

I. REVELATION 1 - INTRODUCTION (REV. 1:1–8)

A. The main focus of the Book of Revelation is about *the excellence of Jesus Christ, his heart and leadership*.

¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. He sent and signified it by His angel to...John. (Rev. 1:1)

B. Secondly, the book of Revelation is about *Jesus' end time plan and events*, including a purified Church, the great harvest of souls, the replacement of all earthly governments and the release of heaven upon the earth in an unprecedented measure. *Primarily, this book unveils the man behind the plan.*

C. The book of Revelation provides further revelation of Jesus. It is *the fifth gospel*. We take the book of Revelation seriously because it's what the Father Himself gave it to the Church *after* Jesus' resurrection. These descriptions and events really matter. Jesus said there were many things he could not yet share with His disciples (John 16:12), but sixty years later, The Father has revealed more about His Son and His plans.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. (John 16:12)

¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [The Father] gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants... (Rev. 1:1)

D. Revelation 1 gives us *the most comprehensive picture* of *who Jesus is today*—what He feels, thinks and values. John had a revelatory experience where the Spirit highlighted *52 distinct aspects of Jesus* eternal majesty, strategically given in *14 titles, 10 attributes* (inherent qualities) and *28 descriptions* (authority, appearance, apparel, articles, action, words). In this chapter John only briefly gives us these aspects, but they each are *a mountain of revelation* and *an open doorway* to encounter the man, Jesus Christ.

E. The Holy Spirit is our escort into knowing all things related to God, even the deep things of God. He makes God known to us (Jn. 14:16, 19–21, 26; 15:26; 16:12–15; 1 Jn. 2:20, 27; 1 Cor. 2:9–12). The truths transform the Church unto a fully mature, spotless and compatible Bride for Jesus, fully able to partner with Him.

¹³“The Spirit...will guide [escort] you...¹⁴for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (Jn. 16:13–14)

¹⁰The Spirit searches...the deep things of God...¹²We have received...the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. (1 Cor. 2:10–12)

F. Today within the Church there is both a denying and ignoring of certain truths about Jesus because by embracing the real Jesus, it's costly, embarrassing and uncomfortable. Paul warned about a “different gospel” with “another Jesus” who is an imposter and counterfeit (2 Cor. 11:4), having no resemblance to the true Jesus of the Bible and therefore no power to transform the human heart (Jn. 7:38; 2 Cor. 3:18). It's this false, unBiblical Jesus that is being preached in many places, leaving the Church untransformed and anemic.

⁴For if he...preaches another Jesus., or if you receive ... a different gospel which you have not accepted... (2 Cor. 11:4)

G. Paul did not run from the real Jesus, but sacrificed everything to be closer to Him (Phil. 3:8), always asking the Lord for grace to preach these unsearchable riches about Jesus. Mike Bickle says, “the most neglected subject in the kingdom of God is God.” Are you willing to read and listen (agree with) these truths and proclaim them, even if it costs you something?

⁸*I count all things loss for the excellence [magnificence] of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:8)*

⁸*To me...grace was given that I should preach...the unsearchable riches of Christ. (Eph. 3:8)*

³ ***Blessed is he who reads and those who hear** [draw near, respond to] the words of this prophecy, and keep [obey, follow] those things which are written in it; for the time is near. (Rev. 1:3)*

II. THE ROLE OF THE FATHER AND THE SPIRIT IN HUMAN REDEMPTION

A. *The Father* is described as “[He] **who is and who was and who is to come**,” revealing His special commitment and involvement with the earth forever (Eph. 1:3–11). **Who is:** He is presently involved in human history, guiding it and overseeing its direction unto a set purpose which He has predetermined. **Who was:** He was deeply involved with the earth from the beginning, laying its foundations and overseeing its early events. **Who is to come:** He is the Father *that will come live with us on earth*, giving us great hope.

⁴*...peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come. (Rev. 1:4)*

³ *The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them [on the earth]. (Rev. 21:3)*

B. *The Holy Spirit* is described in His great *diversity of ministry* as the seven spirits (Isa. 11:2; Rev. 3:1; 4:5; 5:6; cf. Zech. 3:9; 4:10). He is described in *his humility* and *readiness* to serve the Father’s purposes as He dwells before His throne. He is *fully Divine* in His position before the throne.

