

Session Six:

Revelation 1:4-9

I) Proof Of Authorship and Greeting (Revelation 1:4)

A) **Revelation 1:4** *“John, to the seven Churches which are in Asia; Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne...”*

- 1) Many commentators have questioned the author of the Revelation being John the Beloved, who also wrote one of the Gospels and 3 Epistles. But it’s clear that this John whom I believe to be John the beloved has written this letter.
- 2) John like many other times in the Revelation gives himself no other introduction than “John.” Because he was so well known to these Churches he had no need to further explain his title, position or personhood. It was clear by his name.
- 3) John is also not talking about seven separate Spirits of God or of angels. It’s clear that he is making a reference to the Godhead (Father, Son and Spirit) as a part of his greeting to the seven Churches.
 1. *“...Him who is (God the Father) and who was and who is to come (Jesus Christ) and from the Seven-fold Spirit (The Holy Spirit) who are before His throne...”*
 2. **Isaiah 11:2** *“The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.”*
 - (a) **(1)**The Spirit of the Lord **(2)** The Spirit of wisdom **(3)** The Spirit of understanding **(4)** The Spirit of counsel **(5)** The Spirit of might **(6)** The Spirit of knowledge **(7)** The Spirit of the fear of the Lord.
- 4) John is able to tell them *“...Grace and peace to you...”* because of the description of Jesus that he is about to give in the following verse. It’s also true for us, that we can have grace and peace, even in light of what’s yet ahead because of who Jesus is.
- 5) The nations of the earth are looking for peace and rest for their souls; even more so when we see the instability of life in this age, but apart from Christ we will never know rest/peace.
- 6) John is basing his exhortation for the seven Churches to rest, because of the description of Jesus that he is about to unfold.

II) The Six-fold Revelation Of Jesus Christ

A) **Revelation 1:5-6** *“...and from Jesus Christ, the Faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the Ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”*

1) Again, our grace and peace are predicated upon these 6 realities that John describes about Jesus Christ. It's through these six truths that we can enter into the rest of the Revelation with grace and peace.

1. *"...and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness..."*

- (a) Jesus is called the Faithful Witness because He held out the Word of His Father as being more important than His own life. Jesus was more concerned with honoring His Father than seeing after His own life.
- (b) **Luke 24:3** *"Then Pilate asked Him, saying, Are You the King of the Jews? He answered and said, it is as you say."*
- (c) Under the greatest religious/political leader of Jesus' day (Pilate), He refuses to deny who He is even though it will cost Him His life. He's faithful unto death.
- (d) This word witness here is part of a Greek word "martur" which we get our word martyr. This is the same word used in **Acts 1:8** speaking about their bold witness for Jesus and the same word used for the beheading of the martyrs of Jesus in **Revelation 20:4**.
- (e) **Romans 3:10-18**

2. *"...the firstborn from the dead..."*

- (a) Jesus became the firstborn from the dead, not meaning that He was first Person ever born, but that He was the first One to conquer death, hell and the grave.
- (b) This means that until the resurrection of the dead (the Rapture), nobody but Jesus has a resurrected body yet. Every person that has lived and died in Christ is still awaiting a body at the resurrection of the righteous (Abraham, Isaac and Jacob ECT..).
- (c) Every person who's been raised from the dead (Lazarus) still died, because they were raised up, not resurrected.
- (d) This is why Paul says in **Romans 6:5** that *"For it we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection..."*
- (e) And in **1st Corinthians 15:23** Paul also says *"But each one in his own order; Christ the first fruits, afterward those who are Christ's at His coming."* This means that Jesus is the proto-type of what we will become when He appears. You don't need a body to relate to Jesus right now, but you will when He appears, because you aren't going away to heaven but for a moment, heaven's coming to earth.
- (f) Oh the confidence this revelation of Jesus gives to us!

