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Andrew M. Davis

Sermon Notes

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“Behold, Me!”

Isaiah 65:1-16

One of the hardest aspects of our faith is the invisibility of God; the God of the Bible is described as a majestic, radiant being who dwells in unapproachable light. His glory fills the heavenly realms with such overpowering radiance that the holiest angels have to cover their faces. This awesome Creator God is the source of everything in existence... the power that keeps every atom from flying apart... that sustains the very being of all creation by the word of His power.

Such a majestic God is also the source of all beauty... the saints and angels are arrayed in concentric circles around God constantly celebrating his beauty and omnipotence with incessant praise. They never stop saying “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord... who was and who is and who is to come!”

But this radiant, beautiful God is INVISIBLE!!

1 Timothy 1:17 Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

John 1:18 No man has seen God at any time

1 Timothy 6:16 [God] who alone is immortal and who lives in unapproachable light, whom no one has seen or can see. To him be honor and might forever. Amen.

Our eyesight is the source of much of what we know about the universe... by our sight, light floods into our minds in various colors and shapes and teaches us what the physical world looks like

Matthew 6:22 "The eye is the lamp of the body. If your eyes are good, your whole body will be full of light.

In C.S. Lewis's classic *Till We Have Faces*, one of the characters named Psyche (the Greek word for soul) talks about the strong feelings of desire:

“It was when I was happiest that I longed most... Do you remember? The colour and the smell, and looking across at the Grey Mountain in the distance? And because it was so beautiful, it set me longing, always longing. Somewhere else there must be more of it. Everything seemed to be saying, Psyche come! But I couldn't (not yet) come... I felt like a bird in a cage when the other birds of its kind are flying home... If only

you could believe it. Sister! No, listen. Do not let grief shut up your ears and harden your heart.... The sweetest thing in all my life has been the longing – to reach the Mountain, to find the place where all the beauty came from – ... Do you think it all meant nothing, all the longing? The longing for home? For now death feels not like going, but going home.”

This HIDDEN God is actually the source of all this beauty, all the life, all the creativity, all the love and peace and joy there is ever to be found in the universe.

To be able to SEE him would be the perfection of sight itself... but we CANNOT... God is the invisible Creator, Sustainer, and Emperor of all the visible things that fill our eyes

But none of this is an accident... this longing to see what we cannot see

There is a SPIRITUAL REALM surrounding us that we talked about last week:

Isaiah 64:1 Oh, that you would rend the heavens and come down

Mark 1:10 As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove.

Acts 7:55-56 Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶ "Look," he said, "I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

As though there is this membrane between us and that spiritual world... and through that membrane we cannot pass—we cannot reason our way through it, or fly high enough to pass through it, or search somewhere to find a portal into it, like C.S. Lewis’s *Narnia* in which there are always magic portals—like the wardrobe through which the four children passed from this world to the invisible one

God the INVISIBLE... God the UNSEEN... dwells in a spiritual realm that surrounds us, but we cannot reach it

And we cannot KNOW anything about this mysterious, hidden God except that he REVEAL himself to us

That is the word the Bible and theologians always use—revelation. That is the name of the final book of the Bible, but it is really the purpose of all of scripture... to REVEAL God to us

The word “reveal” or “revelation” literally means “unveiling,” a pulling back of the veil so that we can see into the hidden world, see the invisible things... and especially, the HIDDEN, INVISIBLE GOD

God has chosen to reveal himself to us... to COMMUNICATE to us of his existence and his nature

He did this in what theologians call “natural revelation”... God revealing himself in
CREATION:

Romans 1:20 For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities-- his eternal power and divine nature-- have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

God does it even more clearly in the words of the Bible... unveiling his truth through the words of the prophets and apostles

Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

God has done it MOST CLEARLY in his Son:

Colossians 1:15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.

One word that has been used by scripture again and again for powerful moments of revelations is BEHOLD...

The word “BEHOLD” is archaic... that is, hardly anyone uses it anymore. We might think of an amateur magician about to pull a rabbit out of a hat... but it has a certain kind of suspense and wonder attached to it... BEHOLD... BEHOLD... BEHOLD...

