

# The Importance of Revelation

Sometimes we can be intimidated by Bro. Branham's teaching series because of their reputation for being so "deep." We can even dissuade ourselves from starting to read or listen to his messages because we figure we wouldn't understand anything anyhow. And then we as we survey the shelves upon shelves of sermons, we get the question, *where do I start?* Bro. Branham's purpose was never to preach deep. In fact, if you read his opening prayer to some of those messages considered deep, you'll better see his purpose.

## Purpose for this series

THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST\_ JEFF.IN ROJC 9-67 SUNDAY\_ 60-1204M

57 **Oh, may we all not just take this as a lecture**, but may we solemnly, solemnly take the warnings of the Holy Spirit and pray day and night. **Don't let nothing stop you from praying.**

58 Now, just in respects before we open the Book, I'd like for us all who can, just stand for a moment for prayer. Now, with the sincerity of your heart, breathe a word of prayer for--to God.

Lord God, the Creator of the heavens and earth, the Author of Everlasting Life, and the Giver of all good and perfect gifts, we would ask You, Lord, first to forgive us of all of our indifferences and our sins and our trespasses against Thee and against one another and our fellowman.

May this little time of coming together not only be for the edifying of our own souls, but may it be to enlighten us in such a way and inspire us till we'll go tell others. May it be a time of **rededication**, uniting with the full body of Christ and **being ready for the rapture.**

Father God, not by my own feelings, knowing that Thy servant and all other servants are insufficient for this great task... Realizing how great men gone by has took upon their hearts to try to reveal this, or to comment upon the great Revelation; then we realize that we're more than they are, insufficient. But Thou art our Sufficiency.

62 And I pray, heavenly Father, that You will do something special during this time, that the Holy Spirit will have preeminence in every heart; circumcise the lips that speak and the ears that hear. And when this is all over, and we dedicate it to You, may we walk from under the threshold of this house, saying, "It was good for us to be there; the Holy Spirit spoke to us while we were setting there. And now we are determined to do all we can while the evening Lights are shining." Grant it, Lord.

## Background to the Church Age Book

Bro. Branham ministered a series of sermons called the Revelation of Jesus Christ series in December 1960. It was later put into book form and published in December 1965 as *An Exposition of the Seven Church Ages*.

### Revelation 1:1-3

**Three persons involved in the introduction: Jesus Christ (the author), John (the scribe), and an angel (the messenger).**

**WHO: Jesus is the author of Revelation, not John, who is just the scribe.**

12-2 THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1

The scribe (not author) of this book is St. John the divine. Historians agree that he lived the last part of his life in Ephesus, though at the time of the writing of this book he was on the Isle of Patmos. It is not the life story of John, but it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ in the future church ages. In verse three it is called a prophecy and that is actually what it is.

This book is usually termed the Revelation of Saint John, but that is incorrect. It is the Revelation of Jesus Christ given to John for Christians of all ages. It is the only book in the entire Bible that is written by Jesus Himself, through personally appearing to a scribe.

## An angel is simply a messenger; it can be either an earthly or a heavenly messenger

GREEK LEXICON -- STRONG'S NUMBER 32

32 aggelos {ang'-el-os} a[ggeloß from aggello [probably derived from 71, compare 34] (to bring tidings); TDNT -- 1:74,12; n m

AV -- angel (179)

-- messenger (7) [186]

1) a messenger, envoy, one who is sent, an angel, a messenger from God

**Mark 1:2**

As it is written in the prophets, Behold, I send my **messenger [aggelos]** before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.

**James 2:25**

Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the **messengers [aggelos]**, and had sent them out another way?

The book of Revelation contains multiple earthly messengers who are called angels in the KJV. The first such earthly messenger is one sent directly to John. This messenger is referenced in Revelation 1:1 and also Revelation 22:8-9. This continues an Old Testament pattern where God speaks directly to men through other men. Significantly, it emphasizes that God will continue this pattern in the New Testament period. Revelation 2-3 contains seven messages to “angels” of churches. These angels are also earthly messengers with a word from God, even as John’s angel was an earthly messenger.

