

“Jesus Loves Us!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. Last week not on the air. (CD in bookstore of intro)
- 1.2. This coming Month: Show Overhead.
- 1.3. Pray -
- 1.4. A letter coming by angelic delivery.

2. GREETING! (4-8)

- 2.1. (4-6) John wishes “Grace & Peace” from the Triune God!
 - 2.1.1. Father – the unchangeable God. He stands above history & is not limited by time!
 - 2.1.2. Holy Spirit – 7-fold Spirit = explained in **Is.11:1,2**.
 - 2.1.2.1. Also depicted as: **7-fold Sp.**(3:1); **7 Lamps** (4:5); **7 Eyes**(5:6).
 - 2.1.2.2. Or, represented as being present among the 7 churches.
 - 2.1.3. Son –
 - 2.1.3.1. The **Faithful witness** = the **source** of the revelation to be given.
 - 2.1.3.2. **1st born from the dead** – referring to His **historic** resurrection.
 - 2.1.3.3. **Rulers over the kings of the earth** – speaking to His prophetic role after His 2nd coming.
- 2.2. (5) **Loved(s) us & washed us**(freed) –
 - 2.2.1. He **Loved us** - (most manus. in the pres tense!) {parallels John’s gospel}
 - 2.2.2. He **Washed us** – or freed us.
 - 2.2.2.1. May we never forget the **blood!**
 - 2.2.2.2. It **washes/frees us**(5); **redeems us**(5:9); makes us **overcomers**(12:11).
 - 2.2.3. Like the man who took pride in how his beautiful **white highland terrier was**. One day when after a fresh blanket of snow saw a dog running in front of his home & thought, “*who’s drab-looking dog is that?*” then realized it was his well groomed terrier! [Great example of our sin when finally compared to the proper background!]
- 2.3. (6) **Amen** – hearing what this “*made us*” This prompted John to express a benediction of worship & praise.
 - 2.3.1. He culminates with **Amen** “*so be it*”.
- 2.4. (7,8) These 2 verses announce the **main theme** of the book.
- 2.5. (7) **Every eye will see Him** – in contrast to his 1st coming at His birth & in contrast to the Rapture. [**Public vs. Secret**]
 - 2.5.1. **Invisible coming** - When He comes to “catch away” He comes as a “Thief”.
 - 2.5.2. **Visible coming** - witnessed by the whole world. [The climax of the Trib. period!]
 - 2.5.3. **Eye** - Eyes have two purposes: **[1] To See [2] To Weep**.
 - 2.5.3.1. “The eye that looks to the pierced One is the eye which weeps for Him!”

- 2.6. **Even those who pierced Him** – Though the **literal executioners & rejecters** are now dead & won't be res until after the Millennium, the godly remnant of Israel *“will look on the One who they have pierced.”*(Zech.12:10)
- 2.7. **(8) Alpha & Omega** - God who is at the **beginning** of all things, is also at their **end**.
- 2.8. **Who is & was & is to come** - The Eternal God, unlimited by time!
 - 2.8.1. **He is not the Great “I Was!”**
- 2.9. **Almighty** - A key name for God in Rev. (9 x's).

3. **PATMOS! (9)**

- 3.1. **Return Address...Patmos!**
- 3.2. **Tribulation** – There was already persecution taking place (95ad)
 - 3.2.1. Nero started it in 64ad. **Son after Peter & Paul were killed.**
 - 3.2.2. Rome was beginning to exalt the emperor as a semidivine being.
 - 3.2.2.1. The Christian faith was already illegal.
 - 3.2.3. It was the emperor Domitian who banished John there as a **punishment** for his “seditious/rebellious” preaching in Ephesus (*where he pastored*), & as a **quarantine** to inhibit the further spread of the gospel.¹
- 3.3. **Patmos** – A small crescent shaped little Island of Greece(in-between Athens & Turkey). A rocky island 10 m. long & 6 m. wide, in the Aegean Sea. [pop. 2600 in 1995]
 - 3.3.1. **Note John mentions “Sea” 25 x's! (surrounded by)**
 - 3.3.2. Rome had a **penal camp** there where the prisoners labored in the mines.
 - 3.3.3. It was **here** in this isolated spot that John **received the visions** that make up Revelation.²
- 3.4. **Imagine how lonely that must have been for him.**
 - 3.4.1. Cut off from his church(pastor of Eph.) Looking out across the **blue bars** of his prison to the distant mountains of Asia Minor, wising he was home.
 - 3.4.2. **Maybe you're experiencing a Patmos exile of your own?**
 - 3.4.2.1. Unemployment; Divorce; A Terminal Illness; Rejection; feel cut off, perhaps even from God?

