

Revelation 1:4-8

REVIEW...

- Author – John and Jesus...
 - God gave the MESSAGE to Jesus – who SENT it by an ANGEL – who delivered it to JOHN...
 - John received this REVELATION – through what he SAW and HEARD!
- Audience - the SEVEN churches...
 - **Revelation 1:11** – “Write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia...”
 - The BOOK was written to the SEVEN churches in the Roman province of Asia Minor [Turkey]
- Purpose – Revelation of Jesus...
 - REVELATION - the APOCALYPSE - meaning to UNCOVER something that was HIDDEN...
 - This BOOK is meant to UNCOVER or REVEAL to us – Jesus Christ!
- Outline - THREE sections...
 - PAST - John wrote the things he HAD seen – vision of Jesus – **Revelation 1**
 - PRESENT - John wrote the things which ARE – the SEVEN churches – **Revelation 2-3**
 - FUTURE - the final section - are the things which will take place AFTER this – **Revelation 4-22**

THE GRACE OF GOD...

- 1ST – WHO GETS GRACE... VS. 4
 - 1st – Seven Churches...
 - John - to the seven churches which are in Asia!
 - As we begin the REVELATION of Jesus – we open up with GRACE!
 - I love that a BOOK known for the WRATH and JUDGEMENT of God – opens with GRACE...
 - Because God does NOT want to JUDGE us – He wants to give us GRACE – **II Peter 3:9**
 - Judgment ONLY comes to those who do NOT receive the GRACE of God...
 - But NOTE – this GRACE is given to – the SEVEN churches!
 - SEVEN...
 - SEVEN – used 54x in REVELATION - is a number we will see a LOT in this book...
 - We will see SEVEN: Churches – Spirits – Lampstands – Stars – Seals – Trumpets – Bowls...
 - Horns - Eyes – Angels – Thunders – Heads – Crowns – Plagues – Mountains – Kings!
 - In the Bible the number SEVEN – is used to represent COMPLETION...
 - God created the world in SIX days – and He rested on the SEVENTH day – **Genesis 2:2**
 - Because the WORK was COMPLETE – nothing else needed to be done!
 - Therefore the use of the number SEVEN in REVELATION means something COMPLETE...
 - The SEVEN churches – is not taking about one particular CHURCH...
 - It is referring to the COMPLETE church – the BODY of Christ – **I Corinthians 12:12**
 - CHURCHES...
 - CHURCH [ἐκκλησία] - those who have been CALLED OUT – of the world...
 - GRACE is not for those who live for this life – for who still belong to this world...

- GRACE is for those who have heard Jesus CALL – and have followed Him!
- **John 10:27** – “My sheep hear My voice - and I know them - and they follow Me.”

o 2nd - Grace brings Peace...

- Grace to you and peace!
 - GRACE [χάρις] - 156x in NT [important] – but that is GRACE...
 - GRACE simply means GIFT – what GIFT does God give to us – SALVATION...
 - By FAITH we believe that Jesus died for us – and God GIVES us GRACE – **Ephesians 2:8-9**
 - The idea of GRACE being we cannot pay for it - we cannot earn it - we do not deserve it...
 - Grace is FREE to us - but it cost Jesus everything - it was paid for in the blood of Jesus...
 - We earned the right to go to hell through our SIN – we DESERVE to be judged...
 - But God gave us the incredible GIFT of His righteousness so we could go to heaven...
 - By FAITH [key] we can receive the GIFT [grace] – and become part of His CHURCH!
- Peace with God [εἰρήνη] – 92x in NT - to STOP fighting – no more WAR...
 - This is NOT peace from GOD – this is PEACE with God...
 - Before we received His GRACE – we were at WAR with God...
 - We lived in certain expectation of Gods wrath and judgment...
 - There was no PEACE in our lives - only the fear of death and punishment - **Hebrews 10:27**
 - When we receive His GRACE - the free GIFT of salvation - we have PEACE with God...
 - We have true PEACE - resting in the knowledge we are forgiven!
 - **Ephesians 2:14** – “[Jesus] Himself is our peace.”

