



Grain

“If your dreams do not scare you, they are not big enough.”
Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Nobel Peace Prize winner and former
president of Liberia
Submitted by Vernita Kennen, Roseville, MN

Field

4 John 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, 5 and 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, 6 and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Look! 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. Revelation 1:4b-8

Thoughts

In high school, I had a friend whose mother and father were convinced the world was going to end soon. He believed his parents, and so directed a few of us to the Book of Revelation to prove that the end was indeed near. All the signs of who would precipitate the end and when it would happen were supposed to be right in front of us. He claimed that the beast was the Soviet Union, and that was before Russia interfered with our elections. It soon became apparent that throughout history there had been many wrong predictions of the world's end. I wondered about writing a book entitled, Whoops, Wrong Date, but that half serious dream faded into the background - feel free to steal the idea.

Revelation, like other books of the Bible, was preoccupied with the crises of the day. Roman ruthlessness was the challenge for early Christians. In the midst of being part of a church suffering under persecution, the author of Revelation and many others remained steadfast in their faith; they dreamed big. They dreamed of a world in which Jesus' power of love would be more fully revealed. Christians kept their hope alive in the present through the promise of God's love and their resistance to a narrative of oppression. They dared to hold Christ up as greater than the Roman authorities or any kings. The question Revelation answers isn't when the world will end, but who and what is greater than Christ. No one and nothing is the ageless message Revelation offers. Not the bullies of the world, the Nazi salutes, subtle forms of bias, the oppressor within myself, our sin, nor anything else is greater.

Christ the King Sunday is coming soon. What will it remind you to resist? How will it cause you to dream? Happy Monday!

Prayer

Highly recommended.

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Many blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy