

Chapter 1 – Part 1

Revelations 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

The Moral Purpose of Revelation

Revelation gives the purpose of the final victory over evil. The wicked will one day be judged, and the seed of the righteous will escape. We as God's children will escape the justice of this wonderful sustaining creator. The victory over evil has to do with the moral commandments God gave to the people of Israel. The moral purpose of the book of Revelation is for us to understand that the only way we can escape the wrath to come, is to learn to live according to God's program and according to the moral system established in the Bible so that good can ultimately triumph over evil. God is the legislator of good and evil. We can be sure that good will triumph over evil. It's like when you watch a pre-recorded program and you've already seen it. You don't worry or get nervous because you know what the outcome will be. Likewise, for us, perhaps it seems that immorality is winning over good, over what God legislated, the moral legislation in the Ten Commandments. It seems that evil is winning and that the church is suffocated and that God is not going to triumph over evil, but when we see the Word of God, we realize that God is stopping the judgments on this earth, by the power that God is administering to the believers, to his church. If the system of life continues to function on earth, it is because the church is allowing the time of grace to extend a little longer to see if other souls can be saved and freed from sin. Many think that nothing is going to happen and that everything is going to stay the same, but the bible teaches us that the triumph is coming. We already know what the end of the world is. The purpose of Revelation is to teach us to look at what awaits those who are apart from God and also to see the glories and rewards that await those who remain steadfast and faithful to the end. In the end good will triumph over evil. We study the book of Revelation to show us this redemption that He has made for us. He is preparing those who love him, those who, trusting in his coming, will serve Jesus Christ to the end because judgments will come to this earth from which the church will be delivered. This is where we see the triumph of good over evil. Let us see some reasons why we are confident and fully assured that the church of Jesus Christ will be delivered and will be taken out of this earth before the wrath of God begins to leap with judgments upon this earth.

The Church will be delivered

1 Thessalonians 5: 1-9- But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly [all who are committed to the Word of God, know well the time we are living in] *that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them [Upon them not upon us], as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape.* [This is where we really begin to visualize the triumph of good over evil]. **But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that**

this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore, let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

When the Bible says about them, it is excepting those who are saved, that is, not about us. ***1 Thessalonians 1:10 and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.*** The apostle Paul uses the expression "who has delivered us", meaning that from the moment we have been saved, God has already delivered us from the wrath to come. This expression is an expression that alludes to an evacuation from a present danger. Paul said wretched man of me who will deliver me from the body of this death. This speaks of a sudden evacuation that God is going to make from the danger that may be lurking around us. Jesus told us: let not your heart be troubled now, neither let it be afraid, believe in God, believe in Me. If there is a situation that is going to disturb us, this means that there is going to be danger in our surroundings and it will be at that moment that God is going to take us out of this earth. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and has transferred us to his kingdom. Jesus Christ will prevent the danger that is besetting us from overtaking us. ***2 Corinthians 1:10: who delivered us from so great a death, and [a]does deliver us; in whom we trust that He will still deliver us,*** He said which delivered us, and will deliver us. He is talking about the process of salvation. He has delivered us from the power of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved son and will deliver us completely from the danger around us because he has not appointed us to wrath but to obtain mercy through our Lord Jesus Christ. This wrath refers to the temporal wrath that will come upon the earth according to ***Revelation 6:16-17: and said to the mountains and rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?"*** When the day of God's wrath comes, only those will be left standing those who do not have God's protection, those who do not have salvation. We see that he delivers us from the eternal wrath that is about to fall on the world. That means that when we understand God's plan, the moral plan established by God, anyone who has this hope in Him, is purified. The way to purify our lives is to have a moral life that is acceptable and pleasing before God.

Separated from Sin

God wants us to understand the moral plan perfectly so that we learn to turn away from sin. ***John 3:36: He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.*** The awareness and understanding of God's moral laws makes us so wise that it teaches us to turn away from sin, immorality and the lifestyle we used to live. Justification came by the shedding of blood so that justified in His blood by Him we will be saved from wrath. We see in these bible passages that the focus is on the aspect of Christ's work that concerns salvation, the remission of sin. All this has to do with cleansing and purification from sin. That is why this must be understood in the sense that, thanks to salvation, to