● 2ND – WHO GIVES GRACE... vs. 4-5

o 1st – Father... vs. 4

- From Him who is and who was and who is to come!
- We are given a description of the ONE who gives us GRACE...
- But the ONE – is broken up into THREE persons – the TRINITY...
- FIRST – we are told GRACE comes from the FATHER – who is ETERNAL – **I Timothy 1:17**
- The one who WAS [past] and IS [present] and is to COME [future]!
- When we say ETERNAL – that does not mean God has an UNLIMITED amount of time...
- It means that God CREATED time – He is OUTSIDE of TIME...
- The Father who give us GRACE – is the ONE who sees the END from the BEGINNING!
- **Isaiah 46:9-10** – “I am God - and there is none [יֵשׁ] like Me... declaring the end from the beginning - and from ancient times things that are not yet done.”

o 2nd – Spirit... vs. 4

- From the seven Spirits who are before His throne!
 - SECOND – we are told GRACE comes from the SEVEN Spirits...
 - This has caused some confusion – WHO are the SEVEN Spirit referring to...
 - It is worth noting - the word THE [GPN] is before the word SPIRITS [GPN] – THE Spirits...
 - Emphasizing we are talking about THE Holy Spirit...
 - But WHY then are there SEVEN Spirits - there are TWO views as to WHAT this means!

- The GIFTS of the SPIRIT...
 - There is only ONE Holy Spirit – **I Corinthians 12:11**
 - But He gives MANY gifts to CHURCH - the SEVENFOLD [perfect] ministry of THE Spirit...
 - They are given by GRACE [gift] to allow the CHURCH to serve effectively!
 - **Ephesians 4:12** – “For the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry - for the edifying of the body of Christ.”
 - The same GRACE that gave us the GIFT of SALVATION through Jesus...
 - Also by FAITH gives us GRACE – so we have the WORK of the Spirit to LIVE for Jesus...
 - That GRACE is available to ALL believers – all we have to do is ask – **Luke 11:13**
 - The COMPLETE Spirit...
 - The SECOND view – is that the number SEVEN - represent the COMPLETE Spirit...
 - Who is described as being in the PRESENCE [before] – of the THRONE of the Father...
 - The SPIRIT who is the THIRD person of the Godhead – the TRINITY!
- o 3rd – Son... vs. 5
- From Jesus Christ - the faithful witness!
 - THIRD – we are told GRACE comes from the Jesus Christ...
 - Jesus is His NAME – [יהושע] – Yahweh Shua – God is Salvation...
 - Christ is His TITLE – [Χριστός] or [מָשִׁיחַ] – to anoint – to call with a purpose...
 - Jesus was CALLED [Χριστός] – to be THE [ὁ] faithful witness!
 - If there is an ACCIDENT – the police look for a FAITHFUL witness...
 - Someone who can be TRUSTED to tell them what happened!
 - Jesus is THE faithful witness – who came to tell us how we can get GRACE!
 - The firstborn from the dead!
 - Jesus was CRUCIFIED for us – He died to PAY the price of SIN – **Romans 6:23**
 - But Jesus did not stay DEAD – on the THIRD day He was RISEN – **Mark 16:6**
 - FIRSTBORN [πρωτότοκος] – Jesus was the FIRST one to be RESURRECTED from the dead...
 - It is true Jesus was NOT the FIRST to be RESURRECTED...
 - The widows son – **I Kings 17:23** – Lazarus – **John 11:44** – Tabitha – **Acts 9:40**
 - But Jesus was the FIRST to be RESURRECTED – who will NEVER die again!
 - **I Corinthians 15:20** – “Christ is risen from the dead - and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.”
 - The Bible uses the word - fallen ASLEEP - to describe the death of a BELIEVER...
 - Because for us it is NOT the end - we have the HOPE of eternal life to come...
 - Jesus was the FIRST to be resurrected - but all who have GRACE will FOLLOW His example!
 - EVERYONE will live forever - our spirits are eternal...
 - The question we are left to answer - is WHERE will we spend our eternity...
 - Our decision is LIMITED to our time here on earth - **Hebrews 9:27**
 - The moment we DIE our fate is sealed - there is NO purgatory – NO second chances...
 - Either we have received GRACE from Jesus - and have the hope of eternity with God...
 - Or we have rejected the Gospel – sentencing ourselves to an eternity separate from Him!
 - The ruler over the kings of the earth!

