**SYNOPSIS OF TODAY’S ARMENIAN MESSAGE**

**Գալիքին Նշոյլ Մը**

***A Glimpse of What’s Coming***

*Revelation 1.4b-8*

When God wants to reveal himself, he carefully chooses the way to do so: to Moses through a burning bush; to Israel, whom he led out of slavery and through the wilderness by a cloud and a pillar of fire; to his people through a radiant glow on Moses’ face. The Bible tells of many such ways that God gave man a glimpse of his presence and power, but there is none more stirring than his appearance on the cross, in weakness and pain. Though appearing like a defeated God, our crucified Lord has drawn countless persons to confess their sins, believe in him, and receive new, eternal life. But John’s Revelation gives us another glimpse of God, showing us another aspect to the cross—one of power fulfilled.

John begins by greeting the church with “grace and peace”, encapsulating in two words the work of Jesus on the cross and man’s benefit from that freely-offered sacrifice. He declares the eternity of God the Father and the presence of God the Spirit, and follows it with glimpses of Jesus’ glory, revealed (for now) to those who believe.

He describes Christ as a witness to the truth, first-born from the dead, and ruler of kings, presenting us the present, past and future in a few short phrases. Then he gives us glimpses of ourselves, loved by him, loosed from the bonds of our sins at the cost of his blood, called to be his kingdom, and sent as priests or intercessors for this world.

Finally, in these opening words of his letter, John shows the coming triumph of the cross and the crucified One. He will appear with the clouds, visible to all, to put an end to the abuse and suffering in this world, to judge those who cause it through their unbelief, and to redeem those who have believed and endured trials.

The world these days is groaning in travail and sorrow, not just because of a pandemic or economic troubles, but especially because of human hardness and disobedience. Let us keep these glimpses of our Lord and King in our hearts, so that we carry out our calling with trust and hope in him until God is fully revealed. [LNB]