⁴*...peace from Him...and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne. (Rev. 1:4)*

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. (Isa. 11:2)*

III. THREE FOUNDATIONAL TITLES OF JESUS (REV. 1:5)

A. John highlighted three primary truths about Jesus (v. 5) and elaborated on them (v. 10–20). These truths about Jesus are foundational to what unfolds. These three titles are emphasized in Psalm 89, a Messianic Psalm.

⁵*...from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. (Rev. 1:5)*

²⁷*I will make him My firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth...³⁵*I have sworn...³⁷*It shall be established forever like the moon, even like the faithful witness in the sky. (Ps. 89:27–37)***

B. **Faithful witness:** Jesus *perfectly reveals the Father* at all times, always *telling the truth* about God, man, Israel, culture, the end times, etc... This is Jesus’ first title in the book. God also calls us to faithfully witness about Him. (Rev. 1:5; 3:7, 14; 19:11)

1. During His earthly ministry, Jesus embodied truth in His life and courageously spoke truth out of loyal love to His Father (Jn 3:11; 5:31-32; 8:13-14; 8:18, 23; 18:37), regardless of the cost—even His life. He did not hold back the negative (rebukes or declarations of judgment) or exaggerate the positive (affirmations or promises). He spoke without regard for criticism or loss.

³⁷*For this cause I have come...that I should bear witness to the truth. (Jn. 18:37)*

2. *Everything* He does related to the events in the book of Revelation in transitioning the earth under His rule perfectly represents the Father.

C. ***Firstborn among the dead***: Just as in the ancient world the firstborn possessed special rights (Luke 15:31), Jesus has *the preeminent authority* over all creation and *the special honor* as firstborn (Eph. 1:20–21). This title does not refer to Jesus being “born” or created, but rather He is the first in authority and source of all (Col. 1:15–18). He is the first human with a resurrected body, resurrected 2,000 years before anyone else as a first fruits before God (1 Cor. 15:20–25; Phil 3:20).

¹⁵He is...the firstborn over all creation. ¹⁶By Him all things were created...¹⁸He...is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:15–18)

²¹...who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself. (Phil. 3:21)

D. ***Ruler of the kings of the earth***: Jesus has been given the preeminence over all earthly human government (Phil 2:9–11). The theme of the book of Revelation is that Jesus is returning to earth to rule all the nations as King of all kings (Rev. 1:5, 7; 11:15; 15:3; 19:16; 21:24). He will execute the kings of the earth upon His return (Ps. 110:5–6; Isa. 24:20-21; Rev. 19:19–21). In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved and worship Him (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2).

¹¹ All kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)

IV. JESUS LOVED US AND MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS (REV. 1:5–6)

⁵ To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—⁶ and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to serve [NIV] His God and Father... (Rev. 1:5-6, NASB)

A. ***He loved us***. This is the Bridal message. He desired us and wants us to be with Him where He is (Mark 3:13–14; John 17:24; Isa. 62:4). He did not just please the Father and go to heaven as a resurrected man alone, but He will return and bring heaven to us. He qualified us with His own blood.

²⁴ “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory (John 17:24)

B. ***He made us a kingdom of priests*** (1 Pet. 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10). I prefer this translation over “kings and priests” as it does not render best the original Greek. As priests of God, our primary *calling is heavenly* (Heb 3:1) and one in which He has prominence (Col 1:15–18; Heb. 7:21, 42; 8:2). We rule in the same way He does, through *meditation* (gazing and listening), *prayer, intercession, declaration, praise and blessing God, blessing and teaching the people*. The priestly ministry is the only way to rule.

C. ***He shares His authority with us***. He is not just “the” ruler of the kings of the earth, but He will govern the earth in partnership with resurrected saints (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4- 6; 22:5; cf. Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2-3).