Because no one says it anymore, many English translations have chosen to omit it altogether, or to use a very tame and wimpy replacement: “Look...”

But as we come to Isaiah 65, we come to a chapter that uses the word “Behold” NINE TIMES... only the King James Version translates them all, but the ESV gets most of them:

[Twice] *Isaiah 65:1 (twice) I said, Behold me, behold me, unto a nation that was not called by my name.*

Isaiah 65:6 Behold, it is written before me: "I will not keep silent, but I will repay

[Four times] *Isaiah 65:13-14 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; behold, my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be put to shame; behold, my servants shall sing for gladness of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart and shall wail for breaking of spirit.*

Isaiah 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind.

Isaiah 65:18 But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness.

These nine times that God says “Behold”, it’s as though he is saying to the human race—
WATCH WHAT WONDERS I am about to unveil before your eyes... you will see amazing things, things you have not known, that never would have entered your mind except that I revealed them to you... **WATCH AND BE AMAZED**, look on with wonder at what I will display to you... hidden things you have never seen before!

I am going to organize this sermon and next week’s sermon along the lines of these
BEHOLDs

This week, God says **BEHOLD**

- 1) Behold, **ME!!** As he reveals his saving grace to the Gentiles (vs. 1)
- 2) Behold **MY JUDGMENTS...** on wicked Israelites that have forsaken him for idols (vs. 2-7)
- 3) Behold **MY SERVANTS SINGING...** while the wicked are shamed (vs. 8-16)

NEXT WEEK

- 4) Behold, **MY NEW UNIVERSE...** though first (perhaps) the Millennial Kingdom (vs. 17-25)

I. “Behold Me!”: God’s Saving Grace to the Gentiles (vs. 1)

A. God Allows Himself to Be Sought: “Behold, Me! Behold, Me!”

1. The first greatest revelation happens in verse 1... God says twice **BEHOLD, ME... BEHOLD, ME!!**

Isaiah 65:1 "I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me; I was found by those who did not seek me. To a nation that did not call on my name, I said, 'Here am I, here am I.'

2. Amazing grace, patience, and humility on the part of this majestic and holy God

Verse 1 displays the amazing grace of God, who presents himself with astonishing persistence and humility to the nations of the world who do not seek him at all.

The verse literally says “I allowed myself to be consulted.” In other words, God took the initiative to reveal himself and draw from the Gentiles a yearning to seek him and find him. If God does not “permit himself” to be consulted, we will never seek him or find him.

Paul quoted this verse in Romans 10:20 to speak of the grace of God displayed in the amazing harvest of Gentiles into the church of Christ.

Romans 10:20 And Isaiah boldly says, "I was found by those who did not seek me; I revealed myself to those who did not ask for me."

These Gentiles were not seeking the true God at all... they were pursuing their idols with darkened minds; their idolatrous worship services were exceedingly corrupt and lustful and debauched... involving temple prostitutes and drunken and gluttonous revelries

God's humble persistence in revealing himself to the Gentiles is stunning, for the text says literally, "Behold me! Behold me!"

In the preaching of the gospel of Christ, God persistently stands in front of individuals from every nation on earth and says, "Behold me! Behold me! I am ready to save you! All you have to do is seek me, and you will certainly find me!"

B. Sought Now by Gentiles Who Were Not Seeking Him Before

1. They DID NOT SEEK for him... they were not looking for him...

Romans 3:11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God.

2. but God revealed himself to them, and by his sovereign Spirit DREW them to hunger and thirst for him and seek him and find him through faith in Christ
3. This is AMAZING GRACE... AMAZING PERSISTENCE... AMAZING HUMILITY to the Gentiles... to people all over the world
4. The centerpiece of the gospel is GOD... God's glory... God IS the Gospel; and in Christ God was revealing himself to the darkened world
5. And God does the seeking FIRST...

Luke 19:10 the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.