4. **THE CHURCHES! (10-11)**

- 4.1. (10) It's been 60 yrs. since John's heard Jesus voice - Now he hears it “as a trumpet” (also in 4:1).
 - 4.1.1. **Trumpets are important in Revelation.**
 - 4.1.2. **The Jews used Trumpets to:** gather an assembly; announce war; & to proclaim special days. [i.e. **gather** saints at Rapture, **gather** Israel at His coming; **announce war** on the world]
- 4.2. **“In the Spirit”** – Frankly a mystery.
 - 4.2.1. Robert Mounce, “As **paganism** had set aside a day on which to honor their emperor, so also **Christians** chose the 1st day of the week to honor Christ.”

¹ Chuck Swindoll; pg.4

² Warren Wiersbe; NT Outlines.

- 4.3. **Yet, every Christian lives in 2 locations!**
- 4.3.1. John was in Patmos & in the Spirit. [a human environment, & a heavenly one]
- 4.3.2. A Christian was asked if he was you going to heaven. To which he replied, “I live there”! Was he right? Well, a workman had a little store in which he cobbled shoes. He also had an apartment upstairs over his shop. Someone asked him about his situation. “I work down here,” he said, “but I live up there!” - That’s it!!!³
- 4.4. **7 churches** – these are mentioned in geographical order, on Asia Minor(Turkey), in which mail would have been delivered. [clockwise]
- 4.4.1. John just became **Postmaster General of Patmos!** (Swindoll)

5. **PORTAIT OF CHRIST! (12-18)**

- 5.1. (12) Explain **lampstand** – vs.20.
- 5.1.1. Not **Candlesticks** (KJV) – **Show Menorah** (It held oil & wick not wax candle)
- 5.2. (13) **In the midst of the 7 lampstands**. [Shamash, “Servant”]
- 5.2.1. In the middle of the lampstand stands “**The Light of the church**”, Jesus Christ arrayed in splendor & glory!
- 5.3. No matter how **weak** the church seems, how **flawed** or **unfaithful**, always remember that Christ stands in the center!
- 5.3.1. Mt.16:18 “...**I will** build My church, and the gates of Hades shall **not** prevail against it.”
- 5.3.2. We can depend on Him to keep that promise.
- 5.3.3. **As Christians** we believe that, but do we also believe it as **individual members** of His church?
- 5.3.3.1. Do you allow Him to be the center of your life?
- 5.3.3.2. Where is he in your heart? Left of center? Extreme right? Center?
- 5.4. (13-16) **Like & as** – **Simile**: a figure of speech that draws a comparison between two different things. (i.e. **as white as a sheet!**)
- 5.4.1. Compare to **Daniels** vision – **Dan.7:9,10**.
- 5.4.2. We have very little knowledge of what Jesus looked like while hear on earth: **[1]** Beard/Is.50:6 **[2]** Nothing esp. attractive about Him(Is.53:2) **[3]** Though children liked Him.
- 5.5. (13) **Garments** - Those of a Judge or King! {One w/honor & authority}
- 5.6. (14) **White hair** - Symbolizes His Externality “the ancient of days”.
- 5.6.1. “**The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendor of old men is their gray head.**” Prov.20:29
- 5.7. (14b) **Eyes** - Seeing all, enabling Him to Judge righteously!
- 5.7.1. Talk about having **piercing eyes!**
- 5.7.2. **Fire** - burns & bores its way into the heart of the toughest timber & can even melt the strongest steel.
- 5.7.3. Your true character is transparent to His eyes!
- 5.7.4. Could this be tied to 1 Cor.3:13? That fire that will consume the believer’s human works of wood, hay, or stubble?

