

"The Greeting"

Part 1

Revelation 1:4-8

Introduction: Last week in our study of the book of Revelation we looked at 1:1-3 and in those verses we looked at the INTRODUCTION to the book. As we move on and we now come to verse 4 we will see the GREETING which John presents in the book.

Today as we work our way through Revelation 1:4-8 we shall get a little preview of what is found in this book.

I. **The Destination of the Letter**

Notice Revelation 1:4a

The letter was to be sent to the 7 churches which were located in Asia.

1. Ephesus
2. Smyrna
3. Pergamos
4. Thyatira
5. Sardis
6. Philadelphia
7. Laodicea

Now the letter was not intended ONLY for these churches but it is intended for all who are members of the Body of Jesus Christ. These 7 churches represent the complete Body of Jesus Christ. **The number 7 in the Bible represents perfection, completeness and fulness.** Therefore these 7 churches are representative of the complete church.

Here in the book of Revelation the number 7 is used 31 times. The number 7 is used many times throughout the Bible.

There are 7 Feasts, there are 7 sayings of Jesus on the cross, at Jericho there were 7 priests with 7 trumpets who marched around the city and they marched around the city 7 times.

II. The Supply of God for Our Lives

Notice Revelation 1:4b

Here we see that there are 2 gifts given by the Father they are **grace** and **peace**. Grace is unmerited favor and it is the means of our salvation.

Romans 3:24

²⁴ *Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:*

Ephesians 2:8-9

⁸ *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:*

⁹ *Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

Not only are we saved by grace but we are kept saved by grace. So the GRACE is given because we are not perfect and we still sin. So grace is given to keep us saved.

Grace looks to our position in Christ and peace looks to our experience as we walk through this sin filled world.

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴ *Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice.*

⁵ *Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.*

⁶ *Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.*

⁷ *And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

III. The Trinity

Notice Revelation 1:4

Here we see the greeting is from:

1. **God the Father**
2. **The Spirit**

3. Jesus Christ

My question is, "Why does John give us this information about each member of the Trinity?" Because each member of the Trinity will be involved in what we are about to see in The Revelation.

1. **God the Father** - John refers to the Father as Him which was, and which is and which is to come. This speaks of the eternality of God. Our God is eternal and He is the God of the past the present and the future.

This is very important for us to know. When we look back over the history of the world we can point out many significant events. Some of those events were very devastating and one such example would be the flood of Noah's day. So as we look at what John recorded concerning God we can understand that every event of the past was under His control. He was God over all of history.

But He is not just the God of history but He is the God of the present. This, I believe is very important. Let me show you something which we shall look at in great detail when we get there but for now I will give you a small overview.

Revelation 13:1-7

And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

² *And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.*

³ *And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.*

⁴ *And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?*

⁵ *And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.*

⁶ *And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.*

⁷ *And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.*

This is a glimpse of the kingdom of the anti-Christ and in verse 7 we can clearly see that it will be GLOBAL. Now as our world moves toward this kingdom we will see more and more of the pieces come together for this kingdom. We will not see the establishment of the kingdom for we shall be raptured away before this kingdom is fully set up. But we may see much of it in place and we may feel the pressure from the demonic influence as our world presses closer.

Now as this begins to take shape in our world the darkness will increase but we can go back to what John says about God and that is He was the God of the past and he is also the God of the PRESENT. The bottom line is that God is in complete control over the events which are happening in our world today and that will happen in our world in the FUTURE.

2. **The Holy Spirit** - John refers to SEVEN SPIRITS which are before His throne.

This does not mean that there are 7 Spirits of God. The number 7 speaks of fullness and so John is speaking of the Holy Spirit in all of His fulness/perfection. Let me show you what Isaiah wrote concerning the Spirit.

Isaiah 11:2

² And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

Isaiah describes the characteristics of the Spirit here in this verse.

He is:

1. The Spirit of Rest
2. The Spirit of Wisdom
3. The Spirit of Understanding
4. The Spirit of Counsel
5. The Spirit of Might
6. The Spirit of Knowledge
7. The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

This is the Spirit of the Lord Who would rest on Jesus Christ and He is also the Spirit of the Lord who indwells each of us who are saved.

But again I raise a question, "What does this mean to you and me in the light of this book?"

As our world moves at breakneck speed toward the Tribulation/kingdom of the anti-Christ we can rest in the characteristics of the Holy Spirit.

1. He has come to abide/rest upon us and He will never leave us. As we face the increasing darkness of this world we can be sure the Holy Spirit will be with us in all that we face.

Hebrews 13:5

⁵ *Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.*

2. Because He is the Spirit of wisdom and understanding we can rest in Him as we face the decisions of this life. He will give to us the understanding we need as we search the Word of God and then He will give us the wisdom (which the ability to apply the understanding).

John 16:13

¹³ *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*

3. Because He is the Spirit of Counsel we can rest in Him as we are in need of counsel in the midst of our world. When the situations we face are confusing and we struggle with which way to turn let us understand that we can rest in the Holy Spirit to counsel us in the matter.

Isaiah 9:6

⁶ *For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

4. Because He is the Spirit of Might we can rest in His power to strengthen us as we face the impossible situations of life.

Zechariah 4:6

⁶ Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but **by my spirit**, saith the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah need not be concerned by his lack of strength and might for it would be the power of the Holy Spirit who would make a difference. Notice the following verse.

Zechariah 4:7

⁷ Who art thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel thou shalt become a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof with shoutings, crying, Grace, grace unto it.

5. Because He is the Spirit of knowledge we can rest in Him for the deep knowledge of the Word of God.

Ephesians 1:17

¹⁷ That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:

6. Because He is the Spirit of the fear of the Lord we can be sure He will lead us into a reverential obedience as we follow God. This is very important for it is the beginning of wisdom.

Psalms 111:10

¹⁰ The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

So as believers the Holy Spirit supplies everything we need as our world moves closer to the Tribulation.

Notice Revelation 1:5

Here we see the greeting is also from Jesus Christ. John describes here who Jesus is and what He has done.

A. Who He is.

1. **He is THE faithful witness.**

This is so important for us as we study this book. Let us remember that this book is from Jesus.

Notice Revelation 1:1

The book is from Him and He is the faithful witness. This tells us that every Word we read in this book of Revelation is 100% accurate. This means that every prophecy which we study in this letter WILL come to pass.

Revelation 3:14

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;*

In this letter we shall read of the destruction of Satan, the creation of a new heaven and a new earth, the Great coming Kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ, the eternal city prepared for the saints of God and the destruction of sin.

This we will learn from the one who is THE FAITHFUL WITNESS.

Conclusion:

As we live in the midst of a world headed toward the Tribulation there is nothing which we have to fear for our God shall provide everything we need.

Philippians 4:19

¹⁹ *But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*