John 4:23-24 Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. ²⁴ God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

6. And WE SEEK GOD because He first SOUGHT US!! We believe that God has more wonders to reveal to us, more of himself to show us... BEHOLD ME, BEHOLD ME!!

Application: Just stop in wonder and amazement that God stood in front of your soul and persistently revealed himself to you until at last you saw him, loved him, followed

him through Christ! Just stop right now and thank God for his grace in revealing Christ to you by the Spirit... you are **SEEKING HIM** now because he first sought you. And marvel that he has only **BEGUN** to reveal his glories to you! He has a lot more to show you saying, **BEHOLD, BEHOLD!**

Now, in Isaiah 65, God turns with great sadness to the rebellious Israelites, to convict them of their persistent wickedness in pursuing idols:

II. “Behold My Judgments!” on Wicked Israelites (vs. 2-7)

A. God’s Amazing Patience with Rebellious Israel (vs. 2)

Isaiah 65:2 All day long I have held out my hands to an obstinate people, who walk in ways not good, pursuing their own imaginations

Romans 10 gives us the best way to interpret verses 1-2 of this chapter...

Paul applies verse 1 to Gentiles... God revealing himself to Gentiles who were **NOT** seeking him, who then gladly repent and believe in Christ

Paul directly contrasts the receptivity of the Gentiles with the stubbornness of the Jews by applying verse 2 to Israel in Romans 10:21: “All day long, I have spread out my hands to a disobedient and defiant people.”

Again, we see the remarkable patience and humility of God with Israel. For generations, the Lord had stood like the father of the prodigal son with his arms outstretched, waiting for the son to stop sinning and come home to a rich welcome. **But** these wicked people refused....

They were **STIFF-NECKED** and **HARD-HEARTED**... they wouldn’t yield to repeated warnings from God

They **WALKED** in evil ways, pursuing pagan religions of their own imagination, not of God’s revelation

God persistently **HELD OUT HIS HANDS** to them... through the prophets beckoning them to come home to him... but they refused

B. Israel’s Repulsive, Arrogant, Pagan Idolatry (vs. 2-7)

1. Evil pagan religions had polluted Israel for centuries

They consistently sinned right in God’s face, defiantly embracing pagan rituals as described in verses 3-4 and verse 7.

Isaiah 65:3-4 a people who continually provoke me to my very face, offering sacrifices in gardens and burning incense on altars of brick; ⁴ who sit among the graves and spend their nights keeping secret vigil; who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of unclean mea

Their paganism included such repulsive practices as necromancy and eating pig meat in defiance of God's holy laws.

They spent the nights sitting among graves... weird pagan practices, like sorcery, appealing to the dead

They actually chewed and swallowed pig meat offered as a sacrifice to their idols:

Isaiah 65:4 who eat the flesh of pigs, and whose pots hold broth of unclean meat

This was in direct violation of the dietary regulations of the Old Covenant

Their hearts were actually made proud by these bizarre rituals, considering themselves too holy for those who hadn't learned their secret arts.

Isaiah 65:5 who say, 'Keep away; don't come near me, for I am too sacred for you!'

In the KJV, this is one of the most famous phrases from the book of Isaiah...

Isaiah 65:5 ... come not near to me; for I am holier than thou.

So they rejected God's definition of holiness, choosing instead one from paganism. Their attitudes and actions were utterly repulsive and provocative to God,

Isaiah 65:5 Such people are smoke in my nostrils, a fire that keeps burning all day.

This is a powerful image

Have you ever been sitting around a smoky campfire... one in which you used green pine wood, with lots of sap... and the fire is extremely smoky, and it seems no matter where you put your chair, the smoke seems to find your eyes and your nose... your eyes are STINGING, your nose is filled with the smoke and you can't seem to get away

I also remember when we were missionaries in Japan, and our elderly neighbor used to burn his garbage every week, filling our house with the acrid stench of his smoke

The image here is one of EXTREME PROVOCATION... these idolatrous, proud, wicked people were provoking him to his very face day after day

“smoke in his nostrils, a fire burning all day long.”

