

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”
Revelation 1:1-3

Last Sunday: Introduction to Revelation—The four schools of Revelation Interpretation:

1. Preterist (past)
 2. Historicist (church history)
 3. Idealist (symbolic, spiritual)
 4. Futurist (future)
- *Eclectic (combines the strengths of the other four views)

Today: More introduction on Revelation and the beginning of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

Three Dangers of Studying Prophecy:

1. Wrong focus. 2 Thess. 3:6, “Keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness and not in accord with the tradition that you received from us.”
2. Pride. 1 Cor. 13:4, “Love is patient and kind. Love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant.”
3. Divisiveness. 1 Tim. 1:5, “The goal of our instruction is love...”

Six Benefits of Studying Prophecy:

1. Prophecy reconfirms that suffering for Christ is the way of life for a believer.
 - a. Rev. 1:9, “I John, your brother and **partner in the tribulation** ... on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”
2. Prophecy spurs us on to holiness.
 - a. 1 Jn. 3:2-3, “Beloved, we are God’s children now, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. And everyone who thus hopes in him **purifies himself as he is pure.**”
3. Prophecy gives comfort to Believers because “in the end, we win.”
 - a. 1 Thess. 4:18, “Therefore encourage one another **with these words.**”
4. Prophecy redirects us to the sovereignty of God in history.
 - a. Is. 46:10, “Declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and **I will accomplish all my purpose.**’”

5. Prophecy encourages us to focus on the return of Christ and the new creation.
 - a. Col. 3:1, “If then you have been raised with Christ, **seek the things that are above**, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God.”
6. Prophecy helps us to know Jesus Christ better—our King, Shepherd, and Bridegroom.
 - a. Rev. 19:10, “For the testimony of Jesus is **the spirit of Prophecy**.”

Martin Luther on Revelation, “I leave everyone free to hold his own opinions. I would not have anyone bound to my opinion or judgment. I say what I feel. I miss more than one thing in this book, and it makes me consider it to be neither apostolic nor prophetic ... I can in no way detect that the Holy Spirit produced it ... Finally, let everyone think of it as his own spirit leads him. My spirit cannot accommodate itself to this book. For me this is reason enough not to think highly of it: Christ is neither taught nor known in it.”

1:1/ “The revelation of Jesus Christ which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place.” What does “soon” mean? Three ways to understand this term:

1. In a short time. This view favors Preterism.
2. Quickly; to suddenly take place when it occurs. Rom. 16:20, “The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet.”
3. God’s timetable. 2 Pet. 3:8, “With the Lord one day is as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.”

1:3/ “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy...”

There are two kinds of prophecy in Scripture:

1. Foretelling – God’s word concerning future events
2. Forthtelling – God’s word for God’s people in the present (God’s commands, praises)

1:3/ “For the time is near.” Chronos or Kairos?

1. Chronos – Chronological time; measurable, like a clock
2. Kairos – Time of crisis or a decisive, meaningful moment