

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ (*Part 2*)

### *Revelation 1:1-3*

**Thought for the Day:** The prospect of Christ's soon Return should motivate us to pursue intimate fellowship with the Lord and to live a holy, righteous and Christlike life in obedience to His Word.

#### **C. The Chain of Communication (1:1-2)**

**...which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.**

1. The six-step chain of communication of the Revelation was from:
  - a) God the Father, to
  - b) His Son, Jesus Christ, to
  - c) An angel, to
  - d) The Apostle John, to
  - e) The servants of God, to
  - f) Us
2. "The main point in this chain of communication is that the information in this book originated with God Himself." (*Mark Hitchcock, 101 Answers About the Book of Revelation, p. 60*)
3. 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – we should study the book of Revelation expecting to find:
  - a. Teachings or Doctrines that we need to understand and believe.
  - b. Reproofs or rebukes where the Lord is trying to show us what is wrong in our lives—that which is displeasing to Him.
  - c. Correction. The Lord doesn't rebuke us and then leave us to our own devices. He shows us how to correct the problem and restore our fellowship with Him.
  - d. Training in Righteousness. We should expect Revelation to teach us how to live in an ongoing, right relationship with the Lord, doing those things that are pleasing to Him.
4. We are dealing with the Word of God and we need to expect and allow God's Word to deal with us!
5. Throughout the Bible, God used a variety of means to reveal and communicate His thoughts to mankind.
  - a. Revelation and Inspiration are that supernatural work of the Holy Spirit whereby He revealed God's complete thought toward humanity to specially chosen individuals (the human authors of Scripture) and then superintended those individuals as they recorded His revelation in written form (the Bible) without destroying their individual personalities, interests, or literary styles, so that what they recorded was without error either in the part (i.e., every word used is precisely the one God intended) or the whole

(i.e., every part of Scripture is inspired to the same degree as every other part) in the original manuscripts.

- b. It wasn't the human writers who were inspired; it is the written Word of God that is inspired.
- c. Beware of people today who are claiming to receive and bring new revelation from God! They are false prophets!

**...the things that must soon take place... for the time is near.**

1. John did not mean that the things revealed in Revelation were going to take place shortly after he recorded them. Rather, when the things described begin to take place, they will take place suddenly, quickly, and without further delay—in a relatively brief space of time.
2. "These events are near in the sense that they are the next events on God's prophetic calendar." (*Hitchcock, ibid, p. 63*)
3. "The purpose of *soon* [and *near*] is to teach the imminence of the events foretold, not to set a time limit in which they must occur." (*Robert Thomas*)
4. "Jesus Christ can come at any moment... We are always living on the edge of eternity. And we are to be living on 'ready.'" Every generation who reads the Bible is to live as if these events could come to pass at any time. (*Hitchcock, ibid, p. 65*)
5. "The imminency of these events, emphasized in Revelation from its commencement to its close, calls each generation to possess an attitude of expectancy and readiness." (*Hitchcock, ibid, p. 63*)
6. We should be living in such a way that we are watching and preparing for these things to happen.

**Suggested Applications:**

**Know / Grow:** Have you put your faith in Jesus Christ to be the Savior of your soul and the Lord of your life? Are you committed to living a holy, righteous, and Christlike life? (John 3:16; Matthew 7:21; 1 Peter 1:13-16)

**Grow:** (vs. 1) We should live every day in the light of the Lord's soon Return. (Matthew 24:36,42,44; 25:10-13; 1 Corinthians 15:50-55; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18) We should be waiting, watching and working as we await the Lord's coming.

**Know:** (vs. 1) God used a variety of means to reveal and make known Himself, His will, His purposes and plans. Ultimately, the Bible alone, is God's inspired revelation of Himself to humanity. (Cp. 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:19-21) If you are truly seeking God and desire a personal relationship with Him, you will find Him in the Bible.