

Wednesday in the Word
Digging Deeper
March 30, 2022
Want the Good News or the Bad?

Revelation 1:4-8 KJVS

[4] John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; [5] And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, [6] And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. [7] Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. [8] I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Someone has said, "All my friends make me happy. Some, when they come, some, when they leave" Admit it you feel the same way. We, as Christians and representatives of the Lord develop friendships within the family of God, most of which are dear and close and pure blessing, but some...well, you know. We learn grace as we interact with so many different people and, God bless us all, we pray they will show grace with us. We can be difficult at times. On the flip side of all this, there are folks we just love. Any time. All the time. And folks we would avoid at all cost. Admit this as well. You've been in the market and noticed that certain someone in the aisle you plan to traverse. Backstroke! You swing around and go down the next aisle. For whatever reason, some people just seem to rub us the wrong way. Some are drawn to this person, some withdraw. It might not be due to the character of the other. It could well be due to our own. As John salutes the seven churches in tonight's passage, he makes mention of one of those personalities. Someone so popular as to attract great positive attention but also fully repulsive to others. The mere mention of His Name brings excitement and joy to many, disdain to others. John offers grace and peace from the throne of God. Many people will grit their teeth and stay silent when you say "God bless you". Pure confusion results from the mention of the Spirit of God. Raise the Name of Jesus Christ and you've crossed the line. While we believers love, honor and revere our Savior and glorify His description in verses 5 and 6, we downright bubble with joy at the thought of His Appearing in verse 7. This word 'cometh' is the Greek, *erchomai*, which is according to Thayer; to come from one place to another, and used both of persons arriving and of those returning. To appear, make one's appearance, come before the public; One place to another! Heaven to earth! Arriving and returning! As promised! Matthew 24:27, Luke 21:27-28, John 14:1-3. This same wonderful arrival of the Lord brings a very different reaction from the unsaved world. By the way, begin to understand the term 'unsaved' can be read 'rejecting'. Unbelieving people fall into two camps. One group will get saved. The other refuses to. Verse 7, for all its thrill, Jesus coming in the clouds, goes on to say every eye will see Him. A Light that bright cannot be missed or misunderstood. The verse descends a bit. "And they also which pierced Him". Being directly responsible for killing the Lord of Glory and then seeing Him return in the clouds, with a mighty army no less, can be quite unsettling. Think

about this though. Who put Jesus on the cross? You did. I did. We did. We are responsible because we are sinners. Romans 3:23, 1 John 2:2. Back to verse 7. The whole earth will wail because of Him! Wail; kop'-to; to "chop"; specifically to beat the breast in grief: Why? Like an old highway billboard said, "Jesus is coming again and this time He won't be happy" Praise God, believers will be caught up to spend eternity with Him but the rejecting world will suffer greatly when He returns. Revelation 19:11-16. Jesus, our Creator and our God, the Alpha and Omega, lives outside of time but is fully in control of our times. We would do well to walk down His aisle. Is He your good news or is He your bad news?