

Revelation Part 1 - Our Awesome Lord

Speaker: Dr. Henry Schorr

1. The book of Revelation is a **letter** (1:19) written for a specific people, living in specific cities at a specific time in history to meet specific needs. John was exiled on Patmos, unable to visit the seven churches he had previously served as pastor. Now the churches were facing intense persecution, imprisonment, torture and even death because of their devotion to Christ. They needed to be reminded that Christ was worth dying for, that in the end Jesus would be the victor!
2. This book contains **prophecy**, which includes both predictions of the future and declarations, words from God in the present.
3. This book is a **revelation**—of the future and of who Jesus really is. The book of Revelation will show us the majesty and the glory of Jesus in a way we haven't seen Him before. John brings greetings (v.4) from God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Jesus Christ. Then John describes Jesus in His fullness.

The Jesus that John knew when He was on earth was:

1. "the faithful witness" (v.5) who spoke truthfully of who God is and why he came into the world.
2. "the first born from the dead" (v.5), a reference to Jesus' resurrection. He is the first one to rise in glory from having once been dead.
3. "the Ruler of the kings of the earth." Jesus is the ruler over every source of power, "...the Alpha and the Omega...who is and who was and who is to come."
4. He LOVES US (v.5).
5. Jesus also freed us from our sins.

New revelation—the majesty and glory of Jesus (v. 10-12)

1. His **hair** was white (v.14), indicating righteousness and holiness. Daniel referred to Him as the 'ancient of days' (Dan. 7:9). Jesus is God and He has all the wisdom that we associate with age plus He's eternal.
2. **Eyes** like blazing fire—constantly watching, missing nothing, purifying.
3. **Feet** like bronze. Nebuchadnezzar's statue had feet of clay. And Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom was ultimately destroyed. It was built on shaky ground. But Jesus' feet are made of bronze. Bronze is made of iron and copper. Iron is really strong, but it rusts. Copper does not rust but it's pliable, bendable. Bronze combines the strength of the iron and the endurance of copper which gives the image of an unshakable foundation.
4. **Voice** like the sound of rushing waters. Loud. Most of the time God speaks to us with a whisper, but if we are preoccupied or walking in sin He may shout at us like a trumpet or a roaring river or waterfall to get our attention.
5. **Right hand** indicating He is ready to fight, ready for action. "In His right hand he held 7 stars" (referring to the pastors or leaders of the 7 churches). Jesus is with you in your suffering, persecution and disappointment. You are safe and secure if you put your trust in Him.
6. **Mouth**. "Coming out of his mouth was a sharp double edged sword." Rest on the truth and authority of His Word.
7. Face like "the sun shining in all its brilliance." God offers us unblemished righteousness, absolute holiness.

John's reaction. John falls at his feet as though dead. We would do the same if we saw what John saw. We would all be on our face before Jesus surrendering our lives and concerns to him.

Our response. "See I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction...**Now choose life**, ... hold fast to Him, **for He is your life**" (Deut. 30:19-20).

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. How does the book of Revelation appeal to you? Do you read it with excitement or with fear? With hope or with caution? Explain.
2. When you were a child, how would you describe Jesus?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Jesus is stated as being the ‘faithful witness’, the ‘firstborn from the dead’, and the ‘Ruler of the kings of the earth’, that He loves us and ‘freed us from our sins’. What are the implications today for us reading and believing these statements?
4. List the ways that John describes Jesus in verses 12-16. What emotions does this image instill in you? Why? How may these descriptions better instill a solid trust in Jesus than you now have?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Apostle John has been banished to Patmos for not saying that Caesar is Lord. What kind of persecution do we, the church, face today?
6. Verse 17 says that John fell at his feet as though dead when he saw Jesus in his vision. What are the things you need to surrender to Jesus so that we can proudly say that Jesus Christ is our Lord?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Your lifestyle defines what you believe. Do you declare that Jesus is your Lord? Does your life, values and priorities align with that declaration? Is He your life or is it someone or something else? Meditate on Deuteronomy 30:19-20 and pray your thoughts back to God.

THE WORD

Revelation 1:4-20

⁴ John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”
So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

¹⁹ “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

This week’s writers: Elsa Henderson, Gene and Karen Gibbs, Jared Harrison and Jorel Quemuel