in Scripture can be confusing if they are talking about the rapture, or are they talking about the 2nd coming.
 - With a pretribulation rapture, you have 2 events separated by 7 years.
 - The rapture, 7-year tribulation and then then 2nd coming of Christ.
 - FYI passages about the rapture
 - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - 1 Corinthians 15:51-58
 - This passage of Jesus coming with the clouds is the 2nd coming and not the rapture. There are a couple of things that give this away.
 - First the statement that “every eye will see him”.
 - During the rapture, the lost of the world will not “see” Jesus, they will see the results of His coming but they will not see Him.
 - Scripture tells us that if man sees God He will die, the only exceptions are those who have died and gone to heaven and at the 2nd coming of Christ.
 - Exodus 33:20
 - “But He answered, You cannot see My face, for no one can see Me and live.”
 - Second this passage parallels what Jesus said in the Gospel of Matthew where Jesus clearly stated it was after the tribulation.
 - Matthew 24:29-30
 - **“Immediately after the tribulation** of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of heavens will be shaken. Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”
 - Clearly, we have a picture of Christ’s 2nd coming where the world will see Him in all His glory.
 - The 2nd coming of Christ was foretold immediately after His ascension
 - Acts 1:9-11
 - “And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.
 - The 2nd coming of Christ was prophesized in Daniel
 - Daniel 7:13
 - “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.”
 - Those who pierced him and even the whole world will see him.

- With the return of Christ, you will have two groups that are referenced regarding their experience when they see Christ's return
 - You will have the repentant nation of Israel who finally realize the truth.
 - Zechariah 12:10
 - "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn."
 - The whole world will witness his return and will cry out in anguish.
 - The lost who have not perished when Christ returns will see Him for who he is and they will cry out.
 - Although many will not do so in repentance, but out of anguish.
 - **When Christ returns, what do you think those that are lost will think/feel about seeing this "Jesus" whom they cast off as being a fairytale?**
- John recounts his vision and Jesus's proclamation to write to the seven churches' | Revelation 1:9-11
 - ***Read Revelation 1:9-11***
 - John recounts his exile on the island of Patmos where he received a vision to write Revelation to the seven churches'.
 - We discussed this already in the introduction, but here John was imprisoned on the island of Patmos for proclaiming the word of God and being obedient.
 - This took place on "the Lord's day" - Sunday.
 - There are a couple of different perspectives on what "the Lord's day" means.
 - One view is that the Lord's day is a reference to the day of the week which would have been Sunday.
 - That this is not a reference to the "Day of the Lord" which is the 2nd coming of Christ.
 - In Greek, this is how Sunday is referred to.
 - There is a 1st-2nd century Christian document called the Didache or "teaching of the twelve apostles"
 - This document gave instructions to church on things like baptism, the Lord's Supper and Christian ethics.
 - This document refers to "the Lord's day" as Sunday.
 - The other is that it is a reference to the "Day of the Lord"
 - That John was transported forward in the vision to the Day of the Lord in a future time.
 - Not that it occurred any earlier just a reference to where he was in the vision.
 - Jesus spoke to John and told him to write what you see and send it to the seven churches
 - John heard from Jesus and was commanded to write what we have for us in the book of Revelation to the seven churches.
- John see's Jesus | Revelation 1:12-16
 - John turned and saw seven golden lampstands which were the seven churches
 - Revelation is full of symbols and here we see that John saw seven golden lampstands.
 - This is one of the symbols that Scripture gives us the meaning.
 - Revelation 1:20b
 - "...the seven lampstands are the seven churches."
 - The lampstand is an interesting symbol that makes since if we think about it.

