THE REVELATION

To Him Who Loves Us

Revelation 1: 4-8

Verses 4-8 give as John's general introduction to the Revelation, and to the seven churches in particular. This paragraph is remarkable in many ways for the things it reveals about God. It is especially remarkable in what it reveals about Jesus Christ. John has a very great reverence for and focus upon Christology—we will learn a great deal about Jesus, the Eternal I AM, the Alpha and the Omega in the Revelation.

I. The Focus: the Seven churches

A. The location of these churches

The old kingdom of Pergamum in what is today Western Asia Minor John is using provincial Roman regions

B. The focus of the address of Revelation

The congregations lie relatively close to the heart of the empire and are under fire for their faith from both Jews and the smoldering persecution that rises and falls from Rome

II. The Triune God

A. The Father: the One who IS and who WAS, and who IS to come (the Eternal One)

Identified with both the Father and the Son demonstrating co-equality

21:6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

22:12-13 Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

B. The Holy Spirit: the "seven spirits" who are before the Throne

BEFORE: before, presence, sight

ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν: the Word was (Gk.imperfect~was always being) face to face with the Father

NOTE: Some say the seven spirits refer to the seven angels watching the churches, the archangels before the throne (Jewish)

C. The Son: to Him Who loves us(!)

1. and released as from our sins by His blood

I Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

2. [and] made us to be a kingdom of priests to our God and Father

I Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

III. The Doxology

- A. To Him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen
- Behold, 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

Zech 12:10-12 I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will mourn,

C. I am the Alpha and Omega, says the Lord God," Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty (See II.A. above)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Where is the ancient kingdom of Pergamum?
- 2. How can you prove the deity of Christ, His equality with God the Father from the Revelation?
- 3. What is the key motivation in God's story of redemption? Why did He do it?
- 4. What does it mean to be a kingdom of priests? What is the role of a priest?
- 5. Who, specifically, will look upon Him whom they pierced?
 When will this occur?
- 6. What is most encouraging to you about this introductory passage?

NOTES	

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John 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, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His bloodand He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, 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. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1: 4-8 NASB

Listen! My beloved! Behold, he is Climbina comina. on mountains, Leaping on the hills! My beloved is like a gazelle or a voung stag. Behold, he is standing behind our wall, He is looking through the windows, He is peering through the lattice. Arise, my darling, my beautiful one. and come along. For behold, the winter is past, The rain is over and gone. The flowers have already appeared in the land; the time has arrived for pruning the vines, and the voice of the turtledove has been heard in our land. The fig tree has ripened its figs, and the vines in blossom have given forth their fragrance. Arise, my darling, my beautiful one, and come along!

Song of Songs 2: 8-13 NASB