

The Revelation – A Conclusion

Wow, this last couple of months has been extremely hectic around my house. It seems like Satan is attacking on every hand, but we will overcome in the name of Jesus.

It feels good to be back at the computer typing this lesson. I do apologize for the long absence. Please keep me and my family in your prayers.

Today we will conclude this series of lessons on The Revelation which we began just over a year ago. I would just like to do a brief recap of the book.

First of all, I would like to remind you that this book started out by telling us that it is “the Revelation.” It is really a single revelation and not a series of revelations as we often think of it as being. But what is it revealing? The end times? No, not exactly. You see, the revelation is of Jesus Christ. The real purpose of the revelation is to teach us about how much God really does love and protect those who have trusted in his Son Jesus.

After the introduction to this book we find letters written to seven churches in Asia. Now the entire book of Revelation is addressed to these churches, so we must understand that these churches are representative of the church as a whole. There are various viewpoints about what these churches represent. Some think that each church is a different era in church history, and even try to delineate these with history. I personally see them more as an allegory of the condition of the church as a whole. So, Christ tells the church that we need to listen to what he is telling us.

After these introductions of the churches we find that Christ begins to tell us about the things which “must shortly come to pass” (Revelation 1:1). There is great disagreement between different groups with regard to this. There are some who think that this is talking about things which happened when Titus destroyed Jerusalem in 70 A.D. I do not think that this rightfully fits, though, since the end of the tribulation period results in the second coming of Christ.

There are also those who think that only the first three chapters and the very end of the book are important for the Church. They believe that the rapture occurs at the beginning of Revelation 4. The rapture is the catching up of the church to meet the Lord in the air. This, though, does not seem to go along with the rest of the book, nor with other Scripture. You see, in Matthew 24 we’re told that the rapture occurs after the tribulation. In Revelation 20 we find that the rapture occurs at the end of the tribulation period prior to the millennial reign of Christ.

So, if the Church is on Earth through the tribulation period why do most people believe otherwise? Where did this teaching begin? Well, let’s look at the last question first. I won’t actually go all the way to the beginning, but to the point that it began to be a significant teaching. This occurred when the first significant reference Bible was printed. C. I. Scofield printed the famous reference Bible with his notes, which espoused a pretribulation rapture. Because of the popularity of his Bible many Christians began to espouse his viewpoints. Also, it was comforting to believe that Christians would be gone during this terrible period in history.

But if Christians are here wouldn't that mean that God is being cruel to his elect? No, absolutely not!! Was God cruel to the Israelites in Egypt because he didn't take them out during their "tribulation"? Of course not. God protected his people in the midst of the tribulation. This is also what we find happening in the tribulation. God doesn't take his people out of the tribulation but protects them through it.

Now there are those who believe that there are going to be a great number who are saved during the tribulation. While I believe that there will be some, I do not see that this is what happens. I believe that the message is that most will receive Antichrist as God. This is especially incumbent upon the Jews, who Jesus said would receive another who came in his own name.

The Revelation is a book that tells us of many terrible things. It shows us that we need to have Jesus' protection. It shows us that there will come a time when people will no longer be able to call upon Jesus. It shows us that, in the end, all of those who have not received Jesus as personal Savior will be cast into the lake of fire.

What about you today? Which side are you on? Will you be protected? Many of the events depicted in the Revelation are already in preparation. Tests are being conducted on the Mark of the Beast. The world is being prepared for a one world economy. The time is at hand. Are you ready? If not, you can be. If you'll call upon the name of the Lord, repenting of your sins, and believing on him for the salvation of your soul you will receive the gift of everlasting life. We'll talk about this a little more in the next lesson.

Yours in Christ,

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