- The lampstand is the bearer of God’s light into the world.
- Jesus told the Christians that they are the light of the world and they are to let it shine.
 - Matthew 5:14-16
 - “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
- **The church is never to be hidden in a dark corner that is unseen from the world.**
 - **The Christians are not meant to be members of a secret club that nobody knows about.**
 - **Jesus wants Christians and the church to stand out in the world a be a beacon of hope and truth.**
 - **If Jesus symbolized the “church” as the lampstand shining God’s glory, do you think that this might be important to Him?**
- In the midst of the lampstands was the son of man
 - The son of man is Jesus Christ
 - The son of man is a title that Jesus gave to himself throughout the New Testament (81 times).
 - John 3:13-14
 - “No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up,”
 - John 12:23
 - “And Jesus answered them, The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified”
 - Interestingly when used it was always when Jesus referred to Himself.
 - This title is an implied claim to deity. This was Jesus making the claim that he wasn’t just an ordinary man but divine.
 - This was the title prophesized in Daniel
 - Daniel 7:13
 - “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like **a son of man**, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.”
 - Jesus took this title as it was His to take and it would point to the truths of the Old Testament showing the prophecies were coming true.
 - Jesus resembles a high priest or perhaps judge.
 - The imagery of the robe and sash could resemble His role as our high priest or judge.
 - Both of these are roles that Jesus Christ acts in.
 - Hebrews 2:17
 - “Therefore, he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”
 - Romans 2:16

- “on that day when, according to my gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus.”
 - Jesus bore striking features
 - Hairs of His head were white, like wool.
 - This wasn’t dull white but blazing or glowing that demonstrates His holiness.
 - This is the similar description we see in Daniel
 - Daniel 7:9
 - “As I looked, thrones were placed, and the Ancient of Days took his seat; his clothing was white as snow, and the hair of his head like pure wool; his throne was fiery flames; its wheels were burning fire.”
 - His eyes were flames of fire
 - The penetrating gaze of Christ can see all and judge all.
 - Hebrews 4:13
 - “And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”
 - His feet were like burnished bronze
 - The bronze related to the altar of burnt offering as the burnt offering was covered with brass and also the utensils were made of the same.
 - This gives us a picture of divine judgement as this is what the Lord had come to do.
 - His voice was the roar of many waters.
 - The voice of Jesus in His divine form is not weak nor timid, but roaring with authority.
 - From his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword
 - God’s Word is like a two-edged sword because of its authority and power.
 - Hebrews 4:12
 - “For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intention of the heart.”
 - His word can pierce through the darkest of heart
 - God fights His enemies with the word of His mouth
 - Revelation 2:16
 - “Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth.”
 - His face is like the sun shining in full strength
 - Who can behold the glory of God!
 - **What goes through your mind when you picture this awesome imagery of Jesus?**
- The seven stars which are the angels to the seven churches
 - Jesus makes known to us another symbol, he tells us that the seven stars are the seven angels of the churches.
 - If we take it quite literally He is referring to actual angels.
 - It could also be messengers (also the meaning of the Greek Word) or perhaps the pastors of the churches.
- Jesus in His glory and power, still shows His hand of mercy | Revelation 1:17-18

- **Read Revelation 1:17-18**
- As John fell down as dead at His feet, Jesus laid His hand upon him and told him to fear not.
 - This is a wonderful picture of the mercy and grace that Jesus extends to all of us.
 - Jesus being infinitely beyond the world, radiating in His full power and glory still extends a hand of mercy and comfort.
 - **Oh, how John must have felt receiving His hand of Mercy!**
 - We also wonder if this would have reminded John of the many times Jesus said these very same words when they walked together on earth.
 - Luke 12:32
 - “Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
 - Luke 12:7
 - “Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.”
- Jesus takes the name of Yahweh and recounts His death, burial and resurrection.
 - “the first and the last” is a reference to Yahweh, to God. Jesus makes clear of his union with the Father.
 - He states that He is the living one as He is our living God. He is not dead though He died on the cross He was resurrected.
 - He will never again die, he is eternal.
- Death does not hold any power over Christ, he has the keys and is in control.
 - As Christians, we need not to fear death.
- Jesus provides an “inspired” outline of Revelation
 - The things that you have seen.
 - This is the vision that John saw in chapter 1.
 - Those that are
 - This is the letters to the churches in chapters 2-3
 - Those that are to take place after this
 - This is the revelation of future events in chapters 4-22