

“Blessed is He”

(Rev 1:2-3)



Scripture Reading



Revelation 1:1-3 (NASB)

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Exposit Rev 1:1



1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John

- ❖ We covered this in depth the past couple of studies
- ❖ Jesus knew the end times events concerning His return (evident by the Olivet Discourse); but at that time Jesus did not know the actual day/hour concerning His return determined by His Father
- ❖ However, when we get to the visions in Revelation, the Father fully disclosed all of the details concerning Jesus's return, so Jesus now knows the day/hour associated with the end time events whereas back in Mt 24 He didn't because His time has not yet come (Jesus wasn't exalted nor entered His glory yet)

Exposit Rev 1:2



2 who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

❖ “testified” is ‘martureō’ which means to bear witness to testify

❖ We get our English word ‘martyr’ from this Greek word

❖ Stephen is the first “martyr” to die for bearing witness to Jesus!

❖ The angel bore witness and delivered the vision to John

❖ John in turn is bearing witness and wrote the vision down

❖ So the book of Revelation is John’s testimony on behalf of Jesus!

❖ The gospel of John is also a testimony on behalf of Jesus!

Exposit Rev 1:2



John 21:24 (at the close of his gospel, referring to himself in the 3rd person)

24 This is the disciple who is testifying (martureō) to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his (John's) testimony is true.

❖ John's testimony is true because he was chosen by Jesus to be an apostle

❖ Thus as an apostle, the gospel of John can be trusted

❖ And so is the book of Revelation to be trusted!

❖ For the source is from

❖ The Father → The Son → Jesus's angel → John → to us (the church)

❖ In other words the Bible, including Revelation, is from HEAVEN!

Exposit Rev 1:2



In verse 2, I'd like to call out:

- ❖ John wrote the vision of Revelation exactly how it was given to him!
- ❖ John wrote what he was commanded to write!
- ❖ John did not write what he was commanded not to write!
- ❖ Allow me to show you...

Exposit Rev 1:2



1:11 - “write in a book what you see”

1:19 - “write the things which you have seen”

2:1 - “to the angel of the church in Ephesus write”

2:8 - “to the angel of the church in Smyrna write”

2:12 - “to the angel of the church in Pergamum write”

2:18 - “to the angel of the church in Thyatira write”

3:1 - “to the angel of the church in Sardis write”

3:7 - “to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write”

3:14 - “to the angel of the church of Laodicea write”

Exposit Rev 1:2



10:4 - "I was about to write, and I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Seal up the things which the seven peals of thunder have spoken and **do not write** them"

14:13 – “And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, “**Write**, Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!”

19:9 – “Then he said to me, **Write**, Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.”

21:5 – And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “**Write**, for these words faithful and true.”

Exposit Rev 1:2



- ❖ So all throughout this letter John wrote was he was commanded to write
- ❖ John wrote the vision exactly as it was given him
 - ❖ In the sequence and order it was given him
- ❖ And if he was commanded not to write, he didn't write it

So we're going to do the exactly that for our Revelation study!...

Exposit Rev 1:2



- ❖ We're going to read it the way John was given it!
- ❖ We're going to receive it the way John received it!
- ❖ We're not going to deviate from any of the visions!
 - ❖ Interpret the visions using Scripture
 - ❖ We're not going to reorder, reorganize the visions
 - ❖ Unless of course there is a clear time marker given by Scripture
 - ❖ i.e. Day 6 creation was in view in Gen 2 after Day 7 in Gen 1
 - ❖ We're going to treat them as "marching orders"
 - ❖ From the Father → Christ → to the church (us)!
 - ❖ We're not going to add (write into) Scripture what it did not write!
 - ❖ We're not going to twist Revelation or other Scripture to support a view we hold!

Exposit Rev 1:2



- ❖ In other words, the application from v. 2 is:
 - ❖ We're going to bear the same witness and testimony as John!
 - ❖ Since the source of Revelation and the rest of Scripture is from HEAVEN, it's words are faithful and true and worthy to be trusted and believed!
 - ❖ Let's study it the way it was given and not mess with it and see where it takes us!

Exposit Rev 1:3



3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

- ❖ “Blessed” is ‘makarios’ which means happy
- ❖ The book of Revelation **opens** with a promised blessing!
- ❖ The book of Revelation **closes** with a promised blessing!

