



Revelation Chap. 1:4 (pt.1)

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The Point

Made by Dr. Luther Ray Smith Jr.

Blessed, in the context of Revelation, is a positional word not an action word (you “*is*” blessed).

The word “*ble^ss*” used in the Scriptures is used in terms of speech towards another.

Blessed or *ble^ss* is **not** used for the actions of Christians to God or to other Christians.

Blessed in terms of the sermon on the mount is the conduct/attitude the Jews should have to enter into the KOG.

The Point

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Blessed has nothing to do with feeling or emotion (i.e., happy).

Blessed has nothing to do with what you do (your deeds).
One does not receive blessings by actions

Blessed has everything to do with God's word (speaking and following).

To ***bless*** another is to speak favorably concerning God's word about them (c.f., Rom. 12:14).

Blessed (makarios) is an *adjective*. It is a descriptor, not an *verb* (action). The description of one who is blessed comes not from an act alone (if this is the case we can call unbelievers who do acts like this “blessed”) but includes the doctrine that are associated to the action! Furthermore, one does not do acts to “be” blessed. The actions come out of one who “is” blessed.

The word *eulogeo* is a verb, and it has everything to do with speech. This term is technical concerning how one speaks about God or others. This is not talking about general speech (i.e., “they were a good person” or “that hairstyle looks lovely!”) This is associated with with His word, not our works toward one another. A *eulogeo* comes from the perspective of proper doctrine.

Rev. 1:4 NASB

John to the seven churches that are in
Asia: Grace to you and peace, from
Him who is and who was and who is
to come, and from the seven Spirits
who are before His throne...

Observations

“...John to the seven churches that are in Asia...”

It is here that we observe the audience of the John's book. It is the seven churches.

Question

What seven churches?

These Seven Churches Are Found In Chaps. 2-3

Chapter Two

Ephesus (2:1-7)

Smyrna (2:8-11)

Pergamum (2:12-17)

Thyatira (2:18-29)

Chapter Three

Sardis (3:1-6)

Philadelphia (3:7-13)

Laodicea (3:14-22)

Observations

“...John to the seven churches that are in Asia..”

It is here that we observe the audience of the John's book. It is the seven churches.

Two Questions

What seven churches?

Why these seven churches?



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Facts About Asia Minor

Asia Minor was known for the Wonders of The World.
One of them was the Temple of Artemis (c.f., Rev. 2:1-7)



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Facts About Asia Minor

Asia Minor was known for the Wonders of The World. One of them was the Temple of Artemis (c.f., Rev. 2:1-7)

This region has significant people in world history.

These churches are located in cities that are found in large metropolitan areas and main trade routes.

Coinage may have been birthed and developed here.

Facts About Asia Minor

During the time of the Roman Empire roads were developed and technology at the time was advancing.

Something To Note...

Even though the audience were these specific churches, these may have been specifically chosen because of the strategic placement of these cities to spread this letter all over the known world at the time!

Another Question

What does John, address specifically to the Seven Churches ?

Answer: This will be addressed when we get to chapter two.

Rev. 1:4 NASB

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne...

Observations

“...Him who is and who was and who is to come...”

Question

Who is this talking about?

Something To Note...

We find this statement in the New Testament in three places.

Rev. 1:4 (?)

Rev. 1:9 (Jesus Christ?)

Rev. 4:8 (?)

Rev. 1:4 NASB

John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne...

The same qualities that are found in this verse are found in **Rev. 4:1-8**

A religious painting depicting a prophet, likely John the Apostle, sitting on a rocky shore. He is wearing a brown robe and is writing in a book with a quill. To his left, a black eagle is perched on a rock. In the background, there are large, rugged rocks and a dark sea. In the sky, a figure in a purple robe is seen standing on a cloud, surrounded by a bright, golden light. The overall scene is dramatic and atmospheric.

Turn To Rev. 4:1-8

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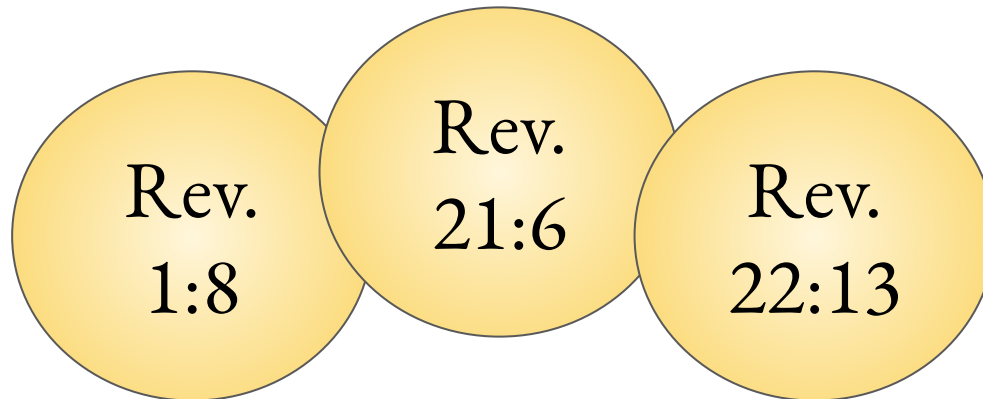
Detail Comparison In Two Verses

Rev. Chap. 1:4	Rev. 4:1-9
A throne (v.4)	A throne (v.2)
Seven Spirits (v.4)	Seven Spirits (v.5)
“Is, was, to come” (v.4)	“Is, was, to come” (v.8)

A closer look at Rev. 1:8

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God,
“who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

This phrase is found in three places



The Point

The one that is described in Rev. 1:4 based upon internal evidence is God the Father.

To Sum Up...

We have observed the seven churches in Asia Minor.

We have looked at some of the aspects of Asia Minor in relation to the audience.

We have looked at one of the Persons of the Godhead (spec. God the Father).



Next Up
**SEVEN SPIRITS
OF GOD**

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