**Revelation 22:8-9**

And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

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111 Now, the 1st chapter, 1st verse, was introduced to--to John. Now, who is the writer? John--John. **It was not a revelation of John**, and we know that it wasn't, because it was the revelation of **the Lord Jesus Christ**. He was--he was chosen for a disciple. And the--the Book Itself reveals the thing, that it was Jesus Christ to Who He was revealing.

And It was sent to the--and signified this by His angel unto John. **We do not know who the angel was**. The Bible doesn't say who the angel was. **But we know that it was a prophet**, 'cause the Bible later said that "I, Jesus have sent My angel to testify of these things which must shortly come to pass."

113 Then we find out that when John started to worship the angel, the angel said, "See that you do it not." Revelations 22, I believe it is. And he said, "**For I am of Thy fellow servants and of the prophets.**" It might've been Elijah. It might've been one of the prophets. John was an apostle, but this prophet was sent. And John being an apostle... Look at the nature of the rest of his epistles; prove that it wasn't John wrote it, because it has no nature like John. Take I John and II John, so forth, and read it. And look at the nature of that, then look at the nature of this. John was a writer and was an apostle, but this is the spirit of a prophet. It's a different person altogether. See? Wasn't John's writing, wasn't John's revelation; it was God's revelation of Jesus Christ to the churches. And it had... John was just a writer, the scribe, and--and the Book declares the same.

Now, it wasn't addressed to John; **It was a--addressed to the church**. All right. John at that time was the pastor of the Ephesian church. And now, the Book is addressed to John--or to the church, not to John.

**This book is "the Revelation of Jesus Christ," NOT of John. It's about Jesus Christ, written by Jesus Christ, with John being the scribe.**

WHAT: Revelation is a book of prophecy, not history (Rev. 1:3).

**Revelation 1:3**

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.

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70 Historians agree (This is John's life.) John lived the last of his years in the city of Ephesus and died there. He was on the Isle of Patmos at the time he wrote the Book Revelation. It was not the story of his life, but the story of Christ in future ages. See, It was a prophecy. Not the life of John, not the life of Christ, but prophesying of a age to come. It was not his prophetic utterances; but the Lord's exaltations, solemnly. It was not the Revelation of Saint John the Divine, but the Revelation of Christ the Lord.

It is the last Book of the New Testament. Yet it tells the beginning and the end of the dispensation of the Gospels. Got Bible scholars agreeing...

**The letters to the seven church ages were written prophetically to the future ages.** Paul wrote of the life and glory of the seven churches present in his day. John wrote of the life and glory of the seven churches in the future, that John was addressed to the seven pastors or messengers as directly--all Christians under these seven different angels.

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105 Now, the next verse, we find in the 2nd verse... The 1st verse is unveiling Christ, the revelation or the uncovering. Oh, how the last age and the coming of the Lord was--un--was covered up to the apostles. They asked the question, but only one lived to have the revelation; and still he didn't understand it, because the history was not yet made.

Now, the history of this Book, or the--the context of this Book was directed to the seven churches in Asia Minor that then was. **It was directed to those seven churches. There were more churches than those seven at that day, but each one of those churches were significant--significant about the characteristic in that church that would follow it down through the age, the characteristic of that church. Like of Ephesus, it had a characteristic; Smyrna, Pergamos, and on down, Philadelphia, **each one of those churches had a characteristic in it that would appear again in the ages to come.****

## Why is Revelation so important?

*So what did you learn at church tonight? ... Revelation > Information!*

**Matthew 13:16, 36 → the disciples didn't always see/understand what Jesus said, but they saw that there was something to see.**

But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, *Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.*

### **Matthew 5:6**

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

*Just hungering after righteousness carries a blessing!*

### **Matthew 16:17-19**

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

### **The importance of Revelation cannot be overemphasized.**

THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1

13-3 The Greek word for revelation is "apocalypse" which means "unveiling". This unveiling is perfectly described in the example of a sculptor unveiling his work of statuary, exposing it to the onlooker. It is an uncovering, revealing what was previously hidden. Now the uncovering is not only the revelation of the Person of Christ, but it is THE REVELATION OF HIS FUTURE WORKS IN THE ONCOMING SEVEN CHURCH AGES.

