

Introduction:

- My goal in this series is to present Jesus so clearly we fall in love with One who gave us life. Until we anticipate more of Him and live daily seeking Him as for treasure. One of the fascinating places to encounter Jesus is in the Book of Revelation.
- I want to specifically take us through the letters to the seven churches over the next few weeks. Tonight is an introduction to the letters to the seven churches. Jesus is majorly revealed in the first three chapters of the book of revelation and reveals himself to us in his own words in chapters two and three.
 - There are 18 expressions of his majesty found in chapter one; 16 more in chapters two and three, giving us a total of 34 expressions of majesty (descriptions of Jesus). Only 10 are repeated or used more than once.
 - That should tell us something about Him right there. Why is that important to the Book of Revelation?
- Revelation was meant to be understood. It was written to common people like you and I therefore it should not be hard to understand. With the help of the Holy Spirit we will understand it.
- Remember, it is the Book of Revelation not revelations. It is the Revelation of Jesus not the revelation of events as so many people approach it.

I. Two Thrusts of the Book of Revelation (BoR)

- A. The first is the fact that it is called the Book of Revelation of Jesus Christ. *"The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place..."* (Revelation 1:1, ESV) One major purpose of the book is to reveal Jesus! If you want to understand the BoR (Book of Revelation), as you read you must look for all the different ways that Jesus is revealed because we see Him in Revelation like we see Him nowhere else in the Bible. When you read BoR look for Jesus':
1. His heart
 2. His Power and authority
 3. His leadership
 4. These three elements of Jesus reveal His glory. As we meditate on these three aspects of Jesus in the BoR we will see His glory. I am talking about our Savior, the One we love who first loved us. It is amazing what so many men and women of history were able to do because they saw Jesus. That is why Eph. 1:17,18 is such a powerful apostolic prayer. "God grant us a Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Jesus..."
- B. Secondly, the BoR, is about all of the events that lead up to Jesus millennial reign and beyond. *"Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen."* (Revelation 1:7, ESV)
- C. What are the two thrusts of BoR? 1) To reveal Jesus. 2) To show us the end time events. God does not want us to be ignorant so He is showing us his plan of restoration of all things. Chapters 2 and 3 show us how we are to participate.

II. Revelation: Jesus Will Rule the Earth With Us, His Bride

- A. We have to get a picture of this! When you start to see this, the Bible will come alive in new ways you never dreamed possible, both OT and NT.
- B. Chapter 1 is the beginning of the biggest move of God the world has ever seen. Far bigger than Egypt, far bigger than the miracles of Galilee. This is the 'grand daddy' of all the moves of God! Jesus and the Saints taking over leadership of the world.
- C. Daniel prophesied that the Son of Man, Jesus, would rule all the nations. Dan 7:9-14, 27. Rule given to Jesus and to the Saints vs. 27.
 1. Jesus will replace all the unrighteous government on the earth with righteous leaders and laws. *"From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty."* (Revelation 19:15, ESV)
 2. Massive harvest of souls. *"a great multitude... from every nation,"* (Revelation 7:9, ESV) Mt. 24:14 *This gospel of the Kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all nations.*
 3. It is also in this end-time context that the church will have made herself ready for the Bride groom. *"...for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;"* (Revelation 19:7, ESV) The pressure of the times will force the church to prepare and go deeper than we have ever gone. It is in this context that we want to enter into this study of the seven churches of Revelation looking for Jesus.
 - a) The most important question in this hour of history will be, **Who is Jesus?** Mt. 16:13-19. Here we will now see him as Prophet Priest and King.
 - b) In Chapters 1-3, 24 aspects of His majesty are given. These 24 descriptions of Jesus give us a clear picture of **who He is** (how He thinks and feels) and **what He does** in His plan to cleanse the earth to prepare it for His return (Rev. 6-22)
 - c) Jesus describes himself in 24 distinct ways in Rev. 1-3, giving us 18 descriptions alone in Rev. 1; 16 more in Rev. 2-3 for a total of 34. 10 of those are repeats.

