



Hunger For Truth

May 1, 2014

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HUNGER FOR TRUTH
MINISTRIES

Proverbs 7:2 – Matthew 5:6 – John 8:32 – II Timothy 3:16-17 – Hebrews 4:12
“Let us Hunger For Truth”

Please note that back issues of Hunger For Truth are viewable and printable at:
www.studytoanswer.net.

It is our desire that Hunger For Truth edifies, blesses and encourages you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you all for taking the time to read this and for your prayers for us. We greatly appreciate your comments and we praise God for each and every one of you.

In This Issue:

- **The Book of Revelation (Intro/Chapter 1)** (*See pages 1-4 of this issue*)
- **Emotions in the Bible** (**Preempted this issue**)
- **Only Jesus Saves (Surely Everyone Will Come)** (By: Glen Freeman)
- **Children for Christ (Doing God's Will)**

The Book of Revelation (Intro/Chapter 1) (Dr. Thomas Strouse)

The following is **part 1** of a study on the book of Revelation by Dr. Thomas Strouse who is Pastor of Bible Baptist Church and Theological Seminary in Cromwell, CT (www.bbc-cromwell.org). It is a syllabus written by Dr. Strouse. It is the HFT editors desire that this study helps you grasp the deep truths within this incredible book! Please look for a chapter from this syllabus posted in upcoming issues of Hunger For Truth. We trust this will be edifying and convicting as well as a blessing and encouragement to readers. Thank you for reading. We praise God for the privilege of being able to share this study with you. May God richly bless!

THE BOOK OF REVELATION: “For the Testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy”

Dr. Thomas M. Strouse

“The Unveiling of Truth”

INTRODUCTION

The Lord Jesus Christ gave His last revelation (*apocalupsis*) through the Apostle John, exiled on the isle of Patmos, to seven New Testament (NT) churches in Asia Minor, around AD 95. The book follows the divinely inspired outline of 1:19—*The things which thou hast seen* (1:9-20), *The things which are* (2-3), and *The things which shall be hereafter* (4-22). The Futuristic interpretation follows the *Johannine* outline literally, holding that chapters 4-22 are yet future, following the Rapture (I Thes. 4:13-17), while the Allegorical (figurative), Historical (history of the “church”), and Preterist (fulfilled in first century) views of interpretation are scripturally feckless. The number seven is predominate in the Book (i.e., seven stars, angels, seven-fold Spirit, seals, trumpets, vials, thunders, heads, crowns, mountains, kings, etc.), referring to the sense of completion, although in many contexts it must be understood literally. Although the revelation about the Tribulation (Rev. 4-19) is essentially chronological (Seven Seals, then Seven Trumpets, then Seven Vials), there are several chapters which are parenthetical, giving the reader explanations about simultaneous activity in heaven or summarizations. There are many parallels between the last book of the Bible and the first (Genesis). Understanding of Revelation requires a thorough knowledge of key prophetic passages such as Daniel 9:24-27, 11:36-45; Mt. 24-25; I Thes. 4-5; and II Thes. 3.

“*The things which thou hast seen*”

(Rev. 1:1-20)

CHAPTER ONE

Background

The flow of the chapter takes the reader from the Introduction (vv. 1-8), including Prologue (1:1-3) and Salutation (1:4-8), to the first main division of “*The things which thou hast seen*” (vv. 9-20).

Exposition

Rev.1:1-8

Prologue (Rev. 1:1-3)

The Father gave revelation to the Son to reveal unto His servants through John concerning the future events which the writer saw. The apostle records the first of seven beatitudes (“*blessed*”—1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; and 22:14). This blessing is for those who read, hear, and keep the book of Revelation because on the imminent return of Christ.

Salutations (Rev. 1:4-8)

John wrote to seven churches in Asia Minor from the eternal God, the One “*which is and which was, and which is to come.*” He included all three Members of the Godhead as the source of grace and peace (“*from him...from the seven Spirits...from Jesus Christ*”). He described the resurrected Jesus Christ and his redemptive work including salvation and sanctification. His return is imminent as He is the eternal God Who breaks into the realm of time.

Rev. 1:9-20

John’s Christological Vision (Rev.1:9-18)

John identified who he was, where he was, and when he received divine revelation. The One Who spoke to him, commanding him to write (cf. 1:11, 19; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 7, 14; (10:4); 14:13; 19:9; and 21:5) to seven churches, was the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. He described the Lord’s glory, His relationship to the churches, and John’s reaction.

John’s Command to Write (Rev. 1:19-20)

The Lord Jesus Christ gave John the inspired outline and content of prophecy for the seven churches, identifying the mystery of the seven stars and candlesticks.

Theological Concerns

The recipients of prophecy are the Lord’s candlesticks. Those who are not in one of the Lord’s assemblies will have limited illumination in understanding prophecy in general and the Apocalypse in specific (cf. I Tim. 3:15). For instance, Roman Catholic and Protestant commentators continually misunderstand the interpretation of Revelation (vv. 1-8). The presence of the resurrected Christ in the midst of His assemblies reminds the reader of Christ’s Great Commission (vv. 9-18; cf. Mt. 28:19-20; 18:20). Protestant theology posits the false interpretation that the seven churches represent seven ages of the “Church” (i.e., universal church) dispensation.

