

# A Message To Whom?

*1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2 who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. 3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.*

*4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 and hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Revelation 1:1-6)*

There are a plethora of opinions that exist about the meaning of Revelation. Most of them can be ignored if we just realize that this was written as a letter with a specific audience as its first recipient.

The idea that the Book of Revelation should be used to scare the unsaved into church just does not fit with the message or the intent of the book. The wicked or unregenerate are not the intended audience. In fact, it is impossible for them to understand and be blessed by the gospel message.<sup>1</sup>

The opening verses tell us specifically for whom the message is intended. First of all, it is addressed to the *servants* of Jesus Christ. The letter is written to those who are already actively serving Jesus.

The audience is described as those that have already their sins washed away in His blood. They have already been made kings and priests. This means they are already born again.

Verse 4 also tells us that it was written to churches. There were literally seven churches in Asia that John had this letter delivered. Those outside the church did not receive this message of hope.

In conclusion, the message was to born again, servant/disciples in churches in the first century and it is to the same people today. The church is the pillar and ground of the truth.<sup>2</sup> It is only in the context of a Bible-based church that the servants of Jesus can truly begin to understand the message or Revelation or any other scripture.

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<sup>1</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:18; 2:14

<sup>2</sup> 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15