

Message Notes & Thoughts

Passage: Revelation 1:1-8

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Letters -Revelation Study

Message Outline ...

Intro to Revelation: Revelation 1:1-8

We start with a question. Can we understand the book of Revelation?

- This is a letter in which the God of the universe speaks directly from Heaven.
- This is a letter in which the favorite subject of Heaven is the subject and theme. His name is Jesus. Jesus is the point of the Revelation.
- The Basics:
 - Author
 - The author is stated in the book is John. John was a common name during the first century.
 - Irenaeus, who had a testimony, was a disciple of a man named Polycarp.
 - Polycarp is one of the most important of the early church fathers.
 - Polycarp was a disciple of a man named John. John was a disciple of a man named Jesus.
 - Time
 - Most likely Revelation was written toward the end of the reign of the emperor of Rome, Domitian, somewhere around the years 81-96. Domitian claimed to be divine and was addressed by his subjects as "god and lord." The imperial cult was popular among the populace in Asia Minor. The nature of the cult was to give honor to Caesar.
 - It is the expectation and requirement that all members of society offer sacrifices. Omitting to do this would cause problems for anyone.
 - Audience
 - Written directly to 7 churches in Asia Minor.
 - Ephesus - Smyrna - Pergamos -Thyatira - Sardis - Philadelphia - Laodicea
 - Now we will get to know these churches intimately over the next several months but let's observe this. John wrote his letter to them as someone who knew them. These churches were the churches of the Front Range if John was imprisoned in Florence. These people were like you and me. They were trying to get by and raise their families, earn an honest living, honor the Lord and be left alone.
 - Type of Literature:
 - Epistolary-
 - Apocalyptic-
 - Prophetic-

Keys to Understanding

- A book to be experienced
- The Importance of the Old Testament

- Symbols abound
 - Many of these symbols come directly or indirectly from the OT.
 - One aspect of the symbolism of Revelation is the use of significant numbers.
 - Seven is the number of churches the book addressed to.
 - Seven is the number of horns on the Lamb's head.
 - Seven is the number of his eyes.
 - Seven seals on the scroll, seven trumpets
 - 10 numbers the dragon's heads (12:3)
 - 10 days is the period of affliction.
 - 1000 years
 - 12 is the number of the people of God.
- Why Revelation?
 - Revelation gives the follower of Christ an unshakeable hope.
 - Roman occupation was at times brutal.
 - Persecution around the world today is brutal and has been throughout history, but these persecutors are not the enemy.
 - We disagree with others today in our own country and in our families, but these people are not the enemy.
 - We are conquerors and overcomers in Christ Jesus.

Questions for Growth ...

* Revelation means to reveal, uncover, to show it off. And who is going to be revealed is King Jesus in the final days. Why are often reticent to often "show him off" to others? How is Jesus pre-eminent in your life?

* The book of Revelation is filled with mysteries. Read Daniel 2:28 ... Who reveals mysteries? Why is dependence on the God of heaven so important and not just the study of known science around us?

* Who does God say is blessed in Revelation 1:3? Who was John writing to and what does he desire for them? Who does he say this blessing is from? 1:4-5a

* What part of this message had the greatest impact on you. Why?

* If you have not heard this message, you can find it at <https://ridgelinecc.org/messages/>

If you have further questions, write to Ray Schwartz, Director of Adult Discipleship
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