

A BOOK FULL OF COMFORT

By Keith Greer

Whenever the subject of religion comes up in conversation, many questions will be asked concerning the book of Revelation.

Many Christians also shy away from this great book of prophecy. Why? Some believe it too difficult to understand. This is shown to be incorrect in the very early part of the book.

"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near." {Revelation 1: 3}

If God's blessing is on those who, "read and keep the words of the things written," one must be able to understand. Why would God give blessings to man which he could never receive?

What is the main theme of the book of Revelation? From my studies I believe two things are very apparent. One, **GOD IS IN CONTROL**. Secondly, **VICTORY IS THROUGH CHRIST**. Let me explain how I arrived at my conclusions.

In chapters two and three, letters to the seven churches of Asia, the first point is clearly seen. Five of the churches He found fault and two were found faithful. How did He arrive at His conclusions? "**I KNOW THY WORKS**." God knew about each of the church's works—good or bad! We cannot fool God. "And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account." {Hebrews 4:13}

Even in the midst of intense persecution, which would only get worse for God's children, God is still in control. Rome greatly persecuted the church during this troubled period. God's message assured them that the day of reckoning was coming.

"And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, o Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth? Then a white robe was given to each of them; and it was said to them that they should rest a little while longer, until both the number of their fellow servants and their brethren, who would be killed as they were, was completed. " {Revelation 6: 10,11} When the time was fulfilled, God would bring judgment upon Rome. History tells us the truth of His promise!

"And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it." {Revelation 5:3,4}

According to verse five, the Lamb was found worthy to open the book and break the seals. "And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come

out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. " {Revelation 7: 14} How would they overcome? The "**blood of the Lamb**". The victory would be secured by the Son of God!

What are the lessons for us today to be learned from this book of prophecy? Is it about the great war between Israel and the world? The 1000 year reign of Christ on earth? The supposed rapture before the great tribulation? All these theories of men missed the teaching of this wonderful book.

No matter what the obstacles, no matter what the tribulation, and no matter who is the foe, never forget **GOD IS IN CONTROL**. Our spiritual victory in this world is also secured through the Lamb! Philippians 4:13. Sadly, the majority of the religious world has so misconceived the message of this book that this wonderful book of comfort is feared by many. What could be more comforting to the Christian than knowing these two wonderful truths? ***