

The Revelation to St. John

The Prologue: Revelation 1:1-8

“For the church, wind-swept and storm-tossed on the waves of history in which evil and Satanic powers are, apparently, the powers which prevail, **there is only one voice that can speak assuring and empowering comfort: the voice of her Lord.**” –Martin Franzmann, *The Revelation to John: A Commentary*, p.30

Understanding the Text

Read Revelation 1:1-3.

1. The title of the book is found in verse 1. What is the significance of the term “revelation”?

2. In verse 2, the words “bore witness” and “testimony” are both from the same Greek word, *martyria* (μαρτυρία). What is the significance of this term?

3. Verse 3 is the first of seven beatitudes in Revelation. What blessing is given here?

Read Revelation 1:4-6.

4. How is our Triune God revealed in verses 4 and 5?

5. How does the doxology in verses 5 and 6 direct us to praise Jesus Christ?

Read Revelation 1:7-8.

6. How is Jesus’ return described in verse 7?

7. What is the Old Testament background of God’s words about Himself in verse 8?

Applying the Text

God's Word comes to us through means.

1. How should we expect to hear God's Word to us? (vv.1-2)

2. What is the importance of hearing and reading God's Word for our Christian faith? (v.3)

God's Word is certain above all else.

3. What is the certainty we have for our lives from God's Word? (vv.4-5, 8)

God's Word intersects and engages our lives.

4. How does the proclamation about Christ draw forth repentance and faith? (v.7)

5. What is our response to all that the Triune God has done for us? (v.6)