³ John Phillips; Exploring Revelation; pg.25

- 5.8. (15) **Feet of fine brass** - Also suggests judgment.
- 5.8.1. **Fine** = Highly rubbed & polished!
- 5.8.2. The **Brazen**(brass) **altar** was the place where the fire consumed the sin offering.
- 5.8.3. **He came to judge**: [1] The Church [2] The world system.
- 5.8.4. "The serpents fangs once fastened on those feet. Now the red-hot brass will trample on His serpents head."
- 5.9. (15b) **Voice** - The sound of many waters.
- 5.9.1. **Q: Imagine arguing w/Niagara Falls?**
- 5.9.1.1. 12 mill. cubic feet of water roaring down each minute.
- 5.9.2. His voice will drown out all who try to **talk back**, or offer **excuses** to Him.
- 5.10. (16) **Sword** - The living word of God.
- 5.10.1. Eph.6:17 "... and the sword of the Spirit, which is **the word of God**."
- 5.10.2. He fights His enemy w/**His Word**.
- 5.10.3. Has time dulled His sword? No way!
Will man made religions blunt it? Not a chance!
- 5.11. **Countenance** - Reminds us of His transfiguration.
- 5.11.1. Mt.17:2 "and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light."
- 5.11.2. Was like the sun - "But to you who fear My name **The Sun of Righteousness shall arise With healing in His wings**." Mal. 4:2
- 5.11.3. Reminds us of "the unapproachable Light", & the ancient Israelites at Sinai.
- 5.11.4. Wow, just a little of God's glory causes one to fall on their face...Ezek.1:28 "Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So when I saw *it*, **I fell on my face**, and I heard a voice of One speaking."
- 5.12. (17) John in the upper room leaned on Jesus chest(13:23); but when he saw the **glorified Christ**, he fell at his feet as a dead man.
- 5.12.1. What a great contrition of our heart, for us all to fall at His feet & ask for this Revelation to give meaning to us.
- 5.13. When **Daniel & John** received God's revelations of the future, both fell down as dead men.
- 5.13.1. Dan.10:5-9 "And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision; but a great terror fell upon them, so that they fled to hide themselves. Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, **with my face to the ground**."
- 5.13.2. A vision of the exalted Christ can only produce **awe & fear!**
- 5.13.2.1. This is when you can't scream, can't move, your strength is zapped, your knees buckle & you drop.
- 5.13.3. 2 Cor. 5:16 "Even though we have known Christ according to the **flesh**, yet now we know Him thus **no longer**."
- 5.13.4. We must approach this book as **Wondrous & Worshipers!**

- 5.14. (17b,18) Note these are Jesus' words of comfort to John:
- 5.15. **He laid His right hand on me** and said, **do not be afraid!**
- 5.15.1. **He touches him reassuringly.**
- 5.15.2. Oh the **loving touch** of our Savior! – **Have you felt His hand?**
- 5.15.3. Evans Roberts prayed, **"Bend me! Bend me!"** & **when God answered, the Great Welsh Revival resulted!** [make that your prayer!]
- 5.16. **I was dead...but now am alive!**
- 5.16.1. One day there will be no more death(21:4) because Jesus conquered death.

6. **OVERVIEW! (19,20)**

- 6.1. (19) An inspired **3 point Outline:**
- 6.1.1. **What you have seen**(ch.1) – **the Glorified Christ.**
- 6.1.2. **Which are**(ch.2,3) – **the churches.**
- 6.1.3. **Which will take place**(ch.4-22) – **the Rapture, Tribulation, Millennium, Judgments, & the Consummation.**
- 6.2. (20) **Stars** = angels = *messengers!*
- 6.3. **Maybe each church has its own guardian angel?** 😊
- 6.4. **Options:** (top views)
- 6.4.1. [1] **Each church has Guardian Angel** – The normal meaning of "angel" in Rev is "spirit being".
- 6.4.2. [2] **Pastor** – unusual language.
- 6.4.3. [3] **Messenger** – Roman Postal Service(RPS) was only for Imperial use. Thus Business & congregations had to develop their own mail system.
- 6.4.3.1. **Thus the 7 mail carriers.**
- 6.4.4. [4] **Church personified** - ?