- Jesus is the RULER [ἄρχων] - over ALL other kings on this earth...
- But the rulers of this world do NOT want Jesus to RULE over them...
- And they will gather together to try and STOP Jesus from RULING!
- **Psalm 2:2** – “The kings of the earth prepare for battle... against the LORD and [the Messiah]!”
- The Antichrist will gather his army to the Valley of Megiddo - **Revelation 19:11-21**
- But God is NOT worried – in fact He LAUGHS at them and says!
- **Psalm 2:6** – “I have set My King on My holy hill of Zion!”
- Men do NOT want the LORD – they want to be free from the rule of God...
- The bad news for rebellious men – Jesus will rule the world from Jerusalem...
- He will be the KING of kings and the LORD of lords – **Revelation 19:16**
- With one word he will defeat the Antichrist and his army – **II Thessalonians 2:8**
- Then Jesus will establish His Millennial Kingdom - **Revelation 20:1-4**
- To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood!
 - Jesus is our WITNESS to GRACE – through His RESURRECTION – and His RULE...
 - But the most powerful WITNESS He gives us – is THE [ὁ] LOVE [ἀγαπάω] He gives to us...
 - How do we KNOW Jesus LOVES us – because He WASHED us from our SINS!
 - Hallel likes to play HARD – and the result is her clothes can get really DIRTY...
 - Jen has to really SCRUB – to get out some of the more suborn STAINS...
 - But the REALLY difficult ones – take something special – BLEACH!
 - We are STAINED – our SINS are SPOTS that cannot be removed...
 - No matter how HARD we may try – how much we SCRUB – they stubbornly remain...
 - The only thing that will take away our SINS – is the BLOOD [bleach] of Jesus...
 - GRACE – means God LOVED us so much – He was willing to DIE to CLEANSE us!
 - **John 15:13** – “Greater love has no one than this - than to lay down ones life for his friends.”

● 3RD – RESULTS OF GRACE... vs. 6

o 1st – Work of ART... vs. 6

- [Jesus] has made us!
 - The FIRST result of GRACE – we BECOME something new...
 - BECOME c – is the same root word used to describe the results of GRACE in...
 - **Ephesians 2:10** – “We are His workmanship [ποίημα] - created in Christ Jesus for good works!”
 - GRACE is how God WORKS in our lives - to create [passive] in us GOOD works...
 - GOOD [ἀγαθός] – one of TWO words in the NT translated as GOOD...
 - It emphasizes the MORAL – or internal GOODNESS of the heart...
 - Meaning by GRACE – God changed us on the INSIDE – to be GOOD!
- A POEM...
 - If we want to show someone how much we love them - we write a POEM!
 - We are the POEM God wrote by GRACE - to show His great Love for us...
 - The story of how God took a sinner like us - and made us saints!
- A MASTERPIECE...
 - Canvas and paint are nothing special - until the painter makes it a work of art...
 - A lump of clay is nothing - until it come into the skillful hand of the potter!
 - **Isaiah 64:8** - “You are our Father. We are the clay - and You our potter - and all we are the

work of Your hand.”

- We are just a lump of DIRT- a BLANK canvas - that God desires to make us His masterpiece...
- It is not something that happens in a moment – the day we are SAVED...
- It is a process of growing in Jesus – being TRANSFORMED by His GRACE...
- He desires for us to GROW - following the His example – so we can BECOME:

o 2nd – Kings and Priests... vs. 6

▪ Kings... to His God and Father!

- By GRACE – we are transformed from PAUPERS into KINGS...
- KINGS [βασιλεύς] – someone who will RULE – a leader of the people...
- There are TWO thoughts on what this could mean – how we are [aorist] KINGS...
- FIRST – by GRACE Jesus make us into LEADERS – so we can LEAD people to Jesus...
- Our EXAMPLE – our changed lives – help LEAD others to the GRACE of God!
- SECOND – by GRACE will one day RULE and REIGN beside Jesus – **I Corinthians 6:2**
- We will RULE with Jesus when He returns to establish His MILLENNIAL kingdom!
- **Revelation 5:10** – “[You] have made us kings and priests to our God. And we shall reign on the earth.”

▪ Priests... to His God and Father!

- There are THREE priestly lines defined in the Bible...
- LEVITICAL – which represents the Jewish priesthood...
- MELCHIZEDEK – which is the Priesthood of Jesus – **Hebrews 7:1**
- ROYAL – to belong to the KING - which is for you and me – **I Peter 2:9**
- The purpose of the priest was to be a mediator – a BRIDGE between God and man...
- God has called us to be His PRIESTS – represent Him to a lost world!

o 3rd – Glory and power... vs. 6

▪ To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen!

- The FINAL result – is the different EFFECT GRACE has believers and unbelievers...
- GLORY [δόξα] – comes from believers who are SAVED by His GRACE...
- Because we are no longer destined for WRATH – because of His LOVE – we have PEACE...
- We have been TRANSFORMED – we are now His WORKMANSHIP...
- And that is plenty of reason to give Him GLORY – to PRAISE our God!

▪ POWER...

- POWER [κράτος] – is what God displays to unbelievers who reject His GRACE...
- There is a common teaching today that says that HELL does not exist...
- The HORROR of being eternally separated with no hope of escape – is too much to accept...
- The common view is either that BAD people just cease to exist – annihilationism...
- Or that there is some sort of penance – purgatory – that gives them a SECOND chance!
- But HELL is very real – the New Testament references it 40 times...
- It is called Hades [ᾗδης] – 11 times – Gehenna [γέεννα] – 12 times
- Outer darkness - 3 times [Matthew] - the furnace of fire – 2 times [Matthew]
- Lake of Fire – 5 times [Revelation] – Weeping and gnashing of teeth – 7 times [Matthew]

- And those who turn their backs on Jesus – will face His WRATH...
- Because God has the POWER to make them bow their KNEE to Jesus – **Romans 14:11**
- Before they are cast into HELL – FOREVER and EVER – **Matthew 25:30**
- AMEN [אמן] – this is the TRUTH!

