

The Time Is at Hand

(Revelation 1:3; 22:10, 6-7, 12, 20)

I. The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:1-3, 9-10)

A. Given by God directly

B. To show His servants (slaves)

1. Slaves – those devoted to the Lord to the disregard of their own interests (Thayer, see Gal. 1:10)
 - a. Having the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5-8; Luke 22:24-27; Neh. 3:5; Matt. 23:12; Gen. 18:27)
 - b. Constantly afflicting our souls before the Lord – keeping the Day of Atonement until the second coming of the Lord (Lev. 23:27, 29, 32; Luke 16:15; Ps. 138:6)
 - c. Ministering to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God (1 Pet. 4:10-11; 5:5; James 4:6-7; Heb. 12:28-29; Acts 14:26)
 - d. Patiently seeking the Lord and His instruction in order not to fall into the sin of presumption (Ps. 123; 32:8-10; 19:13; John 5:19, 30; Matt. 7:21+)
 - e. Serving the Lord our whole lives, voluntarily and out of love, because we have experienced His goodness (Deut. 15:16-17; Exod. 21:2-7; 2 Cor. 5:14-15)
 - f. Not being lazy, but diligent (1 Cor. 15:10; Matt. 25:21, 26; Rom. 12:11; Prov. 6:6-11)
 - g. Not taking honor from man – the sole honor belongs to the Lord (Luke 17:7-10; Ps. 115:1; Rev. 1:6; 4:11; 5:12-13)
2. John (gr. “God is a gracious giver”) – an example of a faithful slave
 - a. The beloved disciple of the Lord (John 13:23; 20:2; 21:7, 20) – similar to Daniel (Dan. 9:23)

- b. Most faithful among the disciples (John 19:26-27)
 - c. Commissioned to write the last gospel, the last epistles, and the closing book of the Bible
 3. Who bear witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ (1 John 1:1-4; Rev. 1:2, 9; 6:9)
 4. Co-partakers of the tribulation, kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ (Rev. 1:9)
 5. Who live and walk by the Spirit (Rev. 1:10; 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)
- C. Things which John had seen, things which are, and things which will take place (Rev. 1:19)
1. The glorified Son of Man as the great heavenly High Priest walking in the midst of the golden lampstands
 2. The real condition of the churches
 3. The judgment of the world and Babylon
 4. The Millennial Kingdom
 5. The New Heaven and the New Earth, and the New Jerusalem

II. What manner of persons ought we to be

(2 Pet. 3:11)

- A. The most important characteristic: love for the Lord and for others (Matt. 22:36-40; 25:1, 10; John 13:35; 2 Cor. 11:2; 1 John 2:15; Rev. 2:4; 3:7; 14:4; 19:7)
1. The example of the apostle John (John 13:23; [14:21]; 19:26; 20:2; 21:7; 1-3 John)
 2. Love based on the virtues of Jesus (2 Pet. 1:5-7; Col. 3:12-14)
 3. The constitution of the kingdom of heaven (Matt. 5-7) – the pattern of the true humanity

=> Awaiting the coming of our Bridegroom full of love and longing (Rev. 22:17, 20)

- B. A practical way to gain the humanity of Jesus (see Col. 3:1-17)
 - 1. The Passover – the Lord’s death (John 13:1; 2 Cor. 5:14-15; 1 John 3:16)
 - 2. The Feast of the Unleavened Bread – the Lord’s nature (1 Cor. 5:7-8; John 6:57)
 - 3. The Feast of the Firstfruits – the Lord’s resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20; John 11:25; 1 John 3:11-15; So. 8:6)

=> *The meal offering as the fruit and result (Lev. 2)*

- C. Giving all diligence (2 Pet. 1:8-11), making sure we have the good ground in our hearts (Matt. 13:23), and bearing fruit with patience (Luke 8:15; Gal. 6:9; Heb. 10:36-37; James 1:4; 2 Thess. 3:5)

III. The Triune God as Revealed in the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1:4-9)

- A. He who is and who was and who is to come (Rev. 1:4; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6; 21:22)
 - 1. Akin to Yahweh – the Self-Existing One (Exod. 3:14; Ps. 90:2; 102:25-27; Isa. 41:4; 57:15a; Mic. 5:2; Heb. 1:10-12; 13:8)
 - 2. The verb “to be” in all tenses
- B. The seven Spirits before God’s throne
 - 1. The seven lamps of fire (Rev. 4:5)
 - 2. The seven eyes of the Lamb (Rev. 5:6; Zech. 3:9; 4:10; 2 Chron. 16:9)
 - a. Which are the seven Spirits of God
 - b. Sent forth into all the earth
 - c. The bountiful supply (Phil. 1:19; John 3:34)