13-4 The importance of revelation by the Spirit to a true believer can never be over emphasized. Revelation means more to you than perhaps you realize. Now I am not talking about this Book of Revelation and you. I am talking about ALL revelation. It is tremendously important to the church.

### **God builds His church on revelation.**

A) On Peter?

B) On Jesus?

- Yes, Jesus Christ is the foundation of the church, but Jesus is speaking to Peter and He's not saying that He would build His church on Himself. There's something deeper here. In other passages, when Peter focuses too much on saving Jesus or building a tabernacle for Jesus, Peter gets rebuked!

- Consider: even the devils believe in Jesus (James 2:17); in fact, demon-possessed people recognized both Jesus and Paul **before religious leaders ever did.**

C) No, **the church is built** on the revelation of who Jesus is.

It's by revelation that we see who God is, who we are, and *where we are.*

Example of someone lost in the woods. They have a map, but don't know how to use it. They have the tool, but it means nothing to them. This person needs revelation of what they have.

It's by revelation that we can identify where the devil is at work.

"Satan hates revelation. He don't like it at all: upsets his plans."

WMB in ROJC, 60-1204M, 149.

#### 14-4 THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1

Have you ever noticed how Satan hates two books of the Bible more than all others? Through liberal theologians and pseudo-scientists he is always attacking the Book of Genesis and the Book of Revelation. In both of these books we find Satan's origin, his awful ways and his destruction. That is why he attacks them. He hates to be exposed, and in those books he is exposed for exactly what he is. Jesus said about Satan, "He has no part in Me and I have no part in him." **The devil would like to prove that different; but he cannot, so he does all he can to destroy confidence in the Word. But when the church disbelieves Satan and believes the Spirit's revelation of the Word, the gates of hell cannot prevail against her.**

#### 30-5 THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1

If revelation is beyond you, look up and seek God for it. That is the only way you are ever going to get it. A revelation has to come from God. It never comes by human, natural endowments, but by Spiritual enduement. You can even memorize the Scripture, and though that is wonderful, that won't do it. It has to be a revelation from God. It says in the Word that no man can say that Jesus is the Christ except by the Holy Ghost. You have to receive the Holy Ghost and then, and only then, can the Spirit give you the revelation that Jesus is the Christ: God, the Anointed One.

#### 31-1 THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1

No man knows the things of God save the Spirit of God and he to whom the Spirit of God reveals them. We need to call on God for revelation more than anything else in the world. We have accepted the Bible, we have accepted the great truths of it, but it still is not real to most people because the revelation by the Spirit is not there. The Word has not been quickened. The Bible says in II Corinthians 5:21 that we have become the righteousness of God by our union with Jesus Christ. Did you get it? It says that WE ARE THE VERY RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD HIMSELF by being IN CHRIST. It says that He (Jesus) became SIN for us. It does not say He became sinful, but became SIN for us that by our union with Him we might become the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God. If we accept the fact (and we must) that He literally became SIN for us by His substitution for us, then we must also accept the fact that we by our union with Him have become the VERY RIGHTEOUSNESS of God. To reject one is to reject the other. To accept the one is to accept the other. Now we know the Bible says that. It can't be denied. But the revelation of it is missing. It is not real to the majority of God's children. It is just a good verse in the Bible. But we need to have it made ALIVE to us. That will take revelation.

