

November 3, 2024

The Bridge Bible Fellowship

Pastor Paul S. Brown

Revelation 1:1-8

“The Things Which You Have Seen – Part 1”

I. The Things Which You Have Seen – Revelation 1

A. Prologue (1-8)

1. Preface (1-3)

¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John, ² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

2. Greetings from the Trinity (4-6a)

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— ⁶ and He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—

a. Grace to you and peace

b. Father

c. Spirit

d. Son

3. Doxology (6b)

to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

4. Theme (7-8)

⁷ Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. ⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

So What?

Discussion & Application:

1. Discuss the convictions of the second century martyr, **Polycarp**. How do you think being discipled by the Apostle John helped prepare him for both his ministry and his martyrdom? How did his understanding of the Book of Revelation help him when he was commanded to renounce Jesus Christ? How do you think you would do if you faced similar circumstances? What could you do to develop deeper convictions about Standing Up & Standing Out for Jesus?
2. What does it mean that the return of Jesus Christ is **imminent**? How should believing that impact the way we live? How should it help us if “our choices” don’t win in the elections this week?
3. Why is the greeting **grace to you and peace** so important? Why is it in that order? How might you deepen your understanding of God’s grace and peace? How would you explain it to others?
4. Define the biblical concept of the **Trinity**. What verses would you use to defend it? Discuss the way John describes the Father, the Spirit, and the Son.
5. The New Testament authors usually say that Jesus “**loved** us,” but John says, “Him who **loves** us.” What is the difference? Why are both important to those who are being persecuted for faith in Jesus? Discuss the fact that Jesus loves you every moment of every day. How does that add to your understanding of grace and peace?
6. What does it mean that we are a **kingdom, priests** to Jesus’ God and Father? What are our responsibilities as priests?
7. A **doxology** is a short hymn of praise to God. Read the doxologies in Rev. 1:6; 4:11; 5:13; and 7:12. Notice how they get longer. Write your own doxology about Jesus and share it with your group. Put it to music if you can.

8. What is **Revelation's theme** in 1:7-8? How might every eye see Him? Who are "those who pierced Him"? (See Zech. 12:10) Who is referred to by "all the tribes of the earth"? Why will they mourn over Him? Read 2 Cor. 7:8-11. What is the difference between being sorrowful (mourning) and being repentant?

9. Why is it important in our study of the Book of Revelation, that we understand God is:
 - "the Alpha and the Omega"
 - "who is and who was and who is to come"
 - "the Almighty"

10. **Read the book of Revelation this week.** Send any **questions** that you have about specific passages to Pastor Paul (pbrown@tbbfchurch.org). He will attempt to answer them when we get to them in our verse-by-verse study.

11. **Make a list of at least 5 people you know who do not yet know Jesus as Savior & Lord.** Pray for them daily and seek opportunities to share your salvation testimony and/or the Gospel. Invite them to a LIFE Group, church worship service, and/or our Christmas Concert on December 15th.

12. Share **prayer requests** with people in your small group and pray for one another to be doers of what you learn in this study of Revelation.