

Sunday March 18th 2018
The Word of the Kingdom Conference
Session 3
'Blessed is He Who Reads.....'

1). Re 1:1 ¶ *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. 3 ¶ 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.*

The very last Book of the Bible begins by setting out its stated purpose – it is the 'Revelation of Jesus the Christ' – the disclosure, the revealing, the unveiling of the second Person of the Trinity. And this revelation had been given to Jesus by God the Father to show the Lord's servants the 'things which must shortly [quickly, speedily] take place'.

a). And encompassed in this revealing of Jesus the Christ is the unveiling of all that the Father would accomplish through and for His Son, presented through the revealing of the Son Himself, by Himself - Ro 11:36 *For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.*

b). And so, according to the scripture, once this revelation of the Son begins through the outworking of future events starting with the resurrection/rapture of the Church, the Lord Jesus Christ will be revealed quickly and speedily – in fact in just over 7 years.

c). And at the end of this short time our Lord's physical presence will be manifested in the earth. He will no longer be the subject of Man's speculation or Christian invention and imagination, but a physical, tangible, glorious presence – Re 1:7 *Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.*

2Th 1:10 when He comes, in that Day, to be glorified in His saints and to be admired among all those who believe, because our testimony among you was believed.

d). And the events that will accomplish this revelation were 'signified' by His angel to his servant John, 'who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ'.

e). This is the same John who recorded in His Gospel - Joh 1:1 ¶ *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.....14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

So then, the revelation, the unveiling of Jesus Christ will bring to completion all that is written in the Word of God concerning His purpose and His person- The Word which was made flesh in Him, the purpose of whom He is the author and finisher. And the finality of this completion of God's purpose through and for His Son is stated very clearly for us in - Re 10:1 ¶ *I saw still another mighty angel coming down from heaven, clothed with a cloud. And a rainbow was on his head, his face was like the sun, and his feet like pillars of fire. 2 He had a little book open in his hand. And he set his right foot on the sea and his left foot on the land, 3 and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars. When he cried out, seven thunders uttered their voices.....5 The angel whom I saw standing on the sea and on the land raised up his hand to heaven 6 and swore by Him who lives forever and ever, who created heaven and the things that are in it, the earth and the things that are in it, and the sea and the things that are in it, that there should be delay [Lit. 'Time' not delay] no longer, 7 but in the days of the sounding of the seventh angel, when he is about to sound, the mystery of God would be finished, as He declared to His servants the prophets.*

The sounding of the 7th angel refers to the sounding of the last of 7 trumpets that are blown within the opening of the 7th seal on the 7-sealed scroll. And we can see from our verses that at the sounding of this 7th trumpet, 'the mystery of God would be finished' and that there should be 'time no longer' in relation to the 6000 years of Man's Day and the 75 days seen in Daniel Chapter 12. And the nature of this 'mystery' is also given to us in -

Col 2:1 ¶ *For I want you to know what a great conflict I have for you and those in Laodicea, and for as many as have not seen my face in the flesh, 2 that their hearts may be encouraged, being knit together in love, and attaining to all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the knowledge of the mystery of God, both of the Father and of Christ, 3 in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*

And so, the mystery of God is finished through the revealing of the Son. In the revealing of the Son is the revealing of the Father - Joh 14:9 *Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"*

f) And we also see that all that surrounds the mystery of God, both the Father and the Son, had already been declared to God's servants the prophets Am 3:7 *Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.*

g). And then the result of the sounding of the 7th trumpet is seen in – Re 11:15 *Then the seventh angel sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"*

And again, through the pouring out of the 7th bowl - Re 16:17 ¶ *Then the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"*

'It is done' – the same verb tense used for the Lord's statement on the cross, 'It is finished'. This is not just another intervention by God into the affairs of Man it is the final intervention.

