

## A Letter to the Ages (Part 2 of Message #2)

Revelation 1: 4-8

Last week we began our study in these verses with the thought: [A Letter to the Ages](#). This letter has been preserved in the pages of God's Word through the ages of time and we have the privilege of reading this precious letter, as countless souls have before us.

We found that it involves:

**I. A Special People** ([4a](#))

**II. A Sovereign Power** ([4b-5a](#))

**III. A Special Praise** ([5b-6](#)) –

Tonight we will continue looking at this letter as we consider:

**IV. A Secure Promise** ([7-8](#)) – Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

- Many are the promises contained in the Word of God. [Ps.40:5](#) - Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered. Peter spoke of God's promises - Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.
- I have learned throughout my Christian journey that the promises of God are sure; you can have complete assurance in the Lord. Here in [vv.7-8](#), we find one of the greatest promises, the return of our blessed Lord. Now, I want to clear up any confusion you might have about the return of Christ. His return will happen in 2 events. Jesus will come in the clouds of glory to rapture His bride, the church, [I Thes.4:16-17](#); [I Cor.15:51-58](#).
- After the rapture, the period known as the Great Tribulation will begin. At the end of the 7 year tribulation, Christ will come in power to defeat the enemies of God and establish His kingdom here on earth for 1,000 years, known as the millennial reign. These verses are dealing with His 2<sup>nd</sup> coming to establish His kingdom. Jesus spoke of this in [Mat.25:31](#) - When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory. Let's look, in detail, about the return of Christ, our secure promise.

**A. His Return is Sure** ([7a](#)) – Behold, he cometh with clouds; Jesus came the 1<sup>st</sup> time as a humble babe in Bethlehem. He laid aside His glory, clothed in flesh, in order to offer Himself a sacrifice for the sins of men.

- The prophets of old had preached the coming of the Messiah. Although much of the world never acknowledged or accepted Christ, the fact remains, the Messiah did come! He completely fulfilled the work of the Father, was crucified, resurrected, and ascended. Just as in His day, there are those who doubt the coming of Christ.
- The Bible is clear about His return; **Behold, he cometh with clouds.** The word **behold** has the idea of looking and gazing at a wonderful discovery; at an unexpected surprise. Those who doubt and deny His return will one day discover that He has kept His word; He will return!
- I believe that the reference to the clouds refers to the glory that will surround Jesus. He isn't unfamiliar with this cloud of glory, known as the Shekinah glory of God! It was that Pillar of the cloud, God's glory that led the Israelites in the desert. A cloud of glory covered the mercy seat in the Holy of Holies. **Acts 1:9** reveals that He ascended back to the Father in the clouds. He will return again in power and great glory!

**B. His Return will be Seen (7b)** – **and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him:** You might ask, what does that literally mean? Every eye, every man, woman, boy, and girl on the face of the earth will behold the King as He returns! Jesus won't need CNN, Fox News, or MSNBC to provide "Breaking News"; the world will see Him as He is.

- Can you imagine the excitement and chaos that His return will create? There is a measure of sadness in this event. Now, don't get me wrong, I'm joyful about the defeat of Satan, sin, and the world system, but there is a grim reminder in this text. **Those who pierced Him will also see Him.**
- Everyone who rejected Jesus at His 1<sup>st</sup> coming will look upon the King of glory. The last time they saw Him, He hung in shame on a Roman cross, stripped of His garments. This time they'll see Him in a royal robe, the King of kings. The Man, whom they wrongly accused and crucified, will then pass judgment on them. The feet that were nailed to a tree, will now be as fine brass going forth in judgment. He won't come as the sacrificial Lamb, but the Lion of the tribe of Judah! He won't be mocked and beaten, but stand in power over all!

**C. His Return will be Sorrowful (7c)** – His return will create a time of great sorrow for the people of the earth. **All kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him.** This paints a very vivid picture. They will literally beat their breasts in grief.

- It is here that many will realize that it's too late! They have heard the gospel and rejected it for the last time. No doubt, there will be an overwhelming sensation of doom and great sorrow. The reality of their lost condition will begin to sink in. They will suddenly be faced with the reality of an eternity without Christ.
- Have you ever wondered how the men of Noah's day felt as the rain began to fall? Many were likely beating upon the ark, crying to get in, but it was too late. I'm sure there weren't any unbelievers as the waters began to rise, but the Lord had shut the door. It will too late to want in at the last day!

- This ought to challenge us to warn all we can about the wrath to come. We see the words, **Even so, Amen.** This will be a day of great sorrow, but it will come to pass. It is within God's divine plan. My prayer is, if you aren't ready, you'll get ready before it's too late!

**D. His Return will be Secure (8) – I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.** It is important to understand the divine nature of our Lord. He is God, there is no other! He doesn't seek the approval or acceptance of others concerning His will. The kings and kingdoms of this world will be helpless to prevent His return to judge this sinful world.

- He is the **Alpha and Omega.** We could say the A to Z and everything in between. He is the **beginning and the end, He which is, and was, and is to come.** Here we find the same description as the Father holds in v.4, speaking of His equality with God.
- He who created this world and set the universe in place will conclude it according to His will. Jesus, our returning Lord, is in complete control and authority. He is the Almighty.
- When we consider the divine attributes of Jesus, it is easy to see that His return is secure. There isn't one thing Satan and all the forces of hell can do to prevent His coming! The prince of this wicked world will then face defeat.

We have looked at a very serious and sobering event this evening, the second coming of Christ. The Revelation holds great joy for the believer, but it also forces us to face the reality that awaits those who have never accepted Christ in salvation. I pray that as we move through this book, we'll regain a desire to reach the lost among us. If you are here tonight unsaved, I beg you, come to Christ before it is eternally too late!