● 4TH – THE URGENCY OF GRACE... vs. 7-8

o 1st – Jesus is coming... vs. 7

- Behold!
 - The FINAL thing we are given – is the URGENCY to receive the GRACE of God...
 - BEHOLD [imperative] – from the root word [עִיֵּדוּ] – to SEE and UNDERSTAND!
 - We are commanded to LOOK into the GRACE of God – and understand...
 - That we do NOT have a lot of TIME left – because Jesus is coming!
- He is coming with clouds - and every eye will see Him!
 - Speaking of the SECOND coming of Jesus – when He comes to CONQUER...
 - He will ride out of HEAVEN – to come and establish His KINGDOM – **Revelation 19:16**
 - This might have been a difficult thing for John to comprehend...
 - How could EVERY [πᾶς] eye – EVERY person on earth - see Jesus return...
 - But it is NOT hard to understand today – NEWS channels – SOCIAL media!
- Even they who pierced Him!
 - PIERCED – 2x in NT – also used at the crucifixion of Jesus - **John 19:37**
 - When Jesus was crucified – we are told it was in fulfillment of PROPHECY...
 - **Zechariah 12:10** – “[The LORD] will pour on the house of David [Israel] and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of GRACE... then they will look on Me whom they pierced.”
 - After the SEVEN years of tribulation - when Jesus comes riding out of the CLOUDS...
 - The Jews will SEE the LORD [יהוה] – whom they crucified [pierced]
 - And realize the LORD is Jesus - their Messiah – and receive His GRACE!
 - **Romans 11:26** – “And so all Israel [who survive the Tribulation] will be saved.”
- And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so - Amen!
 - ALL [πᾶς] NATIONS [φύλαι] of the earth will also SEE Jesus when He RETURNS...
 - But unlike the JEWS – who will BELIEVE – and receive GRACE...
 - These nations will MOURN when they Jesus comes in the clouds...
 - MOURN [κόπτω] – to beat their chest in grief – to be CUT off...
 - Because there is no more TIME for GRACE – the JUDGEMENT has come...
 - EVEN so [ναί] – is better translated YES – and AMEN [אמן] – this is the TRUTH!
 - The POINT – is that we do not have a lot of TIME left...
 - Because BEFORE the TRIBULATION – BEFORE the SECOND coming of Jesus...
 - The CHURCH must be RAPTURED [ἁρπάζω] - **I Thessalonians 4:14-17**
 - No one KNOWS the day or hour of - only the Father in heaven - **Mark 13:32**
 - The ONLY way to be sure to avoid the WRATH of God – is to receive His GRACE today!

o 2nd – Jesus is God... vs. 8

- I am the Alpha and the Omega - the Beginning and the End - says the Lord!
 - As Jesus finishes up this introduction to the Book – that is all about GRACE...
 - He gives Himself what appears to be a NEW title – the ALPHA [Α] and OMEGA [Ω]
 - These are the FIRST and LAST letters of the GREEK alphabet...
 - But it turns out this is NOT a new title – is a VERY old one!
 - **Genesis 1:1** – “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”
 - There are TWO letters that sit untranslated next to the word GOD [אֱלֹהִים] – the [א] and the [ת]
 - They are the FIRST and LAST letter of the HEBREW alphabet!
 - **Meaning the God who CREATED all things in the beginning – is the same God will END all things...**
 - **He is the Lord [κύριος] – the ONE who always has been – and always will be in charge!**
- Who is and who was and who is to come - the Almighty!
 - The one who WAS [past] and IS [present] and is to COME [future]
 - This is the SECOND time we see this description in our passage – the ETERNAL one...
 - We have already interpreted this as being God the FATHER – **Revelation 1:4**
 - And here we add that He is the ALMIGHTY – ALL [πᾶς] POWERFUL [κράτος]
 - But the TITLE is being used here to describe Jesus – the ALPHA and OMEGA!
 - **So which one is it – who is ETERNAL one – the FATHER or the SON...**
 - **BOTH – because they are ONE – Jesus is GOD...**
 - **Who is the ETERNAL one – the FIRST and the LAST – the ALMIGHTY...**
 - **Who gives only ONE way to escape the WRATH to come – the GRACE of God!**