

We're talking Revelation [book 66 of 'the' Bible]

The Book of Revelation is *'neither apostolic nor prophetic.'* I *'can in no way detect that the Holy Spirit produced it...My spirit cannot accommodate itself to this book. For me this is reason enough not to think highly of it: Christ is neither taught nor known in it.'* Martin Luther 1520 [Luther's Works: 35:398-399]

- I. Read and wonder --- a brief summary for those who've not read it lately: Author/Date (s)/Place/Audience/Christology & Theology. Letters to 7 churches give clues. Who's Jezebel? What synagogue of Satan? YIKES: *'Lukewarm!'* On to the body (bodies?) of the work. ['Letters' from Paul to Clement to Ignatius to John of P.]
- II. Times and Seasons: Why? [Churches under duress—but what's the church? See Ignatius]
- III. On re-reading. What's your response? A. *'Jesus is coming back, and He's mad as Hell!'* Bob Hope 1969. B. To quote the 5th Dimension: *"Where is the Love?"* [it's in 1:4 & listen to Paul Manz's *'E'en so Lord Jesus, Quickly Come'*] C. What's the history this book and how DID it make it 'in'? From Ignatius to Tertullian to Origen to Eusebius to Athanasius.
- IV. Prophetic vs. Apocalyptic: It's not about 'war in heaven' [that's in the prophets too, as they attempt to explain/prophesy about Israel's current weakness (6th century B.C.) and coming redemption [see Ezekiel 32:2-4 & Isaiah 26 & 27 & Jeremiah 51:34-35]. [Egypt is Babylon in Ez!] Also, see Psalm 74:13ff [*'How long?' followed by Dragons defeated.'*]. But, read II Isaiah and then read Daniel & Revelation: With the latter 2, do you get a 'nose full' whiff of the 'midnight oil?' At the end of Isaiah, a little whiff?
- V. 'Thief in the night:' Jesus & Paul & John of Patmos & 'Vengeance is mine', in Paul and Revelation (Oh, yes, think about 'adultery in your heart' when energy and time is spent on dreaming up more vengeance scenarios for Jesus & the angels to wreak).
- VI. WHY IS REVELATION SO POPULAR IN THE U.S.? The roots of American religion from 'City on a Hill' to Salem to 7th Day to Darby to Civil War to Revivals to KKK to Father Coughlin to McCarthy & 'Creeping Socialism to 1948 Israel (!) Posse Comitatus to 7th day crazies to... [you fill in more and expand and explain, if you can]

"In a word, our holiness is in heaven, where Christ is; and not in the world, before men's eyes, like goods in the marketplace. Therefore, let there be offenses, divisions, heresies, and faults; let them do what they can! If only the word of the gospel remains pure among us, and we love and cherish it, we shall not doubt that Christ is with us, even when things are at their worst. As we see here in Revelation, that through and beyond all plagues, beasts, and evil angels, Christ is nonetheless with his saints, and wins the final victory." Luther 1530 (LW 35:411)

Now for *'the'* Bookend: I Corinthians 13:8-13.