It is significant that John was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day (Sunday), as he received revelation for the Lord’s churches (v. 10). The expression “Son of man” harks back to Dan. 7:13 as prophecy of the Messiah. The seven stars in the Lord’s right hand are the seven pastors of the

seven respective churches, which pastors are under the control of Christ as long as they remain in submission to His words.

Textual Issues

Verse 1:5—Critical Text (CT) reads “*loosed (luo) us*” whereas the Received Text (TR) reads “*washed (louro) us.*”

Verse 1:8—CT omits “*the beginning and the ending.*”

Verse 1:18—CT reverses the TR order “*of hell and of death.*”

Summary of Chapter One

After giving his prologue and salutation, John revealed the resurrected Christ’s desire for him to write, following the aforementioned outline, by unfolding revelation about prophecy, for the Lord’s only ecclesiological institution of this age, the visible assembly of baptized believers.

Only Jesus Saves! (John 14:6)

Surely Everyone Will Come?

By: Glen Freeman

The young wife and mother of two girls received the Lord Jesus Christ as her Saviour in my last church in Central Pennsylvania. A few days later she came to me quite frustrated. This new member of God's family could not understand why all her neighbors would not receive Christ and be saved. She shared with the God's plan of salvation and invited them to come and hear her pastor preach.

We could ask the same question. Why do all men not come to the Saviour? Think of all the benefits! The born-again believer is saved from Hell, is going to Heaven, and can enjoy a Christ-centered life of service and purpose (cf. Matthew 28:19-20). The burden of sin and guilt is lifted by our sin-Bearer (cf. Isaiah 53:6). Also, we have a Saviour and Friend dwelling within for life (cf. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20). Many do not come to Christ because they have been taught all their lives the world's plan of salvation! (Like, do the best you can).

When I witness or preach I often contrast the two salvation systems by saying, "There are only two religions in the world. The first religion goes by many different names, but they all espouse the same teachings. They all teach salvation by religious rituals and good works. The other religion is Christianity, which teaches salvation by grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ!" (cf. Ephesians 1:7, 2:8-9, 1 John 5:11-13)

Why doesn't every heart receive the Lord Jesus Christ when the ear hears the Good News of the Gospel?

:) Children For Christ :)

Doing God's Will

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. 6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."

Please read the following passages on God's will for your life, and on a blank piece of paper, please write down the **boldfaced** point and the reference along with a sentence or two on how you plan to do these nine things that will help you honor God and do His perfect will for YOUR life.

1. **Trust** – Prov. 3:5-6
2. **Go To** – James 4:6-8
3. **Pray** – James 1:5
4. **Obey** – Phil. 2:12-13
5. **Live by God's principles in the Bible** – II Tim. 3:16-17
6. **What to choose** – Phil. 4:8-9
7. **Seek other believers** – Ps. 1:1-2, Prov. 12:15
8. **Choose within God's limits (Christian liberty)** – II Cor. 1:12, Gal. 5:1,13
9. **If in doubt, don't** – Rom. 14:22-23

<p>“God can do anything, but it is NOT always His will to do/give everything/all things.”</p>	<p>“God will let you have your own way, but He will win and you will lose.”</p>
<p>“Trust in God and leave your burdens to Him so that you may be a blessing to others.”</p> <hr/> <p>“There is special joy in knowing you have shared your blessings with people in need.”</p> <hr/> <p>“Before we pray 'Thy kingdom come' we need to say 'my kingdom go!'”</p> <hr/> <p>“When we die to self we gain heavenly rewards.”</p> <hr/> <p>“Jealousy that is sinful is jealousy OF someone. Jealousy that is godly is FOR someone.”</p> <hr/> <p>“The Word of God never goes contrary to the will of God and the will of God does not go contrary to His Word.”</p>	<p>Praises</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Praise God for a life that is better than we deserve <p>Prayer Requests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Job and living situation needs for Bro. Craig and Andrew • Abby Lafreniere (ALS) (Wife of Pastor John Lafreniere, church planter to Fairfield, CT) • Dr. Michael Thompson (Member of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA) (Brain cancer) • Pastor Gary Freeman (Race Street Baptist Church in Catasauqua, PA) who is battling colon cancer. • Needs of New Hope Baptist Church of Lynn, MA • Needs of Chester Baptist Church of Chester, MA • Missionary Tim Hawes (To Papua New Guinea) (Church Planting, Bible Translation, Agricultural Development) • Brother Bill Moore of Heritage Baptist Church (Health needs) • Those affected by the Typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines • The condition of this nation following the abomination that has occurred with the DOMA decision. • Needs of the body of Heritage Baptist Church • Salvation and needs of those affected by the tragedy in Boston, MA on April 15th, 2013 • Salvation of Brother Andrew Lacroix's family • Salvation of Wendy and friend Ben, Jacob, Kaitlyn, • Sybil and Bernice (Family of Craig Glickman)

Hunger For Truth is a bi-monthly e-newsletter publication edited by Craig Glickman and Andrew Lacroix who are members of Heritage Baptist Church of Norwood, MA where the Pastor is Steve Hathaway.

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Thank you for reading this. We praise God for all our dear brothers and sisters in Christ and we greatly appreciate your prayers. May each and every one of you be richly blessed as we serve our precious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

***His Servants,
 Craig Glickman Andrew Lacroix
 Prov. 3:5-6 1 Thes. 5:18***

