

Bible Study # 15

1/18/22

John 21

John 21

- **John 21:9** *“When they got out on land, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish lying on it, and bread”*
 - According to John, after the resurrection, some of the disciples returned to their fishing trade
 - Most likely, they asked each other, “What are we going to do now?”
 - Then, they decided to go back to what they knew best which was fishing
 - But, they were no longer fishermen, but fishers of men and during this first attempt, they caught nothing all night
 - Suddenly, Jesus called them from the shore where He was cooking fish and bread on a “charcoal” fire

John 21 (Cont)

- **John 21:15-19** *“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Peter...Follow me”*
 - While standing by the charcoal fire, Jesus asked Peter three times if he loved Him
 - Father pointed out how we remember food from a charcoal fire from our youth
 - Here, John is reminding us how Peter denied Jesus by a charcoal fire after promising to die for Him
 - Father discussed the three Greek words for love (*Eros*, *Philia* and *Agape*) and how *Philia*, and *Agape*), interplay during this dialogue

John 21 (Cont)

- He, however, pointed out that none of the Fathers of the Church discuss this interesting use of words for love
- It may have been because the Fathers often went out of their way not to say anything negative about the disciples
- It appears that Peter remembered that he had denied Jesus three times because he was afraid of being put to death
- Jesus was reminding him that we must love one another as He has loved us (to die for us)

John 21 (Cont)

- Then Peter asked Jesus where he was going and Jesus told him that he could not follow Him at that time but would join Him later
- As we know, Peter was later followed Him by being crucified (upside down)
- Father said that after Peter denied the Lord, he wanted to love him, but did not have the power to do so
- This is because no human can love his fellow man as God loves him
- Only God can love in that manner
- But, after Pentecost the disciples had the spirit of God within them which enabled them to die for Jesus

John 21 (Cont)

- The spirit of God can lead us to do the works of God
- Father concluded by stating that this concluded the Gospel of John in a nutshell
- He then briefly discussed his discretion, *Seeing Blood and Water: A Narrative Study of John 19:34* (Which he only recommended one buy it unless we suffered from insomnia)
- Next, we will begin our study of the **Book of Revelation**

Revelation

Introduction to the Book of Revelation

- Father, once again, pointed out that since this is an overview of the New Testament, our look at the Book of Revelation will be a bit abbreviated (He took an entire semester course on it)
- He then presented a general paradigm that will allow us to jump into the Book of Revelation without drowning
- He cautioned that alarms should go off whenever we hear someone quoting from the Book of Revelation!
- He provided an anecdote from a Protestant radio station where the commentator discussed one beast coming from the sea (as the Roman Catholic Church) and another from the land (as the American government)

Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Cont)

- **Title**
- The title of the book is the Greek word *apokalypis* (Apocalypse)
- Most people think of something scary when we hear the word Apocalypse, but the word is simply Greek word for “Revelation” (to reveal, to unravel, to uncover)
- Wherever the word Apocalypse appears in the New Testament, it is translated as Revelation
- We get the title of the book from the early Christians from its first line which says, “The revelation of Jesus Christ”
- But, in the Greek, it was called the *apokalypis* so people often call it the Apocalypse

Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Cont)

- The further we get from these events of 2000 years ago, the crazier and crazier the interpretations get
- Today, based on modern Protestantism's misunderstanding of the events, the word Apocalypse has come to mean some sort of destructive event where everyone dies (not something revelatory)
- This means that the further off base the term Apocalypse gets, the stranger its meaning has become

Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Cont)

- **Authorship:**

- Internal and external evidence indicate that this book was written by the Apostle John
- Father said that if one knows the Gospel of John and his Epistles and the Synoptic gospels, he will conclude that this book was written by John

Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Cont)

- **Composition:**

- According to *Tertullian*, the apostle John was brought to *Ephesus* toward the end of his life, after having been in Rome during the persecution of *Domitian* between 81 and 96 A.D.
- Having survived being boiled in oil in *Rome*, he was later sent to work in the mines on *the Island of Patmos*
- With the death of *Domitian* he was allowed to return to *Ephesus*
- We do not know how long John was on *the isle of Patmos*, but *Irenaeus* said that it was in the last year of *Domitian's* life

Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Cont)

- During the climax of Domitian's persecutions were getting really bad for the Christians
- This helps explain why John kept talking about the persecutions ending shortly
- One year after Domitian died, the persecutions stopped and John returned to Ephesus
- Father said that when we understand this background of the Book of Revelation, it makes a lot of sense in terms of its intensity

Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Cont)

- **Literary Style:**

- The book is primarily organized as a prophetic epistle
- It was obviously a letter written to a community, but its language sounds similar to the prophetic type of literature
- The main prophetic quotations are from the prophets *Amos, Ezekiel, Daniel, Zachariah*, and some from *Isaiah*

Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Cont)

- **Symbolism:**

- **Colors:**

- Rainbow - the glory of God, covenant
 - White – purity, victory, dignity (age)
 - Black – death, tragedy
 - Purple/Scarlet – luxury, royalty, pomp, pride
 - Red – blood, violence, war

- **Numbers:**

- 3 – Trinity, totality, completion, perfection
 - 4 – University and direction NESW
 - 7 – Covenant in OT, gentiles in NT
 - 10 – Many (and multiples of 10), thousands, myriads upon myriads, means a lot
 - 12 – Israel, or the Church, the new Israel. 12 Tribes, 12 Apostles

Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Cont)

- **Literary structure:**

- Prologue (1)
- 1. Seven Letters (2-3)
- 2. Seven Seals (4-7)
- 3. Seven Trumpets (8-15)
- 4. Seven Bowls (16-18)
- 5. Victory of God (19)
- 6. Thousand Year Reign (20)
- 7. New Creation and Return to Eden (21-22:5)
- Epilogue (22:6-21)

Introduction to the Book of Revelation (Cont)

- Everyone agrees that there is a prologue and an epilogue
- There are seven parts to the Book:
 - Seven letters, seven seals, seven trumpets, and seven bowls
 - Four sets of seven followed by the victory of God, a thousand year reign, and the new creation (a seven-part structure in the body after beginning with a four-part structure of sevens)
 - Father speculated that this came from **Leviticus 26** where we see God's people falling into idolatry and sin followed by the chastisement
 - This contains a four-fold curse due to the breaking of the covenant (seven)
 - There is a great deal of debate about all of this