⁴ I saw thrones, and they [resurrected saints] sat on them [held positions of authority]...and reigned with Christ for a thousand years... ⁶They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)

V. JESUS IS COMING TO THE EARTH (REV. 1:7–8)

A. The primary theme and storyline in the book of Revelation is Jesus coming to the earth on the clouds to be received as king. His kingship will be announced and asserted over every nation as His royal procession in the sky is seen by every eye (Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7). Jesus will come to the earth to create the context for the Father to come (Rev. 1:4, 8; 21:3).

⁷Behold, 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. (Rev. 1:7)

³⁰“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.” (Mt. 24:30)

B. When Jesus returns, all unbelievers will see Him and mourn, either in repentance unto salvation (Zech. 12:10) or remorse over their coming judgment (Rev. 1:7; 16:9, 11, 21).

VI. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE TITLE, “SON OF MAN”

A. Here John describes Jesus as the Son of Man. During His earthly ministry, Jesus spoke of himself as *the Son of Man*, more than any other title and it is found 85 times in the gospels.

¹In the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man... (Rev. 1:13)

B. The title John uses to describe whom he is seeing first occurred in Daniel 7 when Daniel saw a man approaching the Ancient of Days (Dan. 7:13). This was unheard of—A man approaching the infinite and all-powerful God! By calling Him this title means Jesus is the future of Daniel 7, will *destroy the Beast and its leader* [the Antichrist] (Dan. 7:11), *approach the Father in honor on the clouds* (7:13), *inherit the earth, its nations and all pertaining to it from the Father* (7:14), and *give away this authority to the saints* (7:27). This is the main storyline of the book of Revelation.

¹³ I [Daniel]...behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He [Jesus] came to the Ancient of Days... ¹⁴ Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom,... His dominion is an everlasting dominion... ²⁷ Then the kingdom and dominion...shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Dan. 7:13–27)

⁷Behold, He is coming with clouds... (Rev. 1:7)

C. The title “son of man” secondarily means that Jesus has the characteristics of a man. In essence, God is saying, “I will always be human forever”. A billion years from now we can still touch Him and He touch us.

D. He is *the ultimate revelation of MAN* to us, the perfect design of God’s image in man (Lk. 13:32; Heb. 2:10; 5:9; 7:28; 1 Cor. 15:49; Col. 3:3–4; 1 John 3:2), modeling God’s desire to be in intimate fellowship with man and fulfilling His decree given for man to subdue the earth (Gen. 1:26–28; Psalm 8; Mt. 6:10; 1 Cor. 15:45).

E. He is *the highest revelation of GOD* to us, possessing the fullness and perfection of the Godhead in His body (Col. 1:15, 19; 2:2–3, 8–10; 2 Cor. 4:4–6). Jesus is literally: “one of a kind” (only begotten) when He came to dwell among us during His earthly ministry (John 1:14). He is forever unique in that He is the ideal human and perfect representation of the Father in bodily form and heart (Jn. 14:6, 7–11).

VII. JESUS—THE HIGH PRIEST OF THE HEAVENLY SANCTUARY (REV. 1:12–13)

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band... (Rev. 1:12–13)

