

Lesson # 1 -- A Heavenly Picture of Jesus Christ. (1)

Introduction

- A. As we study these three chapters of the Revelation we must always bear in mind the significance found in the title to this last book of the Bible. It can be said in a few words: the Bible is God's revelation of Himself.
- B. While the Scripture is filled with truths about many subjects, the greatest truth, and one that is interwoven with every area of revelation -- is the unveiling of God in the person of Jesus Christ.
- C. The implication of this truth is crystal clear. Every believer has been given a privilege which goes beyond our wildest imagination -- the honor of being a person to whom God has revealed Himself.

I. The Introduction to the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass, and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John . . . John to the seven churches which are in Asia, Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come, and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne. Rev. 1:1,4

- A. The Lord Jesus is the Author of this Book.
  - 1. In Him we have the fullness of the revelation of God.
  - 2. He is the divine source of grace and peace.
  - 3. His greatness is emphasized by His equality with the Holy Father, and the Blessed Holy Spirit.
- B. The Lord Jesus has established a relationship with His people.
  - 1. The basis of this relationship: grace and peace.
  - 2. The evidence of this relationship: churches.
  - 3. The result of this relationship: servants.
  - 4. The character of this relationship: fellowship.

## II. The Explanation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth . . . . Rev. 1:5

### A. The Lord Jesus is the Faithful Witness.

#### 1. The interpretation of His title.

- a. The title "Faithful Witness" indicates the prophetic office of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son . . . .  
Heb. 1:1-3

No man hath seen God at any time, the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him. John 1:18

- b. As our "Faithful Witness" He came to reverse the terrible effects of the Fall.
- 1). God created us to know Him, know ourselves, one another, and know the world.
  - 2). In the Fall we lost the knowledge and the ability which God had given us. The Bible describes us as having a great loss in this area.

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. Rom. 3:11

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart.  
Eph. 4:18

- 3). The Lord Jesus is the revelation of the truth to us through general revelation (creation, history, etc.) and special revelation (Biblical content). He is in every way -- our divine Prophet.

#### 2. The explanation of His title.

- a. He has the right to be our Prophet because of Who He is.

- 1). He is Truth in His personal character (attribute).

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life, no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.  
John 14:6

- 2). He came as the Father's Representative to speak Truth.

To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. John 18:37

- 3). His ministry was characterized by teaching the Truth.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life. John 8:12

- 4). His character, office, and ministry, means that all mankind is responsible to the Lord Jesus for obedience to His Truth.

And why call ye me, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say? Luke 6:46

For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give an account of himself to God. Rom. 14:11,12

- b. He has the right to be our Prophet because of what He knows.

- 1). He has perfect understanding of truth.

- 2). He has perfect understanding of our situation and need.

- 3). He has perfect understanding of the solution to our need.

- 4). He has perfect understanding of how to unite truth and power to provide divine illumination and redemption.

3. The personal application of His title.

- a. We must recognize that He is the source of all Truth.

- b. We must submit to Him as the Truth by faith and love.

- c. We must obey Him in the daily practice of His Truth.

- B. The Lord Jesus is the First Begotten of the Dead.

1. The interpretation of His title.

- a. The title refers to the Old Testament pattern of the Jewish family. The firstborn boy was given a double inheritance and a place of unusual respect in the family because he was responsible to support his mother and the other children if his father were to die.

- b. When the Lord Jesus is called the "First Begotten" (first born) it means that He has a place of respect or eminence in regard to the subject being discussed. It is a reminder of the priestly work of the Savior.
- c. Therefore, the title "First Begotten (first born) of the Dead," means that the Lord Jesus, in regard to the dead, and death itself, has a place of respect or eminence. When this title is understood in the light of His life and death we realize it is teaching His victory, through the Crucifixion and Resurrection, over sin, death, Hell, and Satan.

Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. John 1:29

I am he that liveth, and was dead, and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death. Rev. 1:18

## 2. The explanation of His title.

- a. Jesus Christ became a member of the human race in order to be our Representative and to conquer sin, death, Hell, and Satan for us. (Gal. 4:4,5)
- b. Because of the defiling nature of sin, its condemning effect before the law, and its infinite dimensions, no human could make atonement for sin. (Rom. 8:1-3)
- c. As our Representative the Lord Jesus paid the price of our sin by suffering its penalty in our place and thereby defeated Satan our enemy. (Heb. 2:14-18)
- d. The Lord Jesus, as our Priest, offered Himself as the necessary sacrifice, so we could be free from the effects of our sin and receive all the benefits of His redemptive grace.

Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. Heb. 2:17

## 3. The personal application of His title.

- a. We must recognize the serious nature of our sin.
- b. We must recognize our total dependence on Jesus Christ for redemption and salvation.
- c. We must make sure that we have made a personal decision to believe upon Him as Lord and Savior, to be thankful to Him for His sacrifice on our behalf, and to give Him, each day, the place of preeminence that He deserves.

C. The Lord Jesus is the Prince of the Kings of the Earth.

1. The interpretation of His title.

- a. The word "Prince" in the KJV is better translated as "Ruler."
- b. The title teaches us that the Lord Jesus is the final authority over and the ruler of all human authorities. It is a reminder of the Kingly ministry of the Savior.
- c. All those in authority are responsible to carry out their rule in accordance with the truths given by Jesus Christ, and each will give a personal account to Him for how they exercised their lordship.

2. The explanation of His title.

- a. All of creation belongs to the Lord Jesus by the right of His creation.

Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Rev. 4:11

- b. All of creation was promised Him by God the Father.

Yet have I set my king upon my holy hill of Zion. I will declare the decree, the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Psalm 2:6-8

- c. Because of His redemptive victory the Lord Jesus was given a name above every name.

Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name that is above every name. Phil. 2:9

- d. Every human and angelic ruler will stand before Jesus Christ to give an account of his or her life and rule.

And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. Isaiah 24:21

e. Every person will stand before Jesus Christ the King to give an account of his or her life.

1). Every Christian will give an account.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.  
II Cor. 5:10

2). Every non-Christian will give an account.

And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God, and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. Rev. 20:12

### III. The Biblical Response to the Greatness of the Lord Jesus Christ.

To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Rev. 1:6

A. This doxology is the Biblical recognition that Jesus Christ is worthy to receive all glory and has every right to exercise His prophetic, priestly, and kingly office.

B. This theme is taken up by all the redeemed and all the good angels in a song to the Lord Jesus.

Thou art worthy . . . Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive, power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing. Rev. 5:9-14

C. These expressions of praise must be the pattern of our life. We must learn to give honor, glory, praise, and obedience to the Lord Jesus -- Who has come to us as the Faithful Witness (our Prophet), the First Begotten of the Dead (our Priest), and as the Prince of the Kings of the Earth (our King).