It is for this reason that Romans 9 reveals the incredible PATIENCE of God in dealing with sin:

Romans 9:22 God... bore with great patience the objects of his wrath-- prepared for destruction?

C. God's Patience Runs Out... "Behold My Judgments!" (vs. 6-7)

1. God will not wait forever... at some point, the Day of Judgment comes

Isaiah 65:6-7 "BEHOLD, it stands written before me: I will not keep silent but will pay back in full; I will pay it back into their laps-- ⁷ both your sins and the sins of your fathers," says the LORD. "Because they burned sacrifices on the mountains and defied me on the hills, I will measure into their laps the full payment for their former deeds."

2. God had been SILENT... waiting for them to repent from their wickedness

3. But finally, the time comes for his wrath to break out

4. BEHOLD... the judgment of God will most certainly come

a. It STANDS WRITTEN before God that at some point, he must bring justice on these people

b. The phrase, BEHOLD IT STANDS WRITTEN BEFORE ME reminds me of the famous phrase from the movie "The Ten Commandments"

Whenever Pharaoh (played by Yul Brenner) would utter a decree about something, he would add the phrase—**"So let it be written; so let it be done!"** As many ancient emperors would have a court scribe who would write down every command of the monarch to be certain they were recorded accurately and carried out

God has DECREED a Day of Judgment against the wicked on the earth... he will not remain silent forever

This is REVEALED in scripture with the word BEHOLD... we tend to think that God's long silence means he doesn't exist, or he doesn't care about sin, or he can do nothing about it

But the Day of Judgment is decreed by God and it will most certainly happen

Not only the DAY stands written before God, but all these sinful acts are written down as well... God will PAY BACK INTO THEIR LAPS the deeds they have done

5. Application: BEHOLD God cannot be mocked... Judgment Day is coming and we will give him an account for even things done in secret

The word BEHOLD means that Judgment Day has to be revealed... and only by faith can we understand its significance...

Galatians 6:7 Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.

Revelation 2:23 I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.

It's like what we say in life: "it's PAYBACK TIME"!!

The only possible salvation from this meticulous and righteous PAYBACK TIME is the cross of Christ! God is willing to take all of our sins and nail them to the cross; that the blood of Christ alone can free us from God's righteous condemnation for our sins

All over the world, people are involved in wicked, idolatrous worship systems

Stone-age animistic tribes in the jungles of Papua New Guinea still offer human sacrifices to the gods, to the spirits of the jungle and the elemental demonic forces of the universe

Hundreds of millions of Hindus follow empty, demonic rituals that are offensive to God and damning to their souls

David Platt, President of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention, described the horror that came over his soul watching this Hindu ritual:

"I stood at the Bagmati River in South Asia where every day funerals are held and bodies are burned. It is the custom among these Hindu people when family or friends die to take their bodies within twenty-four hours to the river, where they lay them on funeral pyres and set the pyres ablaze. In so doing, they believe they are helping their friend or family member in the cycle of reincarnation. As I saw this scene before me, I stood in overwhelmed silence. For as I watched these flames overtake the bodies, I knew based on Scripture that I was witnessing at that moment a physical reflection of an eternal reality. Tears streamed down my face as I realized that most if not all of the people I was watching burn had died without ever hearing the good news of how they could have lived forever with God." (*Counter Culture*, 248-249)

This demonic ritual is a SMOKE BURNING in God's nostrils all day long... In the very next chapter of Isaiah, he threatens a fire that cannot be quenched:

Isaiah 66:24 *"And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind."*

Christ alone can rescue us from that eternal fire

III. "Behold My Servants Singing!" (While the Wicked are Shamed) (vs. 8-16)

A. God Makes Distinctions: Good Grapes Saved, Bad Ones Rejected (vs. 8)

1. The Jews described in verses 2-7 were wicked and essentially pagan
2. But not all Jews followed these pagan rituals
3. God is able to make distinctions ... not all the Jews were BAD GRAPES... in the large cluster in Israel, there was still some JUICE in some of them... God found some righteous remnant among all this paganism

