

INTRODUCTION

1. Rv is a literary masterpiece - prolog parallels epilog - end of Bible itself.
2. The God revealed in Rv - Rv 1:5b-8
3. Promised blessing [v3] - letter to church - greeting - v4-5a
  - i. 2C 13:14 - Rv 1:4-5b = Trinitarian greeting from heavenly temple: Holy of Holies [Father]; Holy Place [HS]; Sac'al altar [Jesus - Son].
  - ii. Our admission into God's temple to worship as God's saved people.
  - iii. Revelation of Triune God focuses on Christ - 1:1; 5-8

1st: Jesus Loves Us - v5b

1. Praise *to Him* - why? *He loves us!* Jesus is the revelation of the God who is love who loves [present tense] us. The exalted enthroned Christ loves us!
2. Isa 43:1-7 YHWH professes love for His people & calls us to trust Him
3. Jn 13:1-4 midst the excruciating ordeal of Jesus passion, He never stopped loving His disciples. Calvary is the manifestation of His love for us.
4. Rv 1:5 Jesus is our Prophet & King who displays His love as our Priest whose love *released us from our sins - by His blood.*
  - i. 1Jn 4:10; 1Jn 3:16a
  - ii. Jesus' current relationship w/ us is based on His having accomplished our salvation - Rm 8:31-39
5. Experience the love of the Prophet, King, & Priest. Supreme & eternal.
  - i. Love incarnate, humanized love - experienced in all our humanity.
  - ii. But do not define Jesus' love by your fluctuating experience of it.

2nd: Jesus Has Made Us Royal Priestly Sons of God - v6a

1. *He has made us* = past tense. This is who we already are as *made* by Jesus.
  - i. Isa 43:6-7; Psa 100:2-4
  - ii. Eph 2:4-6,v10 made us alive: His workmanship, created in Christ

2. *to be a kingdom* - to rule as a king in a kingdom [KJV]: royalty - Eph 2:6
  - i. AbCov: Gn 17:6 *kings shall come forth from you*
  - ii. DavCov: 2S 7:12-14 - we are sons in the Son of David - seated w/ Him
3. *priests* - offer acceptable worship in temple. Jer 33:22; 1Pt 2:9a
4. *to His God & Father* - Jn 20:17 - The Father is our Father in union w/ Jesus
5. How is Jesus profiled? Son. We are royal, priestly sons - sons of Most High. Ex 19:5-6 - *kingdom of priests - sons of Israel.* 1Ptr 2:9 *you are*
6. We must internalize biblically defined identity: sons of Most High; royal priestly sons who worship & witness. Here is why & how we overcome.
  - i. Rv 5:10 as royal priestly sons we already reign [worship & witness] in an eternal [not yet consummated] kingdom.
  - ii. We reign as we overcome the pressure of rival authorities & proclaim *Jesus is Lord!*
7. We must situate ourselves *in Christ* - more than in our present situation.

3rd: Let Us Begin Our Eternal Doxology to Jesus - v6b

1. *to Him be* [already] *the glory* - ultimate glory only God deserves: Isa 42:8
2. *& the dominion* - ability to exert power; sov'ty, control - miraculous
3. *forever & ever-* lit: into the age of the ages - superlative - Eph 2:7.
4. Rv shows us history tw/ 1st & 2nd coming - present wrath [Rm 1:18] - Lk 21:33-36. Where will we get the *strength to escape?* Strength from the risen Christ - pray what? Eph 3:14-21
  - i. *AMEN* - Rv 1:6
  - ii. So be it - a tone of finality.
5. Prolog is important - internalize what we are told about Jesus & ourselves