

Revelation

Chapter 1, Verses 1-8

Review

- Last week we began a new study
 - The Revelation to John
 - The last book of the New Testament
 - The last book of the Bible
 - Not because it is least important
 - Not because it was written last
 - But because it looks forward to the end times
 - Not the only book to do so
 - But it is the book with this as its main focus

Review

- Revelation was written:
 - By a man named John
 - Probably the “Beloved Apostle”
 - Possibly a different John
 - During First Century AD
 - Certainly during the second half of that century
 - Probably after the fall of Jerusalem
 - Possibly before the fall of Jerusalem

Review

- Why did John write Revelation?
 - As led and inspired by the Holy Spirit
 - In obedience to the Lord's command
 - To minister to the Church in his day
 - To reassure Christians
 - To admonish them not to sin
 - To encourage them to persevere

Review

- What kind of writing is it?
 - Inspired and Authoritative
 - Not narrative like the gospels and Acts
 - Presents some features of:
 - A letter (e.g. addressed to churches)
 - Apocalyptic Literature
 - Fantastic, Symbolic, Eschatological
 - Prophecy
 - It claims to be that, and is that
 - Contains both exhortation and prediction
 - From God / Christ-centered

Today's Readings

- Revelation 1:1-3
 - Prologue
 - Possibly written last
 - Gives a general summary of the whole book
 - Revelation 1:4-8
 - Salutation (Greeting to the “seven churches”)
 - Doxology (Praise to God)
- n.b. Revelation is notoriously difficult to outline

ヨハネの黙示録 1:1-3

1. イエス・キリストの黙示。この黙示は、神が、すぐにも起るべきことをその僕たちに示すためキリストに与え、そして、キリストが、御使をつかわして、僕ヨハネに伝えられたものである。
2. ヨハネは、神の言とイエス・キリストのあかしと、すなわち、自分が見たすべてのことをあかした。
3. この預言の言葉を朗読する者と、これを聞いて、その中に書かれていることを守る者たちとは、さいわいである。時が近づいているからである。

Revelation 1:1-3

1. The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,
2. who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.
3. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Revelation 1:1a

イエス・キリストの黙示。この黙示は、神が、すぐにも起るべきことをその僕たちに示すためキリストに与え、そして、キリストが、御使をつかわして、僕ヨハネに伝えられたものである。

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

- “revelation” = apocalypse
 - indicates the subject and the nature of this book
 - an unveiling of something previously hidden
- “of” Jesus Christ
 - probably means “from” (God gave it to him)
 - possibly also means “concerning” (i.e. about Jesus)

Revelation 1:1b

イエス・キリストの黙示。この黙示は、神が、すぐにも起るべきことをその僕たちに示すためキリストに与え、そして、キリストが、御使をつかわして、僕ヨハネに伝えられたものである。

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

- Jesus made this revelation known to his servant John
 - by sending his angel to John
- so that John could show it to the other servants of God
 - the prophets and/or the community of faith generally
- show what?
 - the things that must come into being soon
 - a possible reference to Daniel 2:28-29, 45

Revelation 1:2

ヨハネは、神の言とイエス・キリストのあかしと、すなわち、自分が見たすべてのことをあかした。

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

- What we will be reading, after this prolog, is John's witness to God's word and Jesus' testimony
 - Are these not one and the same?
- Including even all that he saw in his prophetic vision
 - i.e. all that had been revealed to him visually
- this divine speech and prophetic vision somehow signify to John “the things that must soon take place.”
 - Perhaps some of the same things Daniel saw earlier

Revelation 1:3

この預言の言葉を朗読する者と、これを聞いて、その中に書かれていることを守る者たちとは、さいわいである。時が近づいているからである。

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

- John's witness to the word of God, and the testimony of Christ, even to all that he has seen is ... prophecy
- It is a blessing to those who read it and a blessing to those who hear it and a blessing to those who do it

(It is interesting that blessing is associated with understanding only insofar as action is possible.)

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

この預言の言葉を朗読する者と、これを聞いて、その中に書かれていることを守る者たちとは、さいわいである。時が近づいているからである。

- The community of faith which hears and obeys this prophesy (including those who proclaim it to them) is blessed...especially... because the time is near.
- What time?
 - When the things that must take place, will take place
 - Has this time not already begun?

ヨハネの黙示録 1:4-8

4. ヨハネからアジヤにある七つの教会へ。今いまし、昔いまし、やがてきたるべきかたから、また、その御座の前にある七つの霊から、
5. また、忠実な証人、死人の中から最初に生れた者、地上の諸王の支配者であるイエス・キリストから、恵みと平安とが、あなたがたにあるように。わたしたちを愛し、その血によってわたしたちを罪から解放し、
6. わたしたちを、その父なる神のために、御国の民とし、祭司として下さったかたに、世々限りなく栄光と権力とがあるように、アアメン。

ヨハネの黙示録 1:4-8

7. 見よ、彼は、雲に乗ってこられる。すべての人の目、ことに、彼を刺しとおした者たちは、彼を仰ぎ見るであろう。また地上の諸族はみな、彼のゆえに胸を打って嘆くであろう。しかり、アアメン。
8. 今いまし、昔いまし、やがてきたるべき者、全能者にして主なる神が仰せになる、「わたしはアルパであり、オメガである」。