III. Jesus Blazingly Revealed—Revelation 1.

- A. Jesus is the First and the Last: Humanity. He is the first to rise from the dead and the first in authority (Col. 1:15, 18; Rev. 5:12). This is title Jesus used most (Rev. 1:11, 17; 2:8; 22:13): He spoke it in context to His death and resurrection calling us to resist fear even before martyrdom. *These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life... 10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer...be faithful until death.* (Rev. 2:8-10)*He is...the firstborn over all creation... 18 He is the head of the body...who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.* (Col. 1:15-18)
- B. The Alpha and the Omega: Deity with absolute completeness in wisdom and love. The Greek alphabet started with "alpha" and ended with "omega". The common phrase Alpha and Omega means the first and last letters including all the letters in between to indicate completeness.
 1. This title sets forth Jesus as the sovereign Lord over everything that takes place in the

entire course of history. Jesus established an eternal plan for us in which nothing is missing. His Bride has all the elements necessary for eternal love, joy, peace, and fascination without sin yet retaining a free will. The government is right, the human dynamics are right, eternal rewards are right in varying measure according to love yet there is no jealousy but only gratitude in God's partnership with people forever.

2. Because of His wise leadership we will live forever with awestruck affectionate gratitude.
- C. Voice like a trumpet: He is the Witness who faithfully warns the people of coming judgment (Rev. 3:14) *If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are warned... (their) blood I will require at the watchman's hand.* (Ezek. 33:6)
- D. Son of Man: the God-Man who rules all nations as King of kings
- E. Garment down to His feet: sympathetic High Priest who made a way
- F. Girded about the chest with a golden band: breastplate of the high priest (Ex. 25:7; Lev. 16:4)
- G. Head and hair white like wool, as white as snow: Ancient of Days has white hair (Dan 7:9). Jesus' eternal preexistence with pure and perfect wisdom and dignity (Lev 19:32; Prov 16:31).
- H. Eyes like a flame of fire: His knowledge searches and penetrates all things as fire penetrates metal. His eyes of love and zeal for His people as a Bridegroom. He imparts love and holiness. *The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass...20 I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel...to teach and seduce My servants to commit sexual immorality... 21 I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. 22 Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation...23 I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am He who searches the minds and hearts.* (Rev. 2:18-24)
- I. Feet like fine brass: judgment of sin. His commitment as a mighty warrior to trample over Jezebel in victory. He will bring all His enemies under His feet (Ps. 110).
- J. Voice as the sound of many waters: powerful as in Gen. 1 and directs the armies of heaven
- K. Holding the 7 stars in His right hand: His tenderness towards us even when we feel inadequate or like a failure. Jesus holds His leaders as He helps us to do that which He entrusts to us.
- L. Walks in the midst of the 7 golden lamp-stands: manifest power with consequences because of His goodness and holiness. He walks with us aware of our needs, frailty and pressures. *I will not go up in your midst, lest I consume you on the way...* (Ex. 33:3)
- M. Sharp two-edged sword coming out of His mouth: releases the Holy Spirit and judgment. The breath of Jesus' mouth is another way of expressing the power of His words.
 1. *The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God...* (Eph. 6:17)
 2. *Out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron.* (Rev. 19:15)
- N. Countenance like the sun: exhilarates His Church and is a weapon against His enemies since it is impossible to look directly into the sun. *Then the lawless one (Antichrist) will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.* (2 Thes. 2:8)
- O. He who lives: He came back to life. He has power over death and gives eternal life
- P. Keys of kingdom: authority over Hades and Death and key of David to establish the Kingdom

IV. Six Descriptions of Jesus in Revelation 2-3 (not mentioned in Rev. 1)

- A. Son of God (Rev. 2:18): He has all power as the eternal omnipotent God. "**Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!**" (Rev. 19:6)
- B. Has the seven Spirits of God (Rev. 3:1): Jesus has authority to release the diverse ministries of the Spirit to equip and revive us.
- C. Jesus is holy (Rev. 3:7): two primary applications, His holiness as a man and as God. As a man, Jesus lived set apart fully to obey the Father. He understands what it means to walk out costly commitments among sinful people. He is sympathetic (Heb. 4:15). As God, He is transcendent (wholly "other than") or infinitely superior to all. He is worth whatever it costs to obey Him. **He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.** (Heb. 5:8)
- D. Jesus is true (Rev. 3:7): reliable in giving extravagant promises that seem too good to be true
- E. The Amen (Rev. 3:14): finishes what He started and is faithful to follow through with us
- F. Jesus is the Beginning of the creation of God (Rev. 3:14): first in cause and authority. The power and authority over all creation "begins" with Him (Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:16-17; Rev. 1:8; 21:6).

Conclusion:

- The main thrust of Rev. Chapters 1-3 is the Revelation of Jesus!
 - His heart
 - His power
 - His leadership
- The church needs this revelation of Jesus in order to overcome. With the revelation of Jesus presented in the BoR the church is led to worship!...and to overcome!