Exposit Rev 1:3



Revelation 22:7 (Jesus speaking) “And behold, I am coming quickly.
Blessed [makarios; happy] is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”

- ❖ Revelation is the only book with a promised blessing in the beginning/end!
- ❖ But what is the promised blessing tied to?
- ❖ So to answer that question, we're going to look to the rest of Scripture
- ❖ So lets survey the entire Bible beginning in Genesis...
- ❖ NOTE: I will not be focused on every blessing (i.e. in the creation account God blessed Adam and Eve to be fruitful and multiply, etc.)
- ❖ But rather we'll focus on covenantal blessings with promise tied to Revelation

Covenantal Blessings



❖ A promised blessing was part of the Abrahamic Covenant:

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD said to Abram,

“Go forth from your country,

And from your relatives

And from your father’s house,

To the land which I will show you;

2 And I will make you a great nation,

And I will bless you,

And make your name great;

And so you shall be a blessing;

3 And I will bless those who bless you,

And the one who curses you I will curse.

And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

Covenantal Blessings



❖ A promised blessing was part of the Abrahamic Covenant:

Genesis 12:1-3

1 Now the LORD said to Abram,
“Go forth from your country,
And from your relatives
And from your father’s house,
To the land which I will show you;
2 And I will make you a great nation,
And I will bless you,
And make your name great;
And so you shall be a blessing;
3 And I will bless those who bless you,
And the one who curses you I will curse.
And in you all the families of the earth will be blessed.”

TRUTH: The promised blessing in Revelation has its foundation in the Abrahamic Covenant! Which means the promised blessing is tied to the holy land and people of Israel!

⁶ Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:
“May they prosper who love you.
⁷ “May peace be within your walls,
And prosperity within your palaces.”
Psalms 122:6-7

Covenantal Blessings



- ❖ The blessing followed Abraham → Isaac → Jacob (stole the blessing from Esau)
 - ❖ Romans 9 gives us great insight into this
- ❖ From Jacob (renamed Israel) → 12 Sons (12 Tribes) → 1 of those sons was Judah
- ❖ As Israel was at the end of life, he passed the blessing to Judah:

Genesis 49:10 “The scepter shall not depart from Judah,
Nor the ruler’s staff from between his feet,
Until Shiloh [Messiah] comes,
And to him [Messiah] shall be the obedience of the peoples.

Covenantal Blessings



❖ So when Israel past away, the blessing followed Judah!

❖ Where did it go from there?

❖ King David!

Matthew 1:1-6 (Genealogy)

1 The record of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham:

2 Abraham was the father of Isaac, Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers. 3 Judah was the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, Perez was the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Ram. 4 Ram was the father of Amminadab, Amminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon. 5 Salmon was the father of Boaz by Rahab, Boaz was the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse. 6 Jesse was the father of David the king.

Covenantal Blessings



❖ So after Judah the blessing followed King David!

❖ And that blessing was re-affirmed through the Davidic Covenant!

2 Samuel 7:11-17 (God made a covenant with David)

The LORD also declares to you [David] that the LORD will make a house for you. 12 When your days are complete and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your descendant after you, who will come forth from you, and I will establish his kingdom. 13 He shall build a house for My name, and **I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever.** 14 I will be a father to him and he will be a son to Me; when he commits iniquity, I will correct him with the rod of men and the strokes of the sons of men, 15 but My lovingkindness shall not depart from him, as I took it away from Saul, whom I removed from before you. 16 **Your house and your kingdom shall endure before Me forever; your throne shall be established forever.** 17 In accordance with all these words and all this vision, so Nathan spoke to David.

Covenantal Blessings



- ❖ So after Judah the blessing followed King David!
- ❖ And that blessing was re-affirmed through the Davidic Covenant!
- ❖ Thus, the blessing followed Abrahamic Covenant → Davidic Covenant

- ❖ But what about the Mosaic Covenant?
 - ❖ Came in between Abrahamic and Davidic Covenant?
- ❖ IMPORTANT NOTE: The Abrahamic Covenant and David Covenant only came with a promised blessing – no cursing (for disobedience)!
- ❖ Whereas, the Mosaic Covenant came with both a blessing and curse (for disobedience)...

Covenantal Blessings



Deuteronomy 11:26-28

26 "See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse: 27 the blessing, if you listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, which I am commanding you today; 28 and the curse, if you do not listen to the commandments of the LORD your God, but turn aside from the way which I am commanding you today, by following other gods which you have not known.

- ❖ As we learned in our Daniel series, because of their disobedience they did not receive blessing but a curse
 - ❖ i.e. Assyrian/Babylonian captivity
- ❖ WE GOT TO GET THIS: The promised blessing did NOT follow the Mosaic Law!
- ❖ This is what Paul taught time and time again...