the work of redemption of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have been delivered from the eternal wrath of God in hell. We are not expecting a great tribulation, but a transformation. That is where eternal redemption is completed. Those who are alive when Christ comes for his church, at the moment of being transformed to meet the Lord in the air, that is where the eternal redemption that we are longing for is completed. While we are on earth we are in the process of redemption and haunted because the enemy of our souls does not want us to be in the plan of salvation. **1 Peter 5:8: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.** The enemy is looking for ways to prevent us from one day experiencing the transformation of our bodies so that we may be like the body of Jesus' glory which is our eternal redemption. God protects us because He lives in us. He does not want us to be judged with the world. **Revelation 3:10-11** [Here we see that this is God's plan for us] **Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.** This revelation of Jesus Christ speaks to us finally of complete redemption in all its fullness. We have before us life and death, blessing and curse. By saying "I will keep you" is a support that shows us that the rapture of the church is before the great tribulation. By saying "I am coming soon" it means that Christ will return to deliver his church from the hour of trial or the hour when he will test all the inhabitants of the earth. God no longer does this with us because he is testing us at this time to see how much endurance we have, to be able to endure to the end. He who endures to the end will be saved. He who stands firm, let him not faint. **2 Thessalonians 2:1 Now, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, we ask you,** The Apostle Paul spoke of this time as our gathering to Him. As coming to take us out, to gather us in, to deliver us from the wrath that is to come upon this earth.

Like Him

If you have surrendered your life to Jesus Christ and consider yourself a Christian, then as a logical consequence your deeds, thoughts and heart must be more and more different from the way of life of the world. Our life has to be more and more distant from the moral style of the world or sin. The moral purpose of Revelation is that as children of God we reach the purification of our lives. Every day we move further and further away from the world. The world calls good what God calls sin. We stick to the Word of God and we see that the fashion and customs of the world affect us and separate us from God. God established and legislated a moral law in the Bible. He is the one who has the right because he is the author of that moral legislation and no one has the authority to move and take away what God has established. If I am within the environment of Christianity, my life has to be different because salvation means to be different or to be set apart from the world. **1 John 3:2-3 2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.** If we have hope in God, we purify ourselves, we separate ourselves from the corrupt system of the world. We purify ourselves because

God is a clean, holy God who does not relate to sin. When we begin to live this lifestyle it means that we begin to live in the reality of the return of Jesus Christ. When we have that reality in our life, imbued in our convictions, it makes a difference in the conduct of our daily life as a true Christian. All Christians will be like Him and there should be a growing desire in us to be like Him in the present. If you don't want to be like Him then you are not going to purify your life nor are you going to take care of your moral, spiritual life. You are not going to take care of the spiritual life you are living. **Philippians 3:12-14** *Not that I have already attained, or am already perfect; but I press on, that I may attain to that for which also I was apprehended of Christ Jesus.* [When he says "I press on" he means that he is presently desiring to be like him]. **Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.** I press on means that we do not lose heart, we keep on believing in him and we keep on purifying ourselves. What the Apostle Paul says here demands constant purification from sin. This is our responsibility as children of God. Paul uses the analogy of a runner to describe the spiritual growth of the Christian. The Christian has not yet reached the glorification that is the perfect likeness of Christ. Anyone who has hope presses forward, persevering like an athlete until he reaches the prize. Our goal is to attain the perfect likeness of Jesus Christ. When we think of this goal there begins a sense in us of dissatisfaction with our present situation. We are not satisfied and think of how much more needs to be done. We have the perfect likeness of Christ secured in us by effort and dedication and by not abandoning the race. We press onward to the prize of God's sovereign vocation. The word "press" is the Greek word for a sprinter. It has to do with his energetic, decisive, aggressive actions and that is precisely the attitude that all Christians should have. We must exert all our spiritual muscles to win the prize.

Love of neighbor

Matthew 7:22-23 *Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'* We must learn to love Jesus Christ deeply and begin to let the love of God permeate our lives. Love the work of the Lord. **1 Corinthians 13:1-3** *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.* The love of God consists in union with the body of Christ which is what makes the difference in order to achieve the love that God wants us to show in our lives. Instead of desiring ostentatious gifts, we should strive to attain the most important which is love for one another. May our love for one another grow more and more each day. Love is sacrificial, it is more interested in giving than receiving. That is what Jesus Christ did, he showed us a sacrificial love even unto

death. Let us seek to be impregnated with that love that He had for us. **Matthew 5:44** *But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you.* Are you able to forgive when someone offends you without thinking about it? The fear of God must abound in our lives. One day we will give an account of what we have done in our life. A Christian who has something against someone is lame, he cannot move forward, he cannot go on. We cannot be in this spiritual war facing Satan with roots of bitterness, we cannot be unarmed and unprotected. Everything that God gave us through the book of Revelation, has to do with moral life, which has to do with purification, with the lifestyle we live attached to the commandments of God and obeying our God at all times. That is why John begins by saying **Revelation 1:1** *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place,...* So blessed are you and happy are you who hear the word of this prophecy because the time is near.