A Most Important First Verse

Revelation 1:1

Most people don't notice it. They skip right past it, rushing into beasts and battles and bowls of wrath. But the very first verse of the Book of Revelation might be the single most important line in the whole book.

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his **servants what must soon take place.**

There it is. Clear as day. This book wasn't written for the world. It wasn't written for the curious. It wasn't written for headline watchers or doomsday predictors. It was written for the servants of Jesus Christ. And it was written to show them what must take place. That changes everything.

If we let that one verse speak, it reframes the entire book. Revelation isn't a code to crack. It isn't a horror story. It's not a puzzle piece that fits into a picture of end times doom. It is a gift, an unveiling of Jesus Christ, given to His servants so they can understand what's coming and how to endure it.

We've misunderstood Revelation because we've misread its opening. We've been trained to fear it. We were handed interpretations soaked in dread. Look out for the Beast. Get ready for the Mark. Don't miss the Rapture. Tribulation is coming, and it's going to be unbearable. We were taught to approach Revelation like a nightmare.

But the book itself tells us from the start: this is not a nightmare. This is a revelation.

The Greek word apokalypsis means unveiling. Not terror. Not confusion. God is pulling back the curtain, not to frighten His people, but to strengthen them. He is showing His servants how to remain faithful when the world is on fire.

From the beginning, Revelation tells the truth. The future will include trials and hardship. There will be beasts and opposition. There will be injustice and persecution. But that is not the heart of the message.

The servants of God overcome.

They don't escape. They don't bypass suffering. They walk through it. They remain faithful. They endure. They follow the Lamb wherever He goes. And because they follow the Lamb, they triumph.

Revelation is not a rapture manual. It is a resistance letter. It's not written to help the church flee, but to help the church stand.

And that message could not be more needed today.

We live in a time of instability. Political unrest. Economic strain. Religious confusion. Cultural division. Some of what Revelation describes may very well unfold in our world. But the point is not to panic. The point is not to assume defeat. The point is not that God will abandon us when things get hard.

The message is that we will overcome.

Revelation gives us courage, not an escape clause. It gives us the Lamb, not a way out. It teaches us how to endure, not how to avoid hardship through speculation or fear. And the tragedy is that many missed this. We were too embedded in fear to see it.

But it was there. Right at the beginning.

The Lamb is not in the background. He is at the center of Revelation. Standing in the center of the throne. Leading His people. Fighting not with violence, but with truth. Dwelling with His people in the New Jerusalem. Yes, the Beast rises. Yes, deception spreads. Yes, judgment comes. But the Lamb remains. And those who follow Him remain as well.

The Lamb opens the scroll. He reveals what must take place. Not to terrify His servants, but to prepare them and give them strength.

If we had started with verse one, we would have seen this. We would have known the book is a testimony to Jesus' faithfulness, not a horror story about the future. We would have read it as comfort for suffering, not a playbook for prediction. We would have known this was about the Lamb not about the Beast.

But we didn't start there.

We started with fear. With charts. With headlines. With speculation. And because of that, we missed the opening voice, the whisper of Jesus saying, this is for you, My servant. Do not be afraid. I'm going to show you what's coming. Not to scare you. But to ready you. Because you will overcome.

This is not a new message. Jesus said it long before John's vision: In this world you will have trouble. But take heart. I have overcome the world.

And Revelation echoes that truth. They overcame by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony.

Let Revelation 1:1 call you back. Let the first verse be your lens. This is a letter to the faithful. This is a gift for endurance. This is a revelation from Jesus Christ Himself. And it was written for you.

Blessings,

Pastor Gool