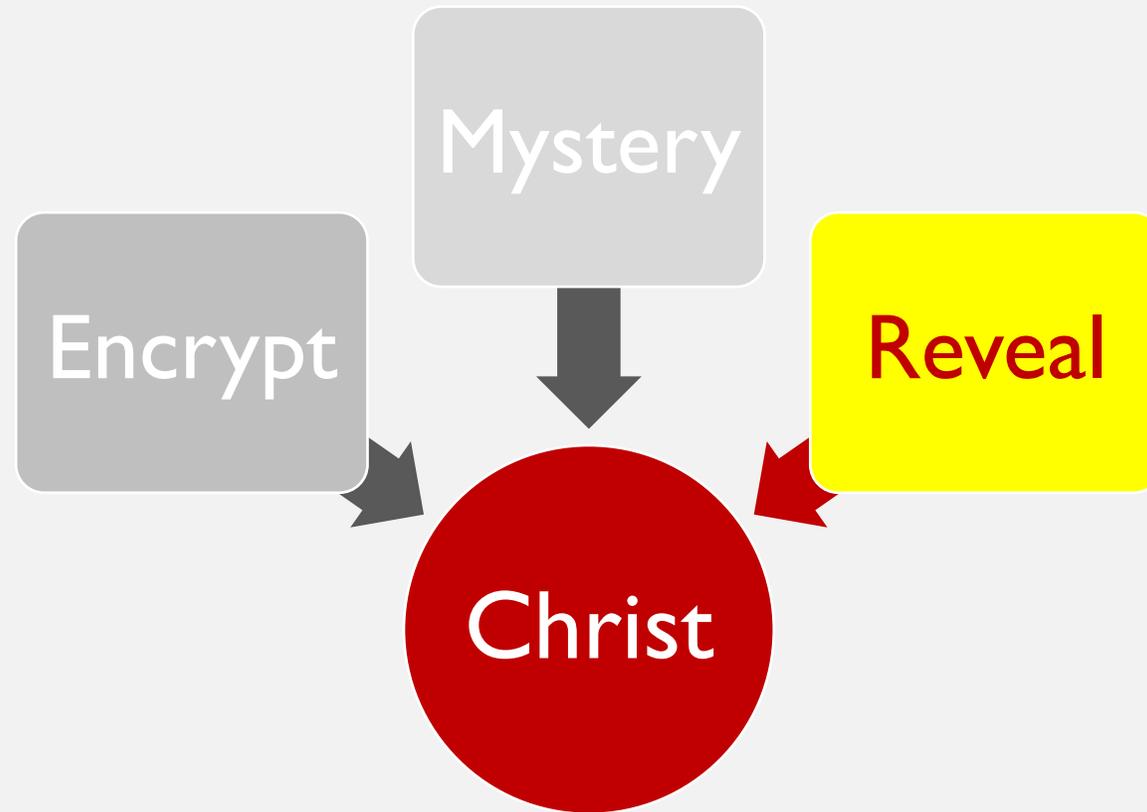


REVELATION 04 – REVEALING HIS MYSTERY TO FRIENDS

Dr. Leon L. Sanders
Revelation 1:1-3

PROLOGUE – PURPOSE OF REVELATION:
REVEAL GOD'S SALVATION IN CHRIST



PROLOGUE – ONE MYSTERY: CHRIST AS SACRIFICE & PRIEST

- Christ is the great foundational mystery of the Bible, of this Creation
(Ps 89:19-29; Ep 1:3-14; 1Ti 3:14-16)
 - Satan-Lost only understand Control; cannot conceive God humbling Himself to die for lesser beings (Ro 5:6-8)
 - Christ's sacrifice *purchased* salvation; first fruit of indwelling Spirit *decrypts* Word for believers to understand (Jn 14:15-17, 22-26; Ro 5:6-11; 8:23-27)
 - At salvation you receive the *decryption key*, indwelling Spirit, metaphor of *scales falling from one's eyes* whereby we call out, "Abba or Daddy!" (Ac 9:1-18; Ro 8:14-17; 2Co 5:17)
- Purpose of Revelation: Decrypt, reveal, mystery of Christ to World-Satan who mass against Him at His return closing this Second Era (Re 10:7)

CHAIN OF REVELATION: FATHER – SON – ANGEL – JOHN – US

- Not *new* Truth but Truth from Eternity Past (Ep 1:3-14)
 - Father revealed Truth to the Son after His Ascension (Mt 24:36)
 - Son revealed Truth to Angel He sent to John; Angel is the transition from spiritual to physical (He 1:14)
 - John wrote it for maturing believers: Us, deciphered by rest of Bible (Da 12:9-13; 2Pe 1:20-21)
- Jesus revealed this Truth to His Friends {Maturing Believers} (Jn 15:15-16)
 - It is encrypted to the Lost who do not have: 1) New Nature and 2) Spirit revelation (1Co 2:14; 2Co 5:17)
 - Father-Son-Spirit want *us* to know His Truth veiled to Lost and Immature Believers; completion of Abrahamic Covenant foreshadowed in Exodus {Jews also} (Ex 2:24-25; 1Co 2:6-8)

