

THE "ALREADY" AND THE "NOT YET" - Rv 1:19-20

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1. Remind: importance of literary structure: visionary symbolism - apocalyptic prophetic, epistle - can approach from several angles.
2. Prolog [Rv 1:1-20] - church-age, living in relation to heavenly realities.

1st: Daniel As A Prophetic Point of Reference

1. Like Daniel, John's experience - Rv 1:17. Quotes Dan 7:13 in 1:7. The One enthroned is the One who comes & who was *pierced* [Zech 12:10]
2. What Dan saw as future is already present & yet future: "already & not yet"
3. John picks up where Dan left off.

2nd: Daniel's Future is Our Present

1. Dan 2:v26-47 - Neb's dream of 4 kingdoms: Babylon, Medes, Persians, Rome. Then *a stone cut out w/o hands* = supernatural intervention destroys men's kingdoms, fills the earth to endure forever.
2. Stone = Jesus & His redemptive kingdom - Mat 21:42-44 [cites Ps 118:22]
3. Daniel's future has begun & is John's present.

3rd: John's Use of Daniel's Vocabulary Gives Insight into the Structure of Rev

1. Rv 1:19 Preterist [before 70AD]; historicist [hist'al events]; futurist [last gen before Eschaton]: all interp v19 chronologically [1:4,8]. Caution: 1:1; 4:1; 22:6 - *the thgs wh/ must soon take place* = our church-age.
2. Compare Dan 2:28 *the latter days* w/ Rv 1:1 *must soon take place* - IOW, Dan's *latter days* in Jn's *soon, quickly*
 - i. Neb's dream takes us to 1st coming = *the latter days*
 - ii. Jn says those days are *soon, quick*: in his generation: already begun
 - iii. Rv 1:3 *for the time is near* - not merely close but already here.
3. Dan 2:29 - *what wld take place in the future* = *mysteries* that must be revealed by God: *what will take place - in the latter days* [v28].
 - i. Rv 1:19 replaces *latter days* w/ *after these thgs*. Note also: *mystery* is, in Dan's time, smthg yet to be rev'd. Rv 1:20a *mystery* now explained
 - ii. Dan 2:45 *what will take place in the future* concerns the stone wh/ crushed statue of men's empires. Same vocab in Rv = *take place after these thgs* - Rv 4:1; 22:6
4. The stone made w/o hands has come, toppled earthly kingdoms & now reigns - Rv 1:5; 17:14; 19:16.
5. Dan 12:9 *sealed until the end time*; Rv 22:10 *not seal b/c time is near*, here.

4th: John Writes About Our Time in Redemptive History - Rv 1:19

1. *Write* - written words: Scripture - v3; v11.
2. *Therefore* - assignment: *write the thgs wh/ you have seen* - and *the thgs wh/ are* and *the thgs wh/ will take place after these thgs*: "both-and"
 - i. The "already & the not yet" unfolds in redemptive history
 - ii. disclose *mystery*

5th: Mysteries Made Known - Rv 1:20

1. *Mystery* [Dan 2:29] - known by revelation - historical fulfillment [Rm 16:25-27] - parables [Mat 13:11]: *the 7 stars & 7 golden lampstands*
 - i. *7 lampstands* = *7 churches*: tonality - Jesus seen w/ Bride [Eph 3:21]. Jesus builds church on apostle's testimony [Script] - Mat 16:15-19.
 - ii. *7 stars* = *7 angels of the 7 churches* - combine angelic & human. Angels serve alongside church - Rv 19:10; 22:9 & 8:3-4.
2. We are church on earth [worship & witness]: counterpart in heaven [angelic conflict w/ "powers"]. *We walk* [and war] *by faith not by sight*
 - i. v3, 10 = gathered on LD - admitted into heavenly temple: worship

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- ii. v2,9 = witness - make known - Jesus is Lord - salvation only in Jesus.
3. Our worship & witness is coordinated w/ movement of angels [Eph 6:12].

Applic #1: The Reign of the Son of Man Has Begun in Heaven

1. We live in the age foreseen by OT prophets - reign of Messiah has begun.
2. HS must reveal reigning Jesus - Eph 1:20b-2:7 *in this age & age to come*
3. Reign of Jesus is a present reality - a revealed mystery in Redemptive Hist.

Applic #2: The Cruciform Nature of Christ's Reign on Earth

1. Our power *in heavenly places* - Eph 3:10 [worship] & 6:12 [witness]. But in earthly places, this power is shaped by our union w/ crucified Christ.
2. Challenge - unbiblical expectations [Lk 7:23, v20; A 1:6] - [1C 1:22-29]
3. If we are to overcome, we must go the way of the Lamb.