

Bible Study #17

2/1/22

Revelation 1 (Cont)

- **Revelation 1: 5-7** *“To him who loves us ...Even so. Amen”*
 - Kingdom of priests refers back to **Exodus 19:6** where God promised at Mount Sinai that Israel would be His holy nation
 - Father pointed out that the job of a priest (in all religions) was to pray to God for the people, offer sacrifices and praise to God and then speak the word of God to the people
 - The fact that God chose Israel as a nation of priest fulfills God’s third promise to Abraham (**Genesis 12:3**) that all of the nations will be blessed through them

Revelation 1 (Cont)

- Unfortunately, during the 400 + years in Egypt the people of Israel failed to live under their God and worshipped the pagan gods (polytheism) of Egypt
- Father pointed out that this is not about all of the nations, but the tribes of Israel
- This is all about what we looked at in **Daniel 7:13***
- Jesus riding on the clouds was going toward the Father in heaven (He was not coming to the earth)
- Father asked that since He was going to the Father, what will happen when He receives power and glory?

Revelation 1 (Cont)

- One verse later, we find that the early church Christians are being persecuted, but God will fight for them as they inherit the kingdom (once again from **Daniel 7:21-23**)
 - Here, we see the great horn of the fourth beast which was the Roman Empire which will persecute the saints of God after the Son of Man ascended to the Father
 - This meant that the persecution would end because God the Father will be fighting for His sons (the saints – early Christians), and then the kingdom will be inherited by them
 - We should remember the history of the downfall of the Roman Empire which was eventually inherited by the Christians

Revelation 1 (Cont)

- **Revelation 1:8-9** *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,...was on the island called **Patmos** on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus”*
 - As we saw earlier, this is about Jesus thus showing Him in His divine glory
 - Father said that this was very Johannine and we should highlight “share” and “tribulation”
 - This means that the tribulation already took place for it happened during the time when John was writing this book (over 2000 years ago)
 - There is no way we can say that this tribulation is something coming in the future since it has already happened
 - The idea of the tribulation and Armageddon in the future is a Protestant misinterpretation of this passage

Revelation 1 (Cont)

- **Revelation 1:10-11** *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day,... and to Laodicea”*
 - Father asked if Saint Raymond’s Parish was listed among the seven Churches?
 - Once again, he stressed that this was not written to us, but was written to the seven Churches *in Asia Minor*
 - Each church was led by a Bishop who managed all the normal parish duties (providing the sacraments and maintaining a building)
 - Unfortunately, these have been destroyed by the rise of Islam over the centuries

Revelation 1 (Cont)

- **Revelation 1:12** *“Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven lampstands”*
 - We would see lampstands in the Temple (tent of the meeting)
 - They were a part of the Law of Moses where God gave the details of where God would dwell among His people (tabernacle) and expect to be worshiped
 - These lampstands can be understood by those in the seven churches to reflect the light of Christ as the menorah shown in the tent of meeting (and the temple)