



REVELATION
MADE SIMPLE
WITH DAVE WELLS

Lesson 1.1

Revelations Lesson #1

Introductory facts:

Chapter 1: 1 – This is a revelation given to Jesus by the Father who in turn gave it to John who in turn testified to all that he saw.

Chapter 1: 7 – the theme of the Book

⁷BEHOLD, 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.

John was in exiled to the island of Patmos where he received this revelation from Jesus Christ. We do not know why specifically.

This book was probably written in A.D. 96.

God tells us not only to read the book but also to understand it and not only to understand it but to heed the things written in it.

Revelations contains 7 beatitudes scattered throughout the book.

In the first 11 verses of Matthew 5 we have some beatitudes such as:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy. (Matthew 5:3, 7 NASB)

In every one of these instances there is a blessing attached to something that you either are or do. There are 9 beatitudes in Matthew. There are seven beatitudes scattered through the book of Revelation giving us 16 Beatitudes all together.

The first beatitude in the book of Revelation is in Rev 1:3

"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." (Revelation 1:3 NASB)

If we do this Rev 22:7 says we will be blessed

"And behold, I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book." (Revelation 22:7 NASB)

Outline of the Book:

- This is the only book in the Bible which gives its own outline.

"Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things." (Revelation 1:19 NASB)

Three parts:

[1] The things that are already seen [past] - Rev. 1: 8-18

Lord's Day:

Description of Jesus:

Robe and the sash:

Whiteness of his head and hair:

His fiery eyes:

Bronze-like feet:

Mighty voice:

Seven stars:

Lampstands:

Two-edged sword:

The radiance of His face:

[2]. The things that are [present] - Rev. 2 and 3 – the letters to the seven churches.

[3]. The things to come [future] - Rev 4 through 22

Rev Chapter 4: John is caught up into heaven

Open door:

The throne:

Lightening and thunder: Not unique to the book of Revelations

"Listen closely to the thunder of His voice, And the rumbling that goes out from His mouth. "Under the whole heaven He lets it loose, And His lightning to the ends of the earth. "After it, a voice roars; He thunders with His majestic voice, And He does not restrain the lightnings when His voice is heard. "God thunders with His voice wondrously, Doing great things which we cannot comprehend." (Job 37:2-5 NASB)

"Sea of glass"

Four living creatures - Rev 4: 6-8

We see these creatures described in Ezekiel 10:1-22 where they are called Cherubim.

The Cherubim appear to be below God's throne and the Seraphim are above God's throne. The Cherubim are also above the Ark of the covenant in Exodus.[Exodus 25]

The four different faces are thought to represent the four different aspects of nature: the wild beasts, domesticated animals, human beings, and flying creatures. They could be representing the totality of creation giving adoration and praise to the creator or they are angelic beings who are used by the creator to execute His rule and divine will in things pertaining to His creation.

The 24 elders: Who are they?

Rev. 4:9-11

"When He had taken the book, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each one holding a harp and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they *sang a new song, saying, "Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. "You have made **them** to be a kingdom and priests to our God; and they will reign upon the earth." (Revelation 5:8-10 NASB)

In verse 10, the elders are talking about the Christians as "**them**", not "**us**". Three chapters later we read this:

"Another **angel** came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, so that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints on the golden altar which was before the throne". (Revelation 8:3 NASB)

Note that an angel is handling the golden bowls that contain the prayers of the saints. So here is an angel doing what the 24 elders are doing in Rev. 5.

Let's look further:

"After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying,

"Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." saying,

"Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen." Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "These

who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "**My lord**, you know." And he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb". (Revelation 7:9, 10, 12-14 NASB)

In verse 14 John called one of these elders "**My Lord**" which I don't think he would have done if they had been a fellow Christian. This leads me to believe these beings were angels of some kind and not human beings.

Verse 9 of Chapter seven deals with the Christians while verse 11 deals with the angels, the elders, and the four creatures. Thus the elders are grouped with the angels and creatures and not with the Christians.

The Scroll or Book [Revelations Chapter 5]

Rev 5: 1-14

What was on the scroll?

What is a kinsman-redeemer?

To understand the idea of the kinsman redeemer we need first to understand the law of land possession in Israel. **Leviticus 25:23—28** the Lord is speaking:

²³ 'The land, moreover, shall not be sold permanently, **for the land is Mine**; for you are *but* aliens and sojourners with Me. ²⁴ Thus for every piece of your property, you are to provide for the redemption of the land.

²⁵ 'If a fellow countryman of yours becomes so poor he has to sell part of his property, then his nearest kinsman is to come and buy back what his relative has sold. ²⁶ Or in case a man has no kinsman, but so recovers his means as to find sufficient for its redemption, ²⁷ then he shall calculate the years since its sale and refund the balance to the man to whom he sold it, and so return to his property. ²⁸ But if he has not found sufficient means to get it

back for himself, then what he has sold shall remain in the hands of its purchaser until the year of jubilee; but at the jubilee it shall revert, that he may return to his property.

Three laws of inheritance possession:

[a] First, the land is God's.

God says: "The land is mine". "The whole earth is mine." [Exodus 19:5]

[b] God lets us live on the land and enjoy it, but he makes it very clear we live only as aliens and tenants.

[c] No Israelite could ever permanently give up ownership of their land.

Role of kinsman-redeemer:

[1] A relative who was obligated to redeem the land by paying the price to buy the land back.

[2] The transaction was recorded on a scroll and sealed. It was then given to someone reliable so that when the kinsman redeemer wanted to reclaim the land, the redeemer was allowed to go to the person who held the scroll, break the seal, prove his ownership, and restore the land to the original tenant at some point.

[3] He had to be strong and powerful enough to drive off interlopers or squatters who might be currently living on the land. He had to have the power to remove by force if necessary in order to claim what he payed for.

Boaz in the book of Ruth is a type and picture of a kinsman-redeemer.

Jesus is the ultimate kinsman-redeemer and the devil is the usurper living on our inheritance.

Luke 4:5 "The devil led him [Jesus] to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And he said to him, 'I will give you all their authority and splendor, for it's been given to me.'"