

The Purpose and Theme of the Revelation

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Theme of Revelation — **VICTORY IN JESUS.**
- B. In light of the background presented, Revelation was to show that so great a power as Rome was doomed to be overthrown, that in the end the kingdom of God would triumph and Christ would reign supreme. Christians were called to maintain loyalty to the faith at all costs, even in the face of martyrdom.
1. **Revelation 2:10** - “Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.”
 2. How shallow some Christians are today. What a contrast!
- C. This message is particularly relevant today.
1. The call to choose the eternal rather than the temporal.
 2. The call to resist temptation.
 3. The call to refuse to compromise with pagan secularism.
 4. The call to place the claim of conscience above all the demands against it.
 5. The call to cherish the confidence of ultimate victory for the kingdom of God, not only in the reign of Domitian, but also in every other chaotic period of world history, including our present century.
- D. The book of Revelation rings with encouragement for these troubled brethren.
1. Revelation 6:9 — The souls under the altar . . . Slain . . . yet crying out.
 2. Revelation 11:3, 7 — The two witnesses, Killed, yet later raised.
 3. Revelation 20:4 — The souls of them that had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus. “They lived.”
 4. **Revelation 14:13** — “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.” Even though one might be called to die in his service to God, death does not mean defeat.
 5. Revelation 21:2, 9—10 — The eternal city indicates the ultimate triumph of the Church.
 6. The ultimate defeat of evil forces that are against the Church.
 - a. Revelation 17:14; 19:11—16 — The defeat of anti-Christian forces. The adversaries are “killed with the sword of him that sat upon the horse.”
 - b. The defeat of Satan.
 1. Revelation 12:7—12 — “The great dragon was cast down.”
 2. Revelation 20:12 — “Cast into the lake of fire and brimstone.”
 3. The defeat of Satan is complete when that takes place.
 7. The incentive for the Christian to remain faithful unto death comes when believers are given assurance that:

- a. God sees their tears. Revelation 7:17; 21:4
 - b. Their prayers rule the world. Revelation 8:3—4
 - c. Their death is precious in the sight of the Lord. Revelation 14:13; 20:4
 - d. Their ascent to heaven gives glory that far surpasses the intensity of their suffering here. Revelation 14:13; 20:4
 - e. e. Their final victory is assured. Revelation 15:2
 - f. Their blood will be avenged. Revelation 6:9; 8:3; 18:20
 - g. Christ lives, reigns, and governs the world. Revelation 5:7—8
 - h. Christ is coming again. Revelation 21 & 22
 - i. Christ has the keys to death and hades. Revelation 1:17 — 18
- E. The purpose of the book of Revelation is to assure that **SATAN AND THE WORLD CANNOT WIN, AND THAT CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH CANNOT LOOSE.**
- 1. God cannot be defeated in His purpose; neither can He fail in His work.
 - 2. Satan cannot win, no matter what!
 - 3. God's purpose in Revelation was to reveal the future history of the Church in its conflict with Satan and the world. The Lord saw the need for the information to be given...and He gave it.
 - 4. God gave the Revelation, many have not understood it, but it is not God that has failed.
 - a. Much of man's failure is due to neglect.
 - b. Christians have not made a sustained, determined study of the Revelation.
 - c. Many have studied the theories of interpretation advocated by man, but have not really studied the Book of Revelation.

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