

Mon., Dec. 5, 2011

The Rev. Dr. James Durlleser '78/'80, Adjunct Faculty in Biblical Languages

Scripture

Revelation 1:1-8

1The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place; he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, 2who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

3Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

4John 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, 5and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, 6and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen.

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

Devotional

"Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him" (Rev 1:7a).

As we read Revelation 1:7, we can imagine John pointing to the sky and exhorting us, "Look! Look! He is coming! He is coming with the clouds!" (See also Daniel 7:13; Mark 13:26; 14:62.) Sometimes, though, our only response is, "Where? Where? I don't see him."

It isn't always easy to look and see the Messiah's coming. Sometimes the busyness of the Advent season makes it difficult to look and see the Messiah's coming. Sometimes it is difficult to see the Messiah's coming when the hopelessness, hatred, sadness, and conflict in the world threaten to extinguish the Advent candles of hope, love, joy, and peace that should be burning brightly in our lives. Sometimes we are so beaten down that it is hard to look up and see the Messiah coming with the clouds.

In the coming days of Advent, may God help us as a seminary community to truly, "Look! [For] He is coming with the clouds."

Prayer

Gracious God of hope, love, joy, and peace, in the coming days of Advent, may we be able to look and truly see the coming of the Messiah. Amen.