

CHAPTER 1

THE Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3. Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

5 And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

9. I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Perg-

amos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

14 His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

18 I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou

hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

CHAPTER 2

UNTO the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have *somewhat* against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will

come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

8. And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

12. And to the angel of the

church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth *it*.

18. And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

20 Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

21 And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

22 Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

24 But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put

upon you none other burden.

25 But that which ye have *already* hold fast till I come.

26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27 And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28 And I will give him the morning star.

29 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

CHAPTER 3

AND unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

4 Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

6 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

7. And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will

keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, *which is new Jerusalem*, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and *I will write upon him* my new name.

13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

14. And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

15 I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.

17 Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest

not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:

18 I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and *that* the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see.

19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore,

and repent.

20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.

21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

22 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Revelation is a book that has been misunderstood and therefore closed to most Christians. This was not God's purpose for this great book, because He has written it and given the contents thereof to Christ. Christ, in turn, gave it to the angels to give to the Apostle John, who was to write it for all mankind. John wrote the Book of Revelation in approximately a.d. 96.

As we begin the Book of Revelation we should read it primarily to find out what it says about the Lord Jesus Christ and not for what it says about the future. The key phrase is found in the very first verse, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." This book unveils the Lord Jesus throughout its 22 chapters. You may ask, "What is revelation?" It is the unveiling of Jesus Christ. It is not a mystery. You may ask, "From where did it come?" It came by revelation given by God to His Son, Jesus Christ. And why was it given? To show the things that were to come to pass.

John, who had been banished to the Isle of Patmos, actually saw the contents of this book unfold before his eyes, as God transported him to heaven (chapter 4:1), to the wilderness (chapter 17:3), and to the mountain (chapter 21:10) to witness these events and record them for us. In chapter 1 we see the characteristics of the book and how it came to be written. Verse 3 promises a blessing to those who read it, for those who hear it, and for those who keep the things written therein.

Chapter 2 begins the messages to the seven churches. Verses 1-7 are written to the church at Ephesus, which was the backsliding church. This church had works but was without love. To the general public the church was successful, but to Christ it had lost its first love. The counsel of Christ to the church at Ephesus was for them to remember, repent, and then repeat the first works. Today, the works we do without love are for naught. The new commandment God has given us is that we should love one another, even as Christ has loved us (John 13:34).

In verses 8-11 we see Smyrna, the suffering church; then in verses 12-17, Pergamos, the worldly church; and in verses 18-29, Thyatira, the unrepentant church. In chapter 3 John writes to the church at Sardis, the dying church (verses 1-6); to the church at Philadelphia, the serving church (verses 7-13); and to the church at Laodicea, the apostate church (verses 14-22).

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones" (Proverbs 12:4).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

Spend this month reviewing the previous 13 lessons. For today, review Memory Verse Assignment 29 (found on page 8).

HYMN FOR THE DAY

LO! HE COMES, WITH CLOUDS DESCENDING

Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

When Jesus made His first entrance to earth, He was seen by only a small group of people—a few lowly shepherds and later by some wandering wise men. Bethlehem's stable birth attracted little attention and had limited immediate effect upon the rest of the world. It was nearly 30 years before Christ's earthly ministry gained much notice.

What a contrast it will be when He returns for His second advent—every eye “shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” (Matthew 24:30). Even those who crucified God's Son will see and mourn, as will people from every tribe and nation because of their rejection of Him. But for those who have trusted in His redemptive work, the days of mourning will be over, not just beginning. For the Christian, the anticipation of Christ's return is a joyous prospect—”O come quickly, Alleluia! come, Lord, come!”

In 1758 Charles Wesley published in his Hymns of Intercession for all Mankind a four stanza text, “Lo, He Comes with Clouds Descending.” Eight years earlier an associate of the Wesleys, John Cennick, had written a hymn with a similar text. This present version first appeared in 1760 and is really a combination of both Cennick's and Wesley's texts.

This is an excellent scriptural hymn and one that should be used much more frequently when believers contemplate and anticipate their Lord's return.

*Lo! He comes, with clouds descending,
once for our salvation slain;
thousand thousand saints attending,
swell the triumph of His train:
Alleluia! alleluia!
God appears on earth to reign.*

*Ev'ry eye shall now behold Him,
robed in dreadful majesty;
those who set at naught and sold Him,
pierced and nailed Him to the tree,
deeply wailing, deeply wailing,
shall the true Messiah see.*

Yea, Amen! let all adore Thee

*high on Thine eternal throne;
Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
claim the kingdom for Thine own.
O come quickly, O come quickly,
Alleluia! come, Lord come!*

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

JACQUELYN WALKER

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1822

LOUIS PASTEUR WAS BORN.

Mr. Pasteur gave us many things, one of which we call pasteurized milk. Have you thanked God lately for your milkman and for the convenience of buying milk at the corner store? Let us thank God today for such a little thing as milk. Witness to your milkman.

The things given to us by this great man are innumerable. Let us thank God today for the contributions he made to us. Thank God for the scientific progress of our generation. Let us pray God to give us spiritual character to know how to use our scientific progress.

THE NEW YEAR IS NEAR.

It is time to think about resolutions. It is time to reflect over the past year. It is time to repent of failures and give God the glory for successes. It is time to make a list of our resolutions for the new year and begin seeking God's power to keep them. It is time to reflect and time to look forward. It is time to repent and to promise. It is time to forgive and time to be forgiven. Let us think today what God would have us be next year and point toward that.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1956

Federal Judge Dozier Devane granted temporary injunction restraining city officials from interfering with integration of Tallahassee, Fla., city buses and said “every segregation act of every state or city is as dead as a doornail.”

Spingarn Medal awarded Jack Roosevelt (“Jackie”) Robinson, first black in the major leagues, for his conduct on and off the baseball field.

MEMORY VERSE ASSIGNMENT 29 (for review):

Please spend time reviewing these memory verses. If you have been completing the assignments in the TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING, then you already have spent a week memorizing the Scriptures below. Now it's time to review!

EVIDENCE OF DIVINE INSPIRATION: PROPHETIC DETAILS OF CHRIST'S DEATH

Identified with a rich man in His death (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:9

And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; because he had done no violence neither was any deceit in his mouth. (Fulfilled—Matthew 27:57-60)

Beaten and spit upon (700 B.C.)

() Isaiah 50:6

I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:67)

Silent in His own defense (712 B.C.)

() Isaiah 53:7

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth: he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth. (Fulfilled—Matthew 27:12-14)

Condemned on the basis of a false testimony (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 35:11

False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. (Fulfilled—Matthew 26:59)

His Body resurrected and saw no corruption (1000 B.C.)

() Psalms 16:10

For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. (Fulfilled—Acts 2:27-32)