3. *"...the Ruler over the kings of the earth..."*

- (a) Jesus is Ruler over the kings of the earth, because He alone conquered death, hell and the grave. In **Psalms 2** He is pictured as the One who rules over all things by the appointment of His Father.
 - (b) Though Jesus isn't openly exercising His Ruler-ship over the earth, it's clear that behind all things, He is! But it won't go on like this forever. **Hebrews 12:25-27** says *"See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from Heaven, whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven. Now this, yet once more, indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made that the things which cannot be shaken may remain."*
 - (c) Beloved, when Jesus takes the **Revelation 5** scroll from the Father's right hand and starts to loose the temporal judgments of God it will become clear to the nations of the earth, that He is *"...the Ruler over the kings of the earth..."*
 - (d) Also during this time in human history the Roman Empire and many who had served up until this point had referred to themselves as Deities. Julius Caesar, Augustus, Claudius, Vespasian and Titus had been declared divine after their death. And during John's time Domitian, the emperor had requested to be addressed as Lord and God. John is wanting the Churches to know though often unseen in this age, there is a Ruler who is above all the rulers of their day.
4. *"To Him who loved us..."*
- (a) The love of God was made known to us through Jesus' life on planet earth. Jesus' passion to have a people that fully belong to Him and His Father is evidenced by the way that He lived and continues to live His life.
 - (b) No Apostle was more acquainted with the love of God than John the beloved. It was this John who reminds us in **1st John 4:19** *"We love Him because He first loved us."*
 - (c) Our love for Jesus never originates in us; it's also a response to His great love for us. Thus we have grace and peace heading into the rest of the Revelation, because we know that He loved us first.
5. *"...and washed us from our sins in His own blood..."*
- (a) Jesus is the One who freed us from our chains of sin and bondage and shared His Father with us. He's made us clean through His sacrifice not ours.
 - (b) And I love that though John is imprisoned on Patmos, he clearly understands that he's been freed from the chains of sin and death, and these physical chains don't separate him from God.
 - (c) We have grace and peace because we understand that the Cross and His shed blood wasn't for Him, but for us. He who knew no sin became sin for us (**2nd Cor. 5:21**).

6. *"...and has made us Kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."*
 - (a) Through Jesus we have been restored to a position of privilege with God the Father spiritually in this age, but physically in the age to come.
 - (b) This is a huge reinforcement of God's purpose to include humans not only in this age, but also in the age which is yet to come.
 - (c) Jesus has promised that those who overcome will rule and reign with Him on this physical earth sharing the vast expanse of His Father's kingdom.\

III) Jesus' Visible Appearance And His Sovereignty (Revelation 1:7-8)

- A) **Revelation 1:7-8** *"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."*
- B) At Jesus' first appearing He was born in a humble manger because there was no room for the God Man in the inn but at His second coming and His appearing things will be very different.
- C) Jesus' second coming won't be at night like His first coming where everybody missed it except a few lowly shepherd boys. At His first coming it was an eastern star which broke the darkness of the night and lead a few to Jesus' birth.
 - 1) **Matthew 24:29** *"Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken."*
- D) It's my belief from several scriptures that the sun, moon and stars will pale because of the brightness of Christ and the brightness of His appearing.
 - 1) **2nd Thessalonians 2:8** *"Then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming."*
 - 2) **Revelation 1:16-17** *"He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as a dead..."*
 - 3) **Revelation 21:23** *"The city (the New Jerusalem) had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light."* (1,580 miles squared)
- E) This passage is nearly taken directly from **Matthew 24:30** which says *"Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."*
- F) This passage also lets us know that Jesus won't be confined to a geographical location like His first coming, but however He is going to appear, it will be slow enough and wide enough that every eye will see Him and have a deep heart response to Him.

- G) John also makes it clear that there is still yet a coming revival of Jews who have previously rejected Jesus as their Messiah. Though Jews are central to Jesus' end time purpose, they still have to repent and accept Jesus to gain admission into the eternal city. But this day is coming.

1) **Zechariah 12:10-14;13:1-6**

IV) John The End-Time Father (Revelation 1:9)

- A) **Revelation 1:9** *"I, John both your brother and companion in the tribulation and Kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos, for the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."*
- B) This is yet another proof of John the Beloved's authorship of the Revelation. He doesn't need to include anything else other than his name because he is so well known to them. Also, Ephesus which is the first Church addressed in **Revelation 2** is only 65 miles away from Patmos.
- C) Though John could've addressed himself as the Apostle, the father, the bishop, the Pastor or the Revelator, he chooses to call himself *"...John both your brother and companion in the tribulation..."*
- D) I believe that John wanted the Churches to know that He was in this thing together with them. The present tribulation and the coming increase of trouble in the great tribulation wasn't something that he was removed from. Not only did he like Daniel literally suffer, but he also witnessed the coming trouble in various visions.
- E) John who at this time had clear understanding that the other entire apostle's had died of martyrdom, appeals to the Churches to have patience, or patience endurance in the midst of present and yet coming trouble.
- 1) History tells us by the time John wrote the Revelation Andrew died on an X shaped Cross in Patras, Bartholomew (Nathanael) was flayed alive, James the brother of John was beheaded by Herod Agrippa in Jerusalem, James the son of Cleopas and Mary were thrown from the temple and stoned, Jude (Thaddeus) was shot with arrows, Matthew was slain by the sword in Parthia, Peter was crucified upside down in Rome, Phillip was hung on a pillar, Simon (the zealot) was crucified in Persia, Thomas was slain with a spear in India, Mathias was stoned and beheaded and Paul an apostle of Jesus Christ was said to also have been beheaded.
- F) John was all too aware of the cost of following Jesus Christ and he has become an end-time father imparting hope in Christ for patient endurance for that which is yet ahead.