#### 33-3 THE.REVELATION.OF.JESUS.CHRIST - CHURCH.AGE.BOOK CPT.1

We now come to a conclusion, such conclusion as we have already found in the Word. As much as we believe in trying to find the oldest and best manuscripts to get the best record of the Word possible, **we will never get the true meaning of it by study and comparison of Scriptures, sincere as we may be. IT WILL TAKE A REVELATION FROM GOD TO BRING IT OUT.** THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT PAUL SAID, "WHICH THINGS WE ALSO SPEAK, NOT IN WORDS WHICH MAN'S WISDOM TEACHETH, BUT WHICH THE HOLY GHOST TEACHETH." I Cor. 2:15. **The true revelation is God interpreting His own Word by vindicating what is promised.** Now don't let anyone be misled by what I have said and think that I do not believe in the accuracy of the Word as we now have it. I believe this Bible is accurate. Jesus completely authenticated the Old Testament when here on earth and it was compiled exactly as was our New Testament. Make no mistake about it, we have the infallible Word of God today and no man dares take from it or add to it. But we need the same Spirit that gave it, to teach it to us. **Oh, how we need revelation by the Spirit. We don't need a new Bible, we don't need a new translation, though some are very good, and I am not against them, BUT WE NEED THE REVELATION OF THE SPIRIT.** And thank God, we can have what we need, for God wants to reveal His Word to us by His Spirit.

## Conclusion: Joseph & Michelangelo's *Prisoners*

### Christ is the Mystery of God Revealed, para.107

He has showed or revealed it in every type that's in the Bible. Therefore, the entire Bible is the revelation of God's mystery in Christ. Hum! The entire Bible is an expression of one goal that God had, one purpose He wanted to achieve in the entire Bible. And all the acts of the--of the believers in the Bible has been in type, and expressing what God's great goal is, and now in this last day He has revealed it and shows it. And God's help, well, you'll see it right here this morning, what the Lord has had in His mind all along, and has expressed it.

Revelation makes the Word of God like an onion: peel it back, and you'll find layer upon layer of meaning.

### Joseph as a Christ type

- Joseph's brothers hated him and eventually betrayed him, just like the Jewish religious leaders hated Jesus and handed him over to the Romans.
- Both Joseph and Christ were accused falsely and unjustly convicted.
- The thieves with Joseph and Christ had parallel fates, with one being freed from condemnation and the other dying.
- Both Joseph and Christ were exalted from the unjust condemnation to the right hand of the throne.
- Both Joseph and Christ take a Gentile Bride.
- The mystery of grace being extended to the Gentiles is hidden in Joseph's life (CAB, pp.35-36).
- The restoration of 144,000 Jews is also woven into the fabric of Joseph's life.

Types and shadows bring multiple levels of meaning to Joseph's life. In Joseph's youth, there were multiple prophecies spoken over him through the dreams the Lord gave him. What it all meant, he didn't know, but he held onto the belief that they meant something. How Satan probably worked to destroy Joseph's confidence in the word spoken over him! But all that time that it seemed nothing was happening in Joseph's life, God was "trying" (testing, smelting, refining) him and revealing himself through Joseph in ways Joseph could never imagine.

Satan could keep him bound only so long ... until the time *Joseph's* word came. When God wants to give a revelation, no devil in hell can stop it.

### 28-3 THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST - CHURCH AGE BOOK CPT.1

Right up until the truth was lost (and did not return until this last age--this is from Nicaea till the turn of this century) they baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. But it has come back. **Satan can't keep the revelation down when the Spirit wants to give it.**

### Psalm 105:16-19

<sup>16</sup>Moreover he called for a famine upon the land: he brake the whole staff of bread.

<sup>17</sup>He sent a man before them, even Joseph, who was sold for a servant:

<sup>18</sup>Whose feet they hurt with fetters: he was laid in iron:

<sup>19</sup>Until the time that his word came: the word of the LORD tried him.

### Michelangelo's *Prisoners*

"I saw the angel in the marble and carved until I set him free." -Michelangelo

We look at ourselves and just see a block of marble. But God sees something in that marble, an image of Himself. And he hammers, chisels, carves, buffs, polishes us just so long until we are set free from that marble. Revelation of who Christ is and who we are sets us free.

**Closing: take the time to spend time with the Lord (I Tim. 4:12-16)**