Isaiah 65:8 *This is what the LORD says: "As when juice is still found in a cluster of grapes and men say, 'Don't destroy it, there is yet some good in it,' so will I do in behalf of my servants; I will not destroy them all."*

- a. Jesus told many parables about Judgment Day being a day of SEPARATION

[Parable of the Wheat and the Weeds] *Matthew 13:40-43* *"As the weeds are pulled up and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the age. ⁴¹ The Son of Man will send out his angels, and they will weed out of his kingdom everything that causes sin and all who do evil. ⁴² They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁴³ Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear."*

[Parable of the Dragnet] *Matthew 13:47-50* *the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake and caught all kinds of fish. ⁴⁸ When it was full, the fishermen pulled it up on the shore. Then they sat down and collected the good fish in baskets, but threw the bad away. ⁴⁹ This is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come and separate the wicked from the righteous ⁵⁰ and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

[The Sheep and the Goats] *Matthew 25:31-33* *"When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left."*

Also John the Baptist said of Jesus:

Matthew 3:12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

b. So in verses 8-16, Isaiah reveals with the repeated word BEHOLD that God is able to make distinctions between the righteous and the wicked

B. Blessings for the Remnant (vs. 8-10)

Isaiah 65:9-10 I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah those who will possess my mountains; my chosen people will inherit them, and there will my servants live. ¹⁰ Sharon will become a pasture for flocks, and the Valley of Achor a resting place for herds, for my people who seek me.

For the remnant who seek the Lord by faith, God promises to produce descendants who will inherit the mountains of Judah and dwell there richly blessed. (vs. 9) The Promised Land (from Sharon in the west to Achor in the east) will be fertile, a rich pastureland for their flocks to graze in and lie down in peace. (vs. 10) These are the blessings of faith and obedience, blessings of the Old Covenant in Moses.

But given that the chapter begins with Gentiles seeking and finding the Lord, it is reasonable to see these blessings as spiritual in the church age and literal in the Millennium and in the New Earth.

The righteous will INHERIT THE EARTH along with all of Abraham's true descendants:

Romans 4:13 Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world... through the righteousness that comes by faith.

However, there will come judgment and wrath on all the "BAD GRAPES"

C. Slaughter for those Who Abandon the Lord (vs. 11- 12)

Isaiah 65:11-12 "But as for you who forsake the LORD and forget my holy mountain, who spread a table for Fortune and fill bowls of mixed wine for Destiny, ¹² I will destine you for the sword, and you will all bend down for the slaughter; for I called but you did not answer, I spoke but you did not listen. You did evil in my sight and chose what displeases me."

They turned their backs on God and his rich blessings

The FORSOOK the Lord... it was not an accident, but a willful choice

They embraced FATE and DESTINY and LADY LUCK... they followed pagan rituals

So, God has destined them for slaughter

He tried again and again to call out to them, but they refused to listen

D. Blessings and Curses (vs. 13-16)

1. Here we have finally revealed (again and again will the word BEHOLD) how much blessing the righteous will receive, and how the wicked will be excluded
2. In these verses, the wicked are addressed directly, and it is revealed to them what they will be missing for all eternity:

Isaiah 65:13-14 Therefore thus says the Lord GOD: "Behold, my servants shall eat, but you shall be hungry; behold, my servants shall drink, but you shall be thirsty; behold, my servants shall rejoice, but you shall be put to shame; ¹⁴ behold, my servants shall sing for gladness of heart, but you shall cry out for pain of heart and shall wail for breaking of spirit.

3. This feasting—eating and drinking in the Kingdom of Heaven—is a regular feature of the Lord's description of heaven

This chapter says plainly that God sought and found people from all over the world, who previously were not seeking Him... he found them in Christ and will eternally bless them with feasting in the Kingdom:

As Jesus said when he healed the servant of a Roman Centurion:

Matthew 8:11-12 I say to you that many will come from the east and the west, and will take their places at the feast with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven. ¹² But the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

The ultimate end of this is the difference between heaven and hell: in heaven, the redeemed will spend eternity feasting at Christ's table, drinking freely from the river of the water of life, and shouting for joy from a glad heart; in hell, the damned will be tormented by thirst, weeping and gnashing their teeth, crying out from an anguished heart.