Revelation 1:4-8

4. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,
5. and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood
6. and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:4-8

7. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.
8. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:4a

ヨハネからアジアにある七つの教会へ。今いまし、昔いまし、やがてきたるべきかたから、また、その御座の前にある七つの霊から、

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

- Here the book assumes the standard form of the introduction of a letter
 - From John
 - To “the seven churches” in Asia
 - There were more than 7 churches in Asia
 - John does not mention some that were big and important
 - Probably these seven were representative types
 - The whole Church is expected to heed what is spoken to each

Revelation 1:4b

ヨハネからアジアにある七つの教会へ。今いまし、昔いまし、やがてきたるべきかたから、また、その御座の前にある七つの霊から、

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,

- The typical Christian blessing, “grace to you and peace” comes from:
 - “Him who is and who was and who is to come”
 - This presumably refers to God generally, since Christ is named separately in the following Verse 5
 - The seven spirits who are before his (God’s) throne
 - These may possibly represent the “fullness” of the Holy Spirit
 - Or they may be holy angels, or something else (this is uncertain)

Revelation 1:5a

また、忠実な証人、死人の中から最初に生れた者、地上の諸王の支配者であるイエス・キリストから、恵みと平安とが、あなたがたにあるように。わたしたちを愛し、その血によってわたしたちを罪から解放し、

and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

- Finally grace and peace come from Jesus Christ
 - The faithful witness (the only man obedient unto death)
 - The firstborn of the dead (resurrection)
 - The ruler of kings on earth (kingship)

The language here is reminiscent of Psalm 89:27,37

Revelation 1:5b

また、忠実な証人、死人の中から最初に生れた者、地上の諸王の支配者であるイエス・キリストから、恵みと平安とが、あなたがたにあるように。わたしたちを愛し、その血によってわたしたちを罪から解放し、

and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

- Having identified Christ as the triumphant Son of God in Power, John is moved to praise him as Lord and Savior of the Church
 - The one who loves us
 - The one who sacrificed himself to set us free from our sin

Revelation 1:6

わたしたちを、その父なる神のために、御国の民とし、祭司として下さったかたに、世々限りなく栄光と権力とがあるように、
アアメン。

and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- It is because of Christ's power and victory over Satan, Sin, and death; and because of his love in forgiving us and including us in his victory, that we are reconciled with God and, more than that, a kingdom and priests to God ("a royal priesthood") even now, in this present age.
- So we sing of Christ's glory and dominion forever.

Revelation 1:6

わたしたちを、その父なる神のために、御国の民とし、祭司として下さったかたに、世々限りなく栄光と権力とがあるように、
アアメン。

and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- How do we live as a royal priesthood even now?
 - By following in the footsteps of Christ
 - He is our pattern: our High Priest and the King of Kings
 - And he is coming back! And he is coming soon!
 - When he does our time of struggle to follow him will be over.
 - This prophesy is a reminder, a warning, and a help
 - So it is a blessing to those all who hear and obey it.

Revelation 1:7

見よ、彼は、雲に乗ってこられる。すべての人の目、ことに、彼を刺しとおした者たちは、彼を仰ぎ見るであろう。また地上の諸族はみな、彼のゆえに胸を打って嘆くであろう。しかし、アアメン。

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

- This verse combines familiar Old Testament images (Dan 7:13 and Zech. 12:10ff) such as Matthew also uses (Matthew 24:30) to describe the end times.
- Now these times are at hand, John means to say, because Jesus has already come, and Jesus is already here, and Jesus must surely come again, and soon.

Revelation 1:7

見よ、彼は、雲に乗ってこられる。すべての人の目、ことに、彼を刺しとおした者たちは、彼を仰ぎ見るであろう。また地上の諸族はみな、彼のゆえに胸を打って嘆くであろう。しかし、アアメン。

Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

- When Christ returns bodily, what must happen, is that all men will finally see him for who he is and be judged.
- The whole Bible gives testimony to this central fact.
- All of history has been and is moving forward toward this end; all of creation was first established with this end (and with this intervening history) in view.

Revelation 1:8

今いまし、昔いまし、やがてきたるべき者、全能者にして主なる神が仰せになる、「わたしはアルファであり、オメガである」。

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- This repeats what was said in Verse 4 regarding God's sovereignty over all of history, but with two additions:
 - Here God describes himself as the Alpha and the Omega, a figure of speech ("merism") which emphasizes not only that he is the beginning and the end (the first and the last) but also that he is everything in between.
 - Here God also reminds the community that he is omnipotent.
 - It is because God is all-powerful at all times that the end times must happen just as God has determined and proclaimed and revealed.

Revelation 1:8

今いまし、昔いまし、やがてきたるべき者、全能者にして主なる神が仰せになる、「わたしはアルパであり、オメガである」。

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- The prophecy we are now beginning study, the New Testament Book of Revelation, is some of what God has to say about what will happen and how we should prepare for it, and how we should persevere through it, so that all the blessings he has prepared for us will be ours.
- To ignore such prophecy is unwise.
- So let's study it carefully.