C. Jesus Christ

1. The faithful and true Witness (Rev. 3:14)
 - a. With a perfect humanity – fully expressing the glory of the Father
 - b. Absolutely one with the Father’s will
 - c. Obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross
2. The firstborn from the dead (Col. 1:18; Rom. 8:29)
 - a. Jesus Christ, who swallowed up death forever (Isa. 25:8; Hos. 13:14; 1 Cor. 15:26, 54; Rev. 1:18; 2 Tim. 1:10; Rev. 20:14)
 - b. Who destroyed the devil, who had the power of death (Heb. 2:14-15)
 - c. Who holds the keys of Hades and of Death (Rev. 1:18)
 - d. Bringing forth many brethren through His resurrection (1 Pet. 1:3; Rom. 8:29)
 - e. Being made Head over all things to the church, His body (Eph. 1:22-23)
3. The ruler over the kings of the earth
 - a. In His ascension to the throne – sitting down at the right hand of the Majesty on high (Heb. 1:3; Eph. 1:20-22; Col. 3:1; 1 Pet. 3:22)
 - b. Ruling over all His enemies (Ps. 110:1-2, 5-6)
 - c. Poured out the Holy Spirit to build His church, His kingdom (Acts 1:8; 2:33; Luke 24:49; Matt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:22-28)
 - d. Coming again as the King of kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:16)
4. The Alpha und the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last (Rev. 1:8, 11, 17; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13), who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty <All Powerful or Most Powerful> (Gen. 17:1 “Shaddai”)
5. The Holy One (Rev. 3:7; 6:10; Ps. 16:10)

6. The One who holds the key of David; who opens and no one shuts, who shuts and no one opens (Rev. 3:7; Is. 22:22)
7. The Amen (Rev. 3:14; 2 Cor. 1:20; Is. 65:16)
8. The Beginning of the creation of God (Rev. 3:14; John 1:1-3; 1 Cor. 8:6; Col. 1:15-20; Rom. 11:36; Heb. 1:2)
9. The Bright and Morning Star (Rev. 22:16; 2:28; 2 Pet. 1:19; Matt. 2:2; Num. 24:17)

IV. The Vision of the Son of Man as the Great Heavenly High Priest Walking in the Midst of the Golden Lampstands (Rev. 1:10-20)

- A. The description of the glorified Son of Man, the great heavenly High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek
 1. Clothed with a garment down to the feet – the priestly garment (Exod. 28:31; Dan. 10:5; Isa. 22:21; 59:17; 63:1; Rev. 19:13, 16)
 2. Girded about the chest with a golden band – godly love
 3. His hair was white like wool, as white as snow – the Ancient of Days, full of wisdom from above (Dan. 7:9; Ps. 51:7; Isa. 1:18)
 4. His eyes were like a flame of fire – a consuming fire (Dan. 10:6; Heb. 12:29; 1 Pet. 1:7; Rev. 2:18; 19:12)
 5. His feet were like fine brass – the judgment (Dan. 10:6; 1 Pet. 4:17)
 6. His voice was as the sound of many waters (Dan. 10:6; Ezek. 43:2; Ps. 29:7; Isa. 30:30)
 7. Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword – the Word of God (Heb. 4:12)
 8. His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength – the Sun of Righteousness (Dan. 10:6; Mal. 4:2; Matt. 13:43; 17:2)
 9. He has the seven stars in His right hand (Rev. 1:20; 2:1; 3:1)

B. The fallen condition of the churches (Rev. 2-3)

C. The Lord's calling for the overcomers

1. He who has an ear, let him hear (Rev. 1:3; Matt. 11:15; 13:9; 17:5; Luke 11:28; John 8:47; 10:3-4, 16; Heb. 3:7, 15; 4:7; Matt. 13:13-17; Acts 28:27; Heb. 5:11; Isa. 50:4b; Jer. 6:10)
2. Partaking of solid food to reach full maturity (Heb. 5:11-14, 6:1; 1 Cor. 3:1-3; John 6:60-61; Matt. 19:22; Acts 2:40-41; Ps. 119:165; Phil. 3:15; Josh. 5:11-12)
3. The Lord as the High Priest is able save to the uttermost (Heb. 7:25-28; 4:14-16; 2:17-18; Matt. 19:26)
4. God judges if we do not accept His speaking and repent (Heb. 6:7-8; Isa. 5:1-7)