Covenantal Blessings



Romans 3:19-20

19 Now we know that whatever the Law says, it speaks to those who are under the Law, so that every mouth may be closed and all the world may become accountable to God; 20 because **by the works of the Law no flesh will be justified** in His sight; for through the Law comes the knowledge of sin.

- ❖ The promised blessing in the Abrahamic Covenant did NOT pass to the Torah!
- ❖ The blessing in the Torah was concerning the covenant the people of Israel agreed to enter into with their God; and if they obeyed, they'd be blessed; if they disobeyed, they'd be cursed
- ❖ The purpose of the Law was NOT to give blessing (justification) but be a guardian
- ❖ In fact, Paul too made the distinction with the blessing promised to Abraham vs. the Law...

Covenantal Blessings



Galatians 3:23-29 (context is the intent of the Law)

23 But before faith came, we (the Jews) were kept in custody under the law, being shut up to the faith which was later to be revealed. 24 Therefore the Law has become our tutor (paidagōgos; children teacher/instructor) to lead us to Christ, so that we may be justified by faith. 25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor. 26 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. 27 For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you belong to Christ, **then you are Abraham's descendants, heirs according to promise.**

- ❖ POINT BEING: Believers are children of God not because of our obedience to the Law, but through faith in Jesus Christ!
- ❖ The promised blessing in the Abrahamic Covenant is tied to FAITH in JESUS!

Covenantal Blessings



- ❖ CASE IN POINT: The promised blessing in the Abrahamic Covenant did not transfer to the Mosaic Law
- ❖ The blessing followed the Abrahamic Covenant → David Covenant
- ❖ The blessing followed Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → Judah → David
- ❖ And that blessing was re-affirmed through the Davidic Covenant!
- ❖ Thus, the blessing followed Abrahamic Covenant → Davidic Covenant
 - ❖ Not the Mosaic Covenant
- ❖ There is no promised blessing (salvation) in the Mosaic Covenant!
 - ❖ In fact, Jesus instituted a New Covenant during the Last Supper!
- ❖ The promised blessing is by FAITH
- ❖ Where did the promised blessing follow after David?

Covenantal Blessings



- ❖ You guessed it.... To JESUS CHRIST!
- ❖ How do we know that?
- ❖ Follow the genealogies in Mt 1 and Lk 3
 - ❖ Yes the boring part of Scripture!
- ❖ If you follow the genealogies, the promised blessing went from:
 - ❖ Abraham → Isaac → Jacob → Judah → David → Jesus!
- ❖ Which means, the promised blessing is in the 1st and 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ!
- ❖ We are blessed (happy) when we reflect on Jesus's 1st coming and look forward in FAITH to His glorious return to earth!

- ❖ Anything else this blessing is tied to?... Luke tells us...

Exposit Rev 1:3



Luke 11:27-28 (Jesus casted out a demon; crowd alleged it was by Beelzebul)

27 While Jesus was saying these things, one of the women in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, “Blessed is the womb that bore You and the breasts at which You nursed.” 28 But He said, “On the contrary, blessed (makarios; happy) are those who hear the word of God and observe it.”

❖ The blessing is connected to hearing the Word and observing it (*phulassō*, which means to guard, watch over)

❖ TRUTH & APPLICATION: “BLESSED IS HE”

❖ The Bible is the promised blessing and the blessings (our happiness) comes to fruition when we study, guard, protect and BELIEVE what it says!

❖ When we believe and accept Jesus 1st and 2nd comings!

Exposit Rev 1:3



SIDE NOTE on verse 3

- ❖ Just my opinion, but if you were to ask I think v.3 should be in red:
"3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near."
- ❖ Why? Jesus said the same thing in Rev 22:7 And behold, I am coming quickly.
Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book
- ❖ So if I were part of that committee I would have advocated for v.3 to be in red
- ❖ Not critical, but more of a technical observation
- ❖ Now let's pull v1-3 together from the Catarroja Amplified version...

Revelation 1:1-3



Revelation 1:1-3 (Catarroja Amplified)

1 The unveiling of Jesus Christ to His slaves, saints, and the rest of the world, which God the Father gave Jesus to show Jesus's slaves (apostles, prophets, and saints), the times and epochs determined by God the Father, including end time events, which must soon take place according to God's timetable; and Jesus sent and communicated this message by His angel to Jesus's slave John, 2 the angel testified on behalf of Jesus who testified on behalf of God the Father to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that the angel saw he delivered to John. 3 **BLESSED IS HE** who reads, studies, guards, protects and **BELIEVES** the words of the prophecy of this book; for the time is near according to God's timetable to receive all of the promised blessings in Scripture.