h). At this moment then the revelation of Jesus the Christ will be complete with the King of kings and the Lord of lords being preeminent in the heavens and preeminent in the earth, just as the scriptures testify – Man's day will be completed, and the Lord's Day will be manifest in the earth – Christ will rule from the heavens with His Wife and from the throne of David in Jerusalem with Israel and the 'Lord's prayer' will be answered - Mt 6:10 *Your kingdom come. Your will be done On earth as it is in heaven.*

i). It would not be difficult then to realize that the promise we read in the opening verses of the Revelation, *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*, cannot relate solely to the Book of the Revelation, but to all scripture as it is in scripture as a whole that the revelation of the Christ has been declared, both His person and His work - Lu 24:44 *Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me."*

j). The Book of the Revelation cannot be understood apart from the rest of scripture and the rest of scripture sees its fulfillment brought to pass in the events recorded in the Book of the Revelation through the revelation of God's Son. Neither can be separated one from the other.

2). So, seeing that blessing is involved for those who read and those who hear and keep those things which are written it would be helpful to know what that looks like.

a). Well, the reading part is pretty straight forward as the word means what it says, but to state the obvious reading requires opening the Book, and not just reading for the sake of reading, but reading with understanding, under the direction of the Holy Spirit - Joh 16:13 *"However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come."*

Following the directions given by Paul to Timothy - 2Ti 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

b). Reading the scriptures according to the way that God has given them- Isa 28:9 ¶ *"Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little."*

1Co 2:13 *These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.*

c). And then there is the clear link between reading and hearing, 'he who reads' and 'those who hear'.

d). We know from the scripture - Ro 10:17 *So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

But this takes us beyond just the ability to receive audible sounds to the ability to hear the spiritual truth contained in the Word of God as it is read and/or proclaimed, that we might have faith, believe that which God has said - Re 2:7 *"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.*

Jas 1:21 *Therefore lay aside all filthiness and overflow of wickedness, and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.*

And that which God has said, as we have already seen, concerns the Person and work of His Son – that which fills every Book of the Bible.

e). And then he who reads and those who hear are the same ones who are to 'keep those things which are written in it.' And the word 'keep', a translation of the Greek word 'tereo', means to guard from loss or injury by keeping an eye on, to take heed to.

f). This is the selfsame thing that the writer of Hebrews tells us in – Heb 2:1 ¶ *Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.*

And contains the same idea as that which he tells us later in – Heb 12:2 *looking [from this world] unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

This is why the Lord tells the Church in Philadelphia - Re 3:11 *"Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.*

And the instruction that Paul gives to Timothy - 1Ti 4:16 *Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*

2Ti 4:2 *Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.*

g). To preach the Word is to preach the Christ as He is the Word made flesh, but to preach the Christ is not to begin at Calvary, it is to begin where the revelation of the Christ began, to begin where the Lord began to reveal Himself to His disciples on the day of His resurrection so that the events of Calvary can be placed within their proper context..

3). Lu 24:25 *Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the [OT] Scriptures the things concerning Himself.*

And to begin at Moses is to begin exactly where God had Moses begin – Ge 1:1 ¶ *In [the] beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

At first glance we may wonder how the revealing of the Christ is seen in this verse? But we will remember how the scripture tells us to read the scripture from Isaiah Chapter 28 and 1 Corinthians Chapter 2 – it is to be line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little, comparing scripture with scripture.

a). And if we revisit some verses we had earlier we will see how this works - Joh 1:1 ¶ *In [the] beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 ¶ And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.*

The Gospel of John begins in the same place as Genesis, but now provides us with additional detail.

b). The Word always was and always will be God and ‘all things were made through Him’, the Word made flesh, ‘and without Him nothing was made that was made’.

c). Then in v5 we see the light shining in the darkness which takes us directly to Day 1 of the account of the restoration of the ruined creation in Genesis and if you read through the first Chapter of John’s Gospel into Chapter 2, you will find reference to ‘the next day’ repeated 4 times followed by ‘after 3 days’, taking us to the 7th Day, where Jesus performs the first of the 8 signs

upon which the Gospel of John is built, which takes place at the wedding in Cana of Galilee.