V. The Vision of the Throne of God in Heaven and the Ascension of Jesus Christ – God's Judgment on the World (Dan. 7:9)

A. The throne of God (Rev. 4)

1. The appearance of God's glory – like a jasper and a sardius stone
2. The rainbow around the throne – in appearance like an emerald
3. 24 angelic elders sitting on 24 thrones around the throne
4. Lightnings, thunders and voices proceed from the throne, and seven lamps of fire burn before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God
5. Before the throne is the sea of glass, like crystal
6. In the midst and around the throne are the four living creatures full of eyes in front and back (see Ezek. 1)

- B. The ascension of Christ to the throne – the only One worthy to take the scroll with the seven seals (Rev. 5; Dan. 7:13-14; Isa. 53:10)
1. The Lion of the tribe of Judah – the Root and the Offspring of David (Gen. 49:8-10; Isa. 9:6-7; Rev. 22:16)
 2. The Lamb slain and resurrected (Rev. 1:18, 5b; Heb. 1:3, 8-13)
 3. With seven horns – complete power and authority (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 1:20-22; Phil. 2:9-11; 1 Pet. 3:22; Rev. 11:15; 17:14; 19:16; Ps. 132:17; 92:10)
 4. With seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God (Rev. 1:4-5; Zech. 3:9; 4:10; 2 Chron. 16:9; Prov. 15:3)
 5. The One who not only redeemed us, but much more – making us kings and priests to reign with Him on the earth (Col. 1:12-23)
 6. All creatures declaring His worthiness (Rev. 5:11-14; Rom. 8:19-23)
 7. Golden bowls full of incense – the prayers of the saints (Rev. 5:8; 8:3-5; Acts 1:14; 4:23+; Isa. 45:11)
 8. The wheels (Ezek. 1:15-21; 10:9-13, 16-17; Dan. 7:9) – the movement of God’s glory on the earth (Acts 2:1-6)

VI. The Opening of the Seven Seals – the Events and God’s Judgment Starting from the Time of Christ’s Ascension, Still Going on Today, and Continuing on to His 2nd Coming, Consummating in the New Heaven, the New Earth, and the New Jerusalem in all Eternity (Rev. 6)

VII. Our Present Goal

- A. To be overcomers and the firstfruits (Rev. 2-3; 14:1-5)
- B. To be part of the prepared bride to partake of the wedding feast (Rev. 19:6-9)
- C. To be part of the army of the King of kings and Lord of Lords (Rev. 19:11-16; 2 Tim. 2:3; Rev. 17:14)
 - 1. To bring His kingdom here on earth with HIM
 - 2. The battle is already won (Rev. 6:2, 1 Cor. 15:57-58)
 - 3. We do not wrestle against flesh and blood (Eph. 6:12; Dan 10:13)
 - 4. God fights – we stand on His side
(2 Chron. 20; 2 Kings 6:15-17; Josh. 6)
 - a. God lets His enemies fall by their own sword
(2 Chron. 20:23; Ps. 7:15; 37:14-15)
 - b. We follow the Lord (Rev. 19:14)
 - c. We believe in the Word of God (Heb. 11:30)
 - d. We praise our God (Ps. 149:1, 6; Eph. 6:18)
 - e. We fight with endurance (Josh. 6)
 - 5. The characteristics of Christ's army
 - a. We must know the enemy (1 Cor. 9:26, 2 Cor. 2:11)
 - b. Strong and of good courage (Josh. 1:6-7, 9, 18)
 - c. No fear of man (Ps. 56:3-4; Isa. 51:13)
 - d. No strength of our own (Judges 6:15)
 - e. Pure and holy (Rev. 19:14)
- D. To be made kings and priests (kingdom of priests) to God our Father (Rev. 1:6; 5:10)
 - 1. To judge the world and the angels (1 Cor. 6:2-4; Ps. 149:5-9; Dan. 7:27; Ps. 2; Acts 4:25)
 - 2. To reign with Christ on the earth (Rev. 2:26-27; 20:6; 22:5)

Amen!