The Revelation Chronologically Arranged

Introduction

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There is no book in the whole Bible which is so highly commended for our special consideration as the book of Revelation. "Blessed is he that readeth" and "Blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book." (1:3; 22:6-20) It is the only New Testament book of prophecy and judgment. It is the most comprehensive book of all the sixty-six. Should we then neglect it, be unconcerned? Slighting it is the too common tendency of our day. Lack of heart, lukewarmness is the sure result of settling down in the very world on which God's judgments are just about to fall. "It is high time to awake out of sleep." "How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? When wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?"

"Prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place." Vain excuses are made to justify this negligence while not neglecting our own selfish interests; "for all seek their own, not the things of Jesus Christ." Such is Laodicea. Objections are made to the many strange symbols, and the disconnected arrangement of the book; also that these future events are concerning others. The fact is it is addressed to the church, "to the seven churches" (verse 4), "to the seven churches" (verse 11), and far more of it concerns the church than most realize. The Revelation is God's gift to Christ (1:1), to shew to us, the church, not to hide it from us. "Shall I hide from Abraham the thing that I do?" It is also true that in the perfect wisdom of God "It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honour of kings is to search out a matter." The diligent searcher will discover rich treasures, get insight as to just what lies ahead according to God's certainties and be weaned from the world. So this book is of great importance to the Christian.

In the first three chapters the church is on earth; in the next two and until 19:11 in heaven. The false church is seen and judged in chapters 17 and 18, followed by the marriage of the true, and then she is displayed with Christ in heavenly glory in chapter 21. Besides all this the world's most terrible judgments will be poured out upon Christendom and the Jews and the nations in the brief space of seven years, prior to our Lord's reign with the church for one thousand years, chapter 20. So, to dismiss this book as though it is not for us, displays a sad state of soul.

To See Clearly the Order of Events Is an Immense Help to Understand This Book

In the last half of chapter one is presented "the Son of man" in an entirely new character as a judge with affections restrained by a golden girdle, engaging Himself with the seven churches and their responsible representatives (the angel cannot mean a clergyman).