

**“But the stone that struck the statue became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.”**

**-- Daniel 2:35**



Lads from (mostly) Great Falls  
“Rockin’ it” from the top of an outcrop  
The men’s Peaks 2024  
Delmoe Reservoir east of Butte, MT

**“But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven; for He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”**

***Matthew 5:44,45***

*Win one more in 2024 - "...he who is wise wins souls" - Proverbs 11:30*

## August 4, 2024

### Christ's Church

Meeting at

30 Red Fox Lane — Bozeman

2902 17th St. S. — Great Falls

Holiday Inn Express — Butte

**BOZEMAN - 8:45 - Corban Icenogle**

9:00 am - classes

10:00 am - Assembly

St'dship - Charlie Brown

L.S. - Joe Shanahan

Preaching - Luke Wilson

**L.D. EVENING 7:00 PM -**

**\* GROUPS STUDY - PHILIPPIANS**

L.S. - Su Nguyen

**GREAT FALLS - 2:45 - Stan Zech**

3:00 pm - classes

4:00 pm - Assembly

St'dship - Caleb Wilson

L.S. - Nathan Zech

Preaching - Jay Wilson

**BUTTE - 7:30 pm - Class**

8:15 pm - Assembly

L.S. - Jay Wilson

Preaching - Jay Wilson

#### Bozeman

#### Butte

**August 18 - Fellowship dinner - 6:30 pm**



**BOZEMAN -**

**Wed. night, 7:00 pm:**

*Jerry Hoffman*

#### Annual Picnic in the Park

**- Lord's Day evening -**

**Aug. 4th**

**GREAT FALLS -**

**Wed. night, 7:00 pm:**

*Jay Wilson*

#### Great Falls

**Aug. 4 - Fellowship dinner following assembly at Elk's Riverside Park. "Sandwiches and sides"**

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Family Camp** - Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2024. Theme: "The Call of the Apocalypse" -- selected themes from Revelation



**Question of the week:**

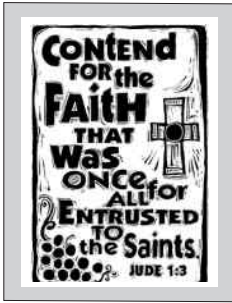
In the book of Romans, as Paul discussed how mercy came to both Jews and Gentiles, he had a general statement about that mercy. What was it?

Last week's question: In the days of Rehoboam, king of Judah following the death of Solomon, Shishak king of Egypt came up and took the treasures of the house of the Lord and of the palace, and to some degree enslaved the people of Judah. Why did this happen?? *Answer: "You have forsaken Me, so I have also forsaken you to Shishak" (2 Chronicles 12:5).*

**ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:**

Bible School – 82  
 Morning Assembly – 122  
 Evening Assembly – 69

Wednesday Night (7/31) – 61  
 Butte Lord's Day – 16  
 GF Lord's Day – 59,82 Wed. - 55



Reasonings from Revelation

## Introductory Comments

"The Revelation is comparatively easy to understand," says *Cliff's Notes* on the New Testament, a summary for college kids who do not want to read and process the scriptures for themselves. "In many respects, it is the least original of any of the New Testament writings" (*Cliff's Notes* on Revelation). The individual who wrote those comments is positioning himself as one who looks at the scripture as uninspired, and views Revelation as another piece of writing to be placed somewhere in the stack of what has piled up throughout history. Revelation is not easy to understand, as witnessed by the amazing variation of interpretations of this closing book of the New Testament and the Bible. God wrote the apocalypse through the apostle John, and the goal of the saint should

be to understand what it was that God meant to communicate. These "reasonings from Revelation" will be presented through the following lenses:

- **The word of God** – The first proposition in examining this and indeed all scriptures is that the entire Bible is inspired. The core of the proposition is stated by the apostle Peter concerning prophetic utterances, which can then be extended to all scriptures. "But know this first of all," asserted the apostle, "that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God" (2 Peter 1:20,21).
- **No contradictions** – If man wrote the scriptures, they would be full of contradictions and errors. The proposition, however, that God is the ultimate author necessitates the corollary that there are no contradictions in its contents; if apparent contradictions occur, the problem is in the mind of the one seeing scripture as contradictory, and more understanding or information is the cure.
- **Plain statement of fact** – There are very straightforward statements in the Bible which can be used as a basis for understanding statements which require more effort to process. Immersion in water in Jesus' name, for example, is clearly for forgiveness of sins or to wash away sins (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16). Any system of thought being used to "interpret" scripture which will not accept that fact is going to be skewed and unreliable. Those plain statements, then, can be used to process scripture that is another layer deeper.
- **Proving key definitions** – The next step is to prove the meaning of key terms or definitions. Using Colossians 1:13,14 as a basis for establishing that the kingdom of Christ or kingdom of heaven is another name for the church is one example.
- **Literary devices** – God is the original author of languages, both before and following Babel. Since all languages use literary devices, such as similes, metaphors, personification, hyperbole, and parables, it is not surprising that God's word uses all of those as well. Having plain statements of fact and key definitions in place makes it possible to process the literary devices used in scripture. Jesus, for example, spoke in parables (often about the kingdom of heaven or the kingdom of God), and interpreted two of them to give His students a basis for interpreting the others. Recognizing a literary device is often critical to a correct understanding of the point being made.
- **Understanding the Old Testament** – The apostle Peter pointed out that the prophets in the Old Testament writings, as they spoke of the sufferings of the Christ and the glories to follow, did not understand what they wrote (1 Peter 1:10-12). The old covenant writings must be viewed through the eyes of the new covenant inspired writers; otherwise, the meaning is misunderstood or twisted.

Once those things are in place, a rational study of the Apocalypse of John, the capstone of the entire revelation of scripture, can begin. Skipping over any of those steps will result in a viewing of Revelation that has completely gone off into the stratosphere somewhere. Example: if a person thinks that God's goal is to establish an earthly kingdom for Jesus here on earth in the future, his approach to Revelation is fatally flawed.

In the words of the Voice to John, "Come up here..." (Revelation 4:1)

Those things  
must be in  
place!

JAY WILSON