

# **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**

**Part Three: Jesus the Coming Judge and King**

**Rev. Charles R. Biggs**

## **Introduction**

In the last study we considered the way the Book of Revelation reveals Jesus as the resurrected and Living King and the hope for all of God's people. We begin this study by considering how the Book of Revelation begins by revealing Jesus as Coming Judge and King in Revelation 1:5b-8:

**Revelation 1:5b-8: ...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. 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."**

One of the reasons why God inspires the Apostle John to write the Book of Revelation is to reveal Christ as coming Judge and King. The people of God are a missionary outpost of heaven (Phil. 3:20-21). We are seated positionally with Christ in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:6), but we live our life before a dying world here.

As a sinful people we have been redeemed from the way of life we used to live in the flesh and now we live unto God here as witnesses before this dying world (Eph. 4:21ff). As John writes in Revelation 1:5b, Jesus is the One who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood. Jesus came on his mission to save a people (Heb. 2:10ff), to lay down his life for his people, his church by shedding his blood for their sins. Jesus shed his blood and paid the penalty of death that was required of our sins. As the Apostle Paul wrote in Romans 6:23, "the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

## **...And Injustice for All?**

Wherever you turn, both Christians and non-Christians long to see justice. People made in God's image know things aren't as they should be. There is injustice all around them. The powerful get more powerful and weak continue to be oppressed. Death comes to us all but during our time here on earth many men and women sinfully abuse their privilege of living in God's world and live unrighteous lives and unjust lives. Some babies today do not even make it out of the womb because of the idol of "self-centeredness", and some babies that do make it out of the womb suffer from a drug addiction, or from parents who abuse them. We all know things aren't as they should be.

The non-Christians asks: "If your God is all loving and all powerful then why doesn't he do something about all the injustice in the world?" "Doesn't he watch the news?" "Doesn't he know that women are being raped, that racism is still a popular form of ignorance and hatred, and that human beings, in most parts of the world, are still sold for profit?" These are the questions they ask. This reveals something about all men. We long to see justice! Justice on God's terms is what the Book of Revelation reveals. However, the justice of God is not as non-Christians would like to see. It is not within their own self-centered time frame and it is directed against them- - not as the victims, but as part of the sinful problem. We don't need a Beat poet, a song by Bob Dylan, or another march in America in order for things to change, we need repentance for our sins!

The Book of Revelation reveals a picture of God's just vengeance against all those who have sinned against his holy character and have not loved, obeyed and worshiped him as they ought to have. *Revelation* makes it clear that we are a sinful people and *part of the problem of injustice* until the Holy Spirit comes into our life, resurrecting our dead, unbelieving hearts to life by his grace (Eph. 2:4-5).

Israel through the wilderness from Egypt. The cloud descended upon Mount Sinai when God gave the Law (Ex. 20). This is what is called a **Theophany**, or an appearing of God [Note: from two Greek words: Theos: God and Phaneo: to appear, thus "appearance of God, or "theophany"]. When God made an appearance it was in all his holiness and righteousness and he reveals himself to judge the world as to whether they are keeping his law. When God appears as the rider on the clouds, he appears as the Great Judge.

Also in Daniel 7:13 when Daniel speaks of the Son of Man who is to come, we learn of the imagery of the clouds. Jesus identifies himself as the Son of Man in the Gospels and even tells the court of the Sanhedrin that they will see him again *coming on the clouds*. I believe this is what John has in mind when he says in 1:7 that "every eye shall see him, even those who pierced him." Read the following Scriptures and compare:

**Daniel 7:13: I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.**

**Matthew 24:30: Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

**Matthew 26:64: Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven."**

This helps Christians in every age who are attempting to live faithfully one more day for the Judge and King to be encouraged that even though they may be persecuted now, the time will come when God will rescue them ultimately to be at his side and will judge those who committed injustice and crimes against his people in God's world. In fact, those who trust the LORD Jesus, the Righteous Judge and King, will be called up to meet him in the clouds away from His judgment that will wipe out all sin and evil (1 Thess. 4:17).

In revealing Jesus as Judge, the Christians here at the missionary outpost of this world get a view of Christ ruling in heaven. As Christians of this world, we are encouraged to see that when heaven is opened, all injustices will be made right on the Day when men will be held accountable to God's Word! Christians, although beset by difficulties and evils now, are part of a grander and greater story. The story of which we are a part is revealed in Scripture as the world that is to come when Christ comes, judges the wicked, and brings those whom he loves into his presence forever.

### **And now...the Rest of the Story**

When I was young, my father enjoyed listening to an elderly man on the ABC Radio Network named Paul Harvey who told fascinating stories. When he would come on the air he would ask a intriguing question, or tease the audience with an unknown fact that would cause our ears to perk up. Then, Mr. Harvey would say, "I'll be back after this important message to tell you the *rest of the story*." The "rest of the story" caused Dad and I to pay attention to the broadcast so that we could hear more when he returned. The Book of Revelation is like this. During our day to day difficult lives, we get caught up in our own story here on earth where all we see around us is like the Teacher in 'Ecclesiastes'. We too say "Meaningless, meaningless, all is meaningless."

Every now and then many of us have had the thought and small voice inside our heads that asks: "Is the Christian life worth it?" We think: "It seems everyone around us prospers who are evil and live their own way. It seems I never get recognized, I don't feel loved, the persecution is too difficult, and I am getting tired of pressing forward to the mark." For these thoughts during difficult and trying times there is the "rest of the story". The Book of Revelation teaches what is to come and to place our hopes continuously in Jesus being watchful, soberly awaiting his return as we are obedient and

Herman Bavinck- **The Last Things: Hope for this World and the Next.** Edited by John Bolt.

Translated by John Vriend. Published by Baker Books, 1996

G. K. Beale- **The Book of Revelation**, New International Greek Testament Commentary, Eerdmans, 1999

G. C. Berkhouwer- **The Return of Christ.** Studies in Dogmatics Series. Published by Eerdmans, 1972

Dennis Johnson- **Triumph of the Lamb: A Commentary on Revelation**, P&R, 2001

Vern S. Poythress- **The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation**, P&R, 2000

***Soli Deo Gloria!***

**[www.APlaceforTruth.org](http://www.APlaceforTruth.org)**

**Next study: Jesus the Speaking King**