The wicked will live in torment, and especially here in PAIN OF HEART AND BREAKING OF SPIRIT... they will remember all the sins they lived in and never repented from, and those who heard the gospel of Christ and (obviously) rejected it, will especially lament the fact that they did not receive the free gift of salvation offered them by an evangelist... a mother, a father, a friend, a pastor, a missionary... someone—maybe many people—offered them eternal life, and they refused

Isaiah 65:15 You shall leave your name to my chosen for a curse, and the Lord GOD will put you to death, but his servants he will call by another name.

In heaven, the righteous will KNOW THE NAMES of the damned and see their names as a curse

But the righteous will receive the gift of NEW NAMES... a new identity in Christ:

Revelation 2:17 To him who overcomes, I will give some of the hidden manna. I will also give him a white stone with a new name written on it, known only to him who receives it.

And the righteous will delight in God's amazing grace to save sinners like them:

Isaiah 65:16 So that he who blesses himself in the land shall bless himself by the God of truth, and he who takes an oath in the land shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten and are hidden from my eyes.

These FORMER TROUBLES are part of this present world age... but BEHOLD there is a new universe coming... and we're going to talk about it next week

IV. "Behold My New Universe" (vs. 17-25) [Next Week!]

Isaiah 65:17-25 "For behold, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. ¹⁹ I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more. ²⁰ "Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed. ²¹ They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. ²² No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands. ²³ They will not toil in vain or bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by the LORD, they and their descendants with them. ²⁴ Before they call I will answer; while they are still speaking I will hear. ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox, but dust will be the serpent's food. They will neither harm nor destroy on all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

V. Applications

A. This Passage Gives a Clear Warning to All Lost People to FLEE TO CHRIST

1. God here declares that all over the world he REVEALS HIMSELF to people who had not been seeking him
2. He is standing before your soul now saying "Here I am! Here I am! I am all you need! I am what you have been looking for all your life!"

3. Perhaps you feel that even now, Christ is calling on you to FOLLOW HIM
4. Christ seeks and saves lost people
5. The warnings in this passage are dire... it is obvious that Judgment Day is coming... you cannot see it or feel it, but it is most certainly coming
6. The word BEHOLD means that the things revealed in this chapter cannot be seen with the eye or scientifically discerned... only by faith can you see them
7. COME TO CHRIST

Christians:

B. Thank God for His Persistence in Saving You!

1. God bore all your sins and patiently called to you and worked salvation in you!
2. Never tire of thanking him for standing before you and saying BEHOLD, ME!
BEHOLD, ME

C. Look forward to seeing him face to face in heaven

1. He will still be saying “behold, me!” in heaven

Revelation 22:3-4 No longer will there be any curse. The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.

2. Look forward to the feasting and celebrating the Lord said we would do in the Kingdom of Heaven... it is mentioned and celebrated here!

D. Be Sober-Minded About the Future of the Wicked

1. This passage makes it very plain that God will not tolerate the wicked idolatry that is going on all over the world
2. There is a Day of Judgment coming and God will pay back into their laps every sin
3. Use this to motivate you to share the gospel with lost friends
4. Last year, 2016, this church had 13 baptisms... many of them were, praise God, the baptisms of teens that had grown up in Christian homes, including my son
5. I do not in any way denigrate that... no I praise God for it

6. But where is the evangelistic fruit of our church out in the streets and companies and hospitals and colleges and schools and workplaces of our growing region?
 7. Why aren't we seeing more and more lost people converted?
 8. Could it be we don't take as seriously as we should the Day of Judgment that is coming? We don't fear enough for their souls?
- E. NEXT WEEK... we will talk about the Millennium and the Eternal State!