- A. Jesus was standing *as a priest* in the heavenly temple, clothed in a priestly robe and golden breastplate (cf. Heb. 7:21, 24). This is the same attire that the high priest wore according to the Mosaic law (Ex. 25:7; 28:8; 29:5; Lev. 8:7; 16:4; cf. Rev. 15:6).
- B. The book of Revelation is showing us Jesus' value system in governorship. He is a priest FIRST to minister to His Father, even though He will inherit all the demands and responsibilities of the earth as King. *The book of Revelation emphasizes that the government of God is only brought through the priestly ministry the Father desires.* In other words, Jesus is a priest who rules, not just a king with a prayer life on the side (Psalm 110:1, 4; Zech. 6:13; 14:9, 17; Rev. 1:12–16; 1:5; 19:16; Isa. 9:6–7; 33:17, 22). *If He rules as a priest, how should His people also govern the dominion they receive from Him?*
- C. The lifestyle of the twenty-four elders, who possess the highest level of human government, also emphasize this truth who spend the bulk of their energy worshipping the Lord, gazing upon Him, declaring truths about Him and making intercession. The elders also have other ministry assignments as well.
- D. Jesus ministers to the Father in the Heavenly Temple by *aton[ing] for our sin and medi[ating] the new covenant* (Heb. 8:12, 15; 12:24), *sitting at the right hand of God, offer[ing] prayers* (Heb. 10:12; Rev. 8:3), *silenc[ing] the accuser* (Zech. 3:1–5; Rev. 12:10), *lead[ing] praises to the Father* amid the congregation of angels and saints (Psalm 22:22, 25; Rev. 5:6; 7:17) and *giving confidence for us* to stand before God (Heb. 10:20–22). In all these things He is *a minister of the heavenly sanctuary* (Heb. 8:2).
- E. Only because He is the Firstborn from the Dead and a Faithful High Priest, having washed us in His blood, can make us priests to God so we can govern the earth with Him (Rev. 5:10; John 4:21–24; Heb. 12:22–24; Eph. 2:4–6; John 17:24; Dan. 7:27; Rev. 2:26–27; 3:21; 20:4–6; 22:5; Mt. 19:28; 25:23; Lk. 19:17–19; 22:29–30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2–3).

VIII. JESUS' EXCELLENCE UNVEILED (REV. 1:9-19)

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet...¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ 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. (Rev. 1:10–16)

- A. *Jesus' voice:* He speaks to gather His people, warn of judgment and announce His return.

10 A loud voice, as of a trumpet...¹⁵ His voice as the sound of many waters. (Rev. 1:10, 15)

- B. *Jesus' eyes:* His “eyes like fire” speak of His intensely burning desire of His love (Ex. 34:14; Deut. 4:24; Zeph. 1:18; Jas. 4:5) and His knowledge that penetrate all things (1 Cor. 4:5; Heb. 4:13; Rev. 1:14; 2:18; 19:12). They speak of His ability to see everything, to feel love for us, to impart love to us, and to destroy all that hinders love (1 Cor. 3:10–15; Rom. 14:10-12; 2 Cor. 5:9–11).

14 ...His eyes like a flame of fire. (Rev. 1:14)

C. Jesus' hair: Jesus' head and hair are white as wool and snow, speaking of his eternal existence, purity and wisdom. The Father is give these same attributes (Dan. 7:9), revealing Jesus possesses these in equal measure to the Father—the one who will zealously remove sin, wicked armies and purify His Bride.

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow. (Rev. 1:14)

D. Jesus' right hand: Jesus holds seven stars. These are His leaders that He will anoint, direct and protect them as they endure all challenges: the demands and temptations of ministry (Rev. 2:4–5), fear and intimidation (Rev. 2:10), immorality and idolatry (Rev. 2:14, 20–23), spiritual slumbering (Rev. 3:1–3), quitting under hardship (Rev. 3:8, 10) and apathy (Rev. 3:15–16). He also exposes the Satanic rage (Rev. 12:12-17), worldly temptation and persecution that the entire body of Christ will endure in the last days (Rev. 17:1-4). Because He is holding the stars, it means that even when we are weak, He is tender and strong to keep us until the end.

16 In His right hand seven stars... 20 The seven stars are the angels [messengers]... (Rev. 1:16, 20)

E. Jesus' feet and sword: As King, His sword to removes (separates) the things that hinder love in our hearts and our enemies around us. His Word is compared to a sword (Eph. 6:17). His feet trample all resistance to His rule (Rev. 19:15-16; Gen. 3:15; Rom. 16:20).

15 His feet were like fine brass... 16 Out of His mouth went a two-edged sword... (Rev. 1:15-16)

F. Jesus' countenance: Jesus' glorious radiance exhilarates the saints and destroys His enemies. 16His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Rev. 1:16)

16 ...and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Rev. 1:16)

IX. TOOLS FOR THE PRAYER ROOM WHEN ENGAGING JESUS ABOUT REVELATION 1

A. A-R-K: We apply the truths about Jesus in Revelation 1 to our lives in three ways:

1. Agreement: Make declarations of agreement to Jesus as the faithful witness. Pray, “Jesus, You are the faithful witness. You took a stand with courage and love. I believe You.”
2. Revelation: “Reveal Yourself to me and show me Your glory as the faithful witness.”
3. Keep the prophecy: Respond in faith and obedience to the specific truth of Jesus as the faithful witness. Pray, “I will stand for truth regardless what it costs me. Help me.”