WITNESSES TO TRUTH: ANGEL WITNESS TO GOD & MAN

- Angel, Greek {ἄγγελος} *aggelos*, simply means messenger and can refer to **any** messenger: heavenly or earthly; their mission: Serve Believers via Son (He 1:14)
- Under the Law, Truth must be confirmed by two or three witnesses (De 19:15)
 - Christ abided by this statute though He admitted that it did not apply to Him as He knew Truth while His detractors did not know Truth; i.e., Him (Jn 5:30-47; 8:13-19)
 - Witnesses did not *change* Truth but validated the reliability of the Messenger/Witness
- Angel *witnesses* Truth between Father and Son then *witnesses* Christ's revelation to John and John's truthfulness in recording the apocalypse {Bible}
 - Confirmed by indwelling Spirit who bears *witness* **in** each Believer; not to the Lost (Jn 4:24; 14:16-17; 15:26-27; 16:12-15)

BLESSED: READER & LISTENER

- Blessed {μακάριος, makarios}: Happy but not generalized happiness
 - Christian μακάριος: Blessedness that corresponds and reinforces one's *new nature*
 - Beatitudes, blessedness, associates happiness to self humility being in Christ (Mt 5:2-12)
 - Lost associates happiness with elevating self by suppressing others (Ro 2:1-11; 3:10-18)
- Reader and Listener blessed, happy, Christ sharing His Truth
 - Reader, teacher: Sharing-teaching Truth of Christ's revealing to His Believers
 - Listener, maturing: Hearing-hoping-waiting for Christ in faith guards the Truth (Ro 8:23-25; 1Pe 4:16-19)
- Blessed is not joy over the eternal death-judgment of the Lost (Ez 33:11-17; Mt 23:37-39)

UNDERLYING THEME: OCCURS IN *GOD'S* TIME

- Repeated twice in these verses is the theme that these events will occur *in their appointed time*; not before: Theme runs through Old Testament (Hab 2:2-3)
 - Noah foretold coming Cataclysm, preaching it by building the Ark; hope has action (He 11:7; 1Pe 3:18-20; 2Pe 2:5; 2Pe 3:3-10)
 - Christ foretold His coming death, directly and indirectly via prophets; He died (Ge 3:15; Is 9:6-7; 11:1-5; 53; Jn 1:29; 1Co 5:7-8; Ga 4:4-7; Ep 1:7-10)
- Since the past works of the Bible proved True and supported Christ's spiritual message of salvation; we have hope that this *future* message will also be True
 - These events, spiritual and physical, will occur at their appointed time because past events occurred whose effects are still apparent today {Purpose of Scientism}

OCCUR IN THESE: LAST DAYS

- *Last Days* technical term referring to the time commencing with Christ's First Advent and ending with dissolving of this Creation: We live in *Last Days* (He 1:2)
 - Meanings of Daniel's visions were **sealed** until *Last Days*; they began their Revelation in Intertestament period, in Christ and now they are completed in Revelation (Da 2:27-28a; 10:12-14; 12:9-13)
 - We live in these *Last Days* (2Ti 3:1-5; 4:3-4; 2Pe 3:3-7)
- Lost denying Christ's Truth basing their attack on the fact that He has not returned and therefore will not return; in effect claiming Christ is a liar and of Satan (Jn 8:44)
 - If Christ is of Satan but teaches against Satan, they expose their illogic (Lk 11:14-20)
 - They admit the miracle but deny its source thereby condemning themselves

REVELATION: FOOLISHNESS TO THE LOST

- Lost cannot understand, make sense, of this book; remains encrypted to them
 - Their *Natural Nature* rejects God's Truth and builds an alternative worldview based on this Creation: Real and Imagined {Science and Gnosticism} (Ro 1:18-28)
 - Truth of Revelation only makes sense to Saved taught by the Spirit (1Co 2:6-14)
 - Satan blinds the minds of the Lost to keep them from the Truth, with their consent; i.e., it is they who seek to *do good* via Satan which is true illogic (2Co 4:3-4)
 - Thus, they become their own agents hiding the Truth from themselves (Jude 12-16)
- But Christ has called Believers out of Darkness into His Light (2Co 4:5-7)
 - Revelation gives us the Light of Truth of what is and will occur until He comes: Amen (Ep 5:6-14; 1Pe 1:3-7)