

Part II

Revelation of Jesus Christ

General Introduction

In this section we are coming across a very exciting and interesting subject - the revelation of Jesus Christ. The Greek word for revelation is "apocalypse" which means "to unveil" or to disclose. As a matter of fact, all are very curious to know about what the future holds. The disciples also wanted to know about the future, due to which they asked Jesus about it. Jesus our Lord wanted to communicate so many things to them but they were not in a matured state to contain all of them (Jn.16:12-13).

Once Jesus told the disciples, "I tell you the truth, some who are standing here will not taste death before they see the son of man coming in His Kingdom" (Matt. 16:28). After six days Jesus took three of His disciples namely Peter, James and John to a high mountain and there He was transfigured before them. "His face shone like the sun and His clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus (Matt.17:2-3) **This transfiguration** was a foreshadowing of the glorious coming of Christ in the Kingdom. Moses represented the resurrected saints and Elijah, the translated saints.

After Jesus ascended to heaven, He gave a fuller revelation to John. That is what he recorded in the Book of Revelation. John was the only apostle who was alive during the last decade of the first century. He was the Bishop of Ephesus. Meanwhile almost all the apostles died as martyrs. Domitian Caesar, the Roman Emperor of that time tried to kill John also. History says that John was put in to a caldron of boiling oil but was not harmed. Then the wrath of the Emperor was boiled and had bannished him to the island of Patmos in the Aegean Gulf between Asia and Europe.

Left alone in a horrifying rocky island with none to talk to, or get consolation from, he was in the Spirit on the Lord's day (Sunday). He heard a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write on a scroll

what you see". It was Jesus Christ talking to him! (Rev.1:11). That is how the Book of Revelation was written. This is the only prophetic book in the New Testament. Now let us take a glance of the Book.

This is the 27th and last book of the New Testament. Although it seems to be a hard nut to crack for common man, this prophetic book is more relevant and meaningful in these days than ever before. On account of the fact that it has so many symbolic expressions and figurative usages, many find it hard to understand and subsequently avoid to teach or preach from this book, which is a serious offence against the will of God. The study of this book is inevitable because

1. God did not want us to be ignorant of the future , but has meant it to reach everyone rather than remain a sealed book (Rev.22:6-7);
2. Blessedness is promised to its readers, hearers and keepers (Rev.1:3)

At the same time we should bear in mind that this is the most disgusted and dreadful book for satan because it describes his final doom in the lake of fire, after his confinement in the bottomless pit for 1000 years.(Rev.20:1-2). It is very likely that satan may bring hindrances and divert your attention from studying this book. So let us prayerfully begin to study it.

The major occurrences illustrated in Revelation (Ch.) 4:1 to 19:21 will take place during the 70th week explained in the book of Daniel (Daniel 9:24)

Bible numerology is also important here. (Re 13:18) ... Let him who has understanding calculate the number... (NKJV)

For instance 70 years, 3½ years, 42 months, 70 weeks, 1260 days, 1290 days, 1335 days, 2300 days etc. are important while studying the Book of Revelation. To avoid confusion about these numericals, let us first study the 70th week referred in the Book of Daniel.