

The Apocalypse of Jesus (1st Sunday of Advent, Year B)

1 Corinthians 1:3-9—The Apocalypse of Our Lord Jesus Christ

³ Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I give thanks to God always for you because of the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus, ⁵ that in every way you were enriched in him with all speech and all knowledge— ⁶ even as the testimony to Christ was confirmed among you— ⁷ so that *you are not lacking in any spiritual gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ*; ⁸ *who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ*. ⁹ God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. (1 Corinthians 1:3-9)

1. Spiritual Gift: “spiritual gift” (Greek *charisma*) (1:7; cf. 1 Cor 12:4-31)

2. Apocalypse: = basic definition = “revealing” or “unveiling” (Greek *apokalypsis*):

¹ *The revelation* (Greek *apokalypsis*) of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants what must soon take place; and he made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³ Blessed is he who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written therein; for the time is near. (Revelation 1:1)

3. Apocalypse = Paul uses “revelation” to refer to the *Second Coming* (1 Cor 1:7)

⁷ [W]hen the Lord Jesus is *revealed* (Greek *apokalyptō*) from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, ⁸ inflicting vengeance upon those who do not know God and upon those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might, ¹⁰ *when he comes on that day to be glorified in his saints...* (2 Thess 1:7-10)

3. Day of the Lord = final judgment (1:8)

a. OT: “day of the LORD” = “day of judgment (Amos 5:18; Joel 2:31; Isa 2:12)

¹ But as to the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know well that *the day of the Lord* will come like a thief in the night. (1 Thess 5:1-2)

The Living Tradition

Catechism: On Judgment Day at the end of the world, *Christ will come in glory* to achieve the definitive triumph of good over evil which, like the wheat and the tares, have

grown up together in the course of history. When he comes at the end of time to judge the living and the dead, the glorious Christ will reveal the secret disposition of hearts and will render to each man according to his works and according to his acceptance or refusal of grace. (CCC 681-82)

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (1st Sunday of Advent, Year B)

1. What does the word “revelation” (Greek *apokalypsis*) mean in Greek? How do both of its meanings have implications for understanding the way Paul uses the word?
