① DOXOLOGY - PRAYER OF PRAISE

v.5 TO Him who ...
loved us and washed us
KJV, NKJV. — Follow the T.R.
loves us and freed us ...
ESV, NASB, NIV, NASV, NET, NET

- some manuscripts read: ἀγαπῶντι ἡμᾶς καὶ λούσαντι ἡμᾶς (loved us and washed us)
- most manuscript evidence reads: ἀγαπῶντι ἡμᾶς καὶ λύσαντι ἡμᾶς (loves us and FREED us)

λουσαντί: washed
λυσαντί: FREED

- most scholars go w/ λυσαντί/FREED because:
1) more manuscripts read this way
2) Freed fits better w/ O.T. imagery (Moses, sacrifices, etc)
3) Freed fits much better w/ the next verse (v.6) regarding the role of a King and Priest
- they have the power to "FREE" people from their sins/crimes
- OR to hold them accountable

★ This relates to the Great Comm. Found in Gospel of John:
"If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven, if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" John 19:23

★ Christ's death frees us from the power of sin AND we now can bring Life to others

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water" Jn 7:37-38

- This sayings in John will come up again at the end of Revelation
"I will give the Fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts..." 21:6
"The Spirit and the Bride say, "Come!" (ἔρχομαι)
And let him who hears say, "Come!" (ἔρχομαι)
And let him who thirsts come, ἔρχομαι whoever who desires, let him take of the water of life freely" Rev. 22:17

- As we will see, the Believer has become priests & Kings in the Kingdom
- Jesus has done this by

v.5 loving us & Freeing (washing) us from our sins by (in) His own blood
Freeing by His blood... OR
Washing in His blood
- The Blood/death of Jesus has Freed us to live as Kings & priests
- Blood here speaks of Jesus' death

★ This idea/teaching/imagery of Freeing us will be brought up later...
"They (the believers) sang a new song: You are worthy to take the scroll and open its seals, For You were slain and have redeemed (bought back, freed) us to God by Your blood..." Rev. 5:9

② BELIEVERS ARE MADE KINGS AND PRIESTS

v.6 and has made us Kings & priests
- NOTICE the past tense/completed act
- Does not say Jesus will one day in the future make us Kings/priests
- BUT NOW, already completed "by His blood/Death"

★ NOT only does John say this, but Peter as well:
"You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ" 1 Pt. 2:5

"But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy Nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light." 1 Pt. 2:9

- There can be absolutely NO doubt that the believers (church) - made up of Jew and Gentile, men and women; - have taken the place & role of the Nation of Israel and the priesthood as well

- Look at the words God uses to the Israelites & priests:
"Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and Keep My Covenant, then you shall be a special Treasure to Me above all people. And you shall be to Me a Kingdom of priests and a holy Nation..." These words are to the children of Israel Ex. 19:5-6

★ We now learn, in the N.T. both Peter and John apply these
- Titles: special people/Treasure
a holy nation
a Kingdom of Priests

★ NOW apply to the church!
- the role of the Nation
- the role of Kings like David
- the role of Priests like Aaron
- the role of prophets like Isaiah

★ ARE NOW Fulfilled by the church
- The spiritual/heavenly Jerusalem has fallen to Earth (Gal. 4, Heb 12)
"The bondwomen Hagar and free woman are symbolic. These are two covenants: one from mount Sanai which is Hagar and represents bondage and speaks of Jerusalem which is now, but the Jerusalem from above is free, which is the mother (both) of us all (Christians)" Gal. 4:24-26
- actually goes on quoting Is 54:1 as now being Fulfilled
"Rejoice O barren ... the desolate will have many more children than she who has a husband"
"You have not come to the mountain that can be touched and burned w/ fire ... that even made Moses tremble. But you have come to mount Zion and to the city (the church) of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, ... to the General assembly and Church of the Firstborn (πρωτοτόκος) ... Heb 12:18-23

- Jerusalem → NOW the heavenly Jerusalem
- Nation → NOW a spiritual, holy nation
- Priesthood → NOW of the believer
- Special people → NOW the Christian
- Kings & Kingdom → Now belong to, & are, the church

★ The church now FUNCTIONS as the TRUE ISRAEL
- Physical Nation, Kingdom, land, weapons, citizenship, sacrifices →
- NOW spiritual Nation, weapons, citizenship, sacrifices, Kingdom, etc

- Remember, the "Kingdom" came out of the Roman empire Era (Dan. 2)
- The Kingdom was "at hand" - John the Baptist and Jesus proclaimed (Mark 1:15)
- The Kingdom does not come w/ observation, but w/in you (Luke 17:21)
- John says he is a companion, fellow partaker in the tribulation & the Kingdom (Rev 1:9)

★ Also, worth noting... v.6 reads made us Kings and priests - only in KJV and NKJV
★ IN all other versions v.6 Reads: He has made us a Kingdom of priests to his God... ESV, NASB, NIV, NRSV, NLT, NET, LEB → which would match Ex. 19:6 exactly!
βασιλείαν: Kingdom
★ KJV, NKJV use TR which reads βασιλεῖς: King, Ruler
- Doesn't change the overall meaning as Kings can't rule unless there is a Kingdom
- The term Royal priesthood in 1 Pt. 2 combines both offices nicely

★ Some Christians argue this is a future role of the church
- however, scriptural evidence seems to conclude it is present tense (Jerusalem has fallen from above, He has made us Kings and priests, You have come to mount Zion, etc)

v.6 TO His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen
- Christ has made us Kings & priests to serve & do service to God the Father
- the believers will be called "servants" many times through the book
- No injustice to the Deity of the Messiah. Messiah = God (Zech. 12:10)
- God receiving the glory, means He alone is worthy of the praise throughout all of time

③ HE IS COMING W/ THE CLOUDS

v.7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds
- This phrase of "coming w/ the clouds"
- Speaks of power/enthronement
"I was watching in the night visions and behold, One like the Son of Man coming w/ the clouds of heaven. He came to the Ancient of Days and they brought Him near to Him. Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a Kingdom. That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away and His Kingdom is the one which shall never be destroyed" Dan. 7:13-14
- The application of this text to Jesus is hugely significant
- This shows that Jesus is the Fulfillment of the Messianic Kingdom
- Secondly, "coming w/ the clouds" speaks of Godly Judgment
Is. 19:1 and Matt 24:30 Both speak of a Judgment Day
- described as "coming w/ the clouds"
"Behold, the LORD rides on a swift and will come to Egypt" Is. 19:1
"Immediately after the tribulation of those days, the sun will be darkened and the moon will not give its light, the stars will fall from heaven and the powers of heaven will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven and all the tribes of the earth will mourn (Zech. 12, Rev 1:7) and they will see the Son of Man coming (ἔρχομαι) on the clouds of heaven w/ power and great glory." Matt 24:29-30

★ This was Jesus' answer to the apostles question of when "not one stone of the Temple shall be left here upon the other, that shall not be thrown down" Matt 24:2

- So, this phrase "coming w/ the clouds" was used to describe:
- Judgment against Egypt (Is. 19:1)
- Judgment against Israel (Matt 24:30)
- So, how should one interpret this "coming w/ the clouds"?

① The Preterist: this was a spiritual coming of Judgment to a God forsaken Nation - Israel (Just like how God spoke to Egypt... even calling Jerusalem as Egypt in 11:8)
- This has been fulfilled and done

② The Futurist: This is a literal description of a future event and is called "The Second Coming"
- scripture never mentions a "second coming", but this event will be the second physical coming
- He will set up His Kingdom - Pre mill.
- He will conclude the Kingdom - Post mill.

③ The spiritualist: This phrase explains how God deals w/ ALL nations... culminating in a physical "Final" coming of Judgment
- nations that honor God will survive
- God will "come w/ the clouds" to destroy God forsaken nations
- This has happened throughout the church age and is described through the book of Revelation

★ There are also conditional comings: (even to the churches) "Repent or else I will come (ἔρχομαι) to you quickly and fight against you w/ the sword of My mouth" Rev. 2:16 (Pergamos)
"Remember from where you have fallen. Repent and do your first works or else I will come to you (Ephesus) and remove your lampstand (church) from it place - unless you repent" Rev. 2:5

★ This world will end w/ a FINAL Physical coming of Judgment

The verse goes on to quote Zech. 12

v.7 every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even So, amen
- The Doxology ends quoting Zech.
- which envisions everyone seeing God's judgment
- For rejecting the "pierced One"
- and then mourning because of Him
- This was, in context, prophesied to the Nation of Israel
- The Preterist will focus on that
- The futurist will say it applies to a future mourning of the world (Gentiles)
- The Spiritualist will say it speaks of both (Jews) and all (Gentiles) nations in between

★ John quotes Zech. 12:10 to the Gentile soldiers who pierced Him
- In essence, all have "pierced" Jesus because of our sins

v.8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, says the Lord (Κύριος), who is, who was, and who is to come (ἔρχομαι) the Almighty.
- some versions believe this is coming from Jesus - words in Red
- Some believe it is God the Father
- The 3 fold title is applied to God the Father in v.4
BUT
- The Doxology is clearly to Jesus

★ In context, especially using Zech. 12:10, the passage has God and the Messiah as one of the same!
- God/Jesus is the Alpha & Omega, the beginning of all things and their end... and everything in between
- THE ALMIGHTY
παντοκράτωρ (pantokrator): omnipotent, Ruler over all, Almighty