d). And of course, if we follow the days through the Genesis account we find a Man and a Woman in a marriage relationship who are to rule together in the 7th Day.

e). The Genesis account provides the picture of Christ and His Bride and John's Gospel the picture of the re-marriage of God the Father to restored Israel.

f). And in both places rulership in the 7th Day, Christ's Millennial Kingdom is in view – and rulership by the Son with respect to the earth has always been the purpose for His person and work, even in Genesis 1:1 – and this can be seen in - Col 1:15 *He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. 17 And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist.*

All things to do with rulership, visible and invisible thrones, dominions, principalities and powers were set in place through Him and for Him.

g). And the conclusion of the matter we have already seen from Revelation Chapters 10, 11 and 16 and it is stated clearly just 2 verses on from where we began today - Re 1:5 *and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and **the ruler over the kings of the earth.** To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,*

h). And all this is accomplished through 6000 years of work, following the pattern set for the restoration of the ruined creation in Genesis Chapter 1. The restoration of fallen Man and the redemption of the cursed earth, the inheritance lost in the Garden with the 1000 years of the Millennial Kingdom to follow.

i). And this is laid out through the revealing of the person and work of the Son throughout the scriptures – through the lineage of Shem, the only one of Noah's sons said to have a God, through Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and Jacob's 12 sons, the nation of Israel - Ex 4:22 *"Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD: "Israel is My son, My firstborn.*

The Christ is revealed through the types of Adam, Joseph, Isaac, Moses, David, Solomon, Melchizedek – through the animals slain in the Garden, through the

death of Abel, the ram caught in the thicket, the Passover lambs and in the Tabernacle in the wilderness to mention just a few.

His purpose, to be worked out through Israel is seen in the types of Noah's flood, the destruction of Nimrod's kingdom, the battle of the kings, the destruction of the cities of the plain, the overthrow of Egypt in the Red Sea, the destruction of Jericho, the destruction of Nebuchadnezzar's image, the 3 in the fiery furnace, Jonah in the belly of the great fish – again to mention just a few.

They are found throughout the pages of the prophets and the Psalms with the Book of Esther devoted to that very thing.

j). And then the work and purpose of the Jewish Messiah with regards to the Church is seen through Adam and the Woman, Isaac and Rebecca, Ruth and Boaz, the Samaritan woman at the well, Joseph and Asenath, Moses and Zipporah and then throughout the pages of the NT epistles.

k). And for both Israel and the Church all is heading in the same direction for the same purpose - Ge 1:26 ¶ *Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion.....*

Re 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready." 8 And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. 9 Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."

Joh 2:1 ¶ On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Ge 25:1 ¶ Abraham again took a wife, and her name was Keturah. 2 And she bore him Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak, and Shuah.

l). And within this unveiling of the person and work of the Christ the next thing on the prophetic calendar is - 1Th 4:16 *For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.*

2Co 5:10 *For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

And as we saw as we began today it is this event, the resurrection/rapture of the Church, that marks the beginning of the revelation of Jesus Christ when all that is in the scriptures concerning His work and His purpose will be brought to completion, when all the word pictures become reality, and nothing will ever be the same again – Mic 4:1 ¶ *Now it shall come to pass in the latter days That the mountain of the LORD'S house Shall be established on the top of the mountains, And shall be exalted above the hills; And peoples shall flow to it. 2 Many nations shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, And we shall walk in His paths." For out of Zion the law shall go forth, And the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. 3 He shall judge between many peoples, And rebuke strong nations afar off; They shall beat their swords into plowshares, And their spears into pruning hooks; Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, Neither shall they learn war any more. 4 But everyone shall sit under his vine and under his fig tree, And no one shall make them afraid; For the mouth of the LORD of hosts has spoken. 5 For all people walk each in the name of his god, But we will walk in the name of the LORD our God Forever and ever.*

Re 22:16 *"I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star." 17 And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely. 18 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; 19 and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book. 20 ¶ He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all. Amen.*

So, in that Day will we have read, will we be those who have heard and those who kept? Will we be ready?