B. Linger in God's presence: As you “come to Jesus” (Jn. 5:39-40), take time to linger in His presence, as you speak slowly and softly to Him, adding statements of love, praying in the spirit or being silent. It is very important not to rush. If you slow down in prayer and say less, you'll experience much more.

C. Pray-Reading & Journaling: Take time to journal your thoughts as you create an active dialogue with Jesus through the Word. This helps capture the truths that the Holy Spirit gives us and to grow in our dialogue with God. The anointing of the Spirit provides a tailor-made teaching for us through the Word (1 Jn. 2:27).

7 Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. (Rev. 22:7)

APPENDIX¹: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST—FIFTY-TWO DISTINCT ASPECTS OF MAJESTY (REV. 1)

- A. *In Revelation 1* Jesus reveals Himself, as the “Son of Man”, highlighting 52 distinct aspects of His eternal majesty, strategically given in *14 titles*, *10 attributes* (inherent qualities) and *28 descriptions* (authority, appearance, apparel, articles, action, words), giving us the most comprehensive picture of who Jesus is today!
- B. The study of God’s beauty takes time, effort and dedication (Ps. 27:4; Lk. 10:38-42; Phil. 3:3-14). Like emerging from a dark room into the blinding light of the summer sun, be patient as your eyes slowly adjust to the glorious light of God’s Son. Seasoned understanding comes progressively, as we consistently behold these truths with anticipation (Mt. 5:6), while talking to Him in their application (Lk. 8:18; Jn. 5:38-40).

⁴ One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek...to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple. (Psalm 27:4)

- C. ***Titles*** (14): *Jesus* (Rev. 1:1, 2, 4, 9 x2); *Christ* (Rev. 1:1, 2, 4, 9 x2); *Faithful Witness* (Rev. 1:4); *Firstborn from the Dead* (Rev. 1:4); *Ruler over the Kings of the Earth* (Rev. 1:4); *Him Who Loved Us* (Rev. 1:5); *Lord* (Rev. 1:10); *Alpha* (Rev. 1:11); *Omega* (Rev. 1:11); *First* (Rev. 1:11, 17); *Last* (Rev. 1:11; 17); *Son of Man* (Rev. 1:13); *He who Lives and was Dead* (Rev. 1:18); *Alive Forevermore* (Rev. 1:18).
- D. ***Attributes*** (10): *Blood washed us from sin* (Rev. 1:5); *Voice like a trumpet; as many waters* (Rev. 1:10, 12, 15); *Feet like fine brass* (Rev. 1:13, 15, 17); *Chest with golden band* (Rev. 1:13); *Head white like wool* (Rev. 1:14); *Hair white as snow* (Rev. 1:14); *Eyes like flame of fire* (Rev. 1:14); *Right Hand* (Rev. 1:16, 17, 20); *Mouth with sharp two-edged sword* (Rev. 1:16); *Countenance like sun shining in strength* (Rev. 1:16).
- E. ***Descriptions*** (28): *His revelation* (Rev. 1:1); *His servants* (Rev. 1:1 x2); *He sent and signified* (Rev. 1:1; 11); *His angels* (Rev. 1:1); *His testimony* (Rev. 1:2, 9); *He loved us* (Rev. 1:5); *He washed us from our sins in His own blood* (Rev. 1:5); *He made us kings and priests* (Rev. 1:6); *His God* (Rev. 1:6); *His Father* (Rev. 1:6); *He is coming with clouds* (Rev. 1:7); *Every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him* (Rev. 1:7); *All the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him* (Rev. 1:7); *His tribulation* (Rev. 1:9); *His kingdom* (Rev. 1:9); *His patience* (Rev. 1:9); *His Day* (Rev. 1