

August 24th, 2010

REVELATION 1:1-8

THE PROLOGUE



Text (ESV): ¹The revelation of Jesus Christ, 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, ²who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Greeting to the Seven Churches

⁴John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

⁸"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

+Vv 1-2: God > Jesus > Angel > John > The Readers and Hearers

+ V 3: Blessed is the one who ___ => Reminds us of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. John records **seven** Beatitudes in Revelation (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14)

"who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it." → John intends for this to be read as Scripture during Worship!!

"and who keep what is written in it" - *What Does This Mean?*

Luke 11:28, John 8:51; Luke 2:19, Ps 119:2-3, 9, 17

"for the time is near," written in the late first century, how is this still true in 2010? (Acts 2:17)

+ V 4- "the seven spirits"- Isaiah 11:2

+ V 5- "and from Jesus Christ... the ruler of the kings of the earth." (VMT)- why is this important to John's hearers?

Spoiler Alert!! Spoiler Alert!! We will read about Jesus' heavenly coronation in Rev. 5:1-14 Spoiler Alert!! Spoiler Alert!!

+ Vv 5b-6 – A Doxological Prayer to the Father and the Son

+ V 7- Jesus' second coming will cause much mourning for many

+ V 8- "Alpha and Omega" – first and the last letters of Greek alphabet, applied here to the Father, later to Jesus, "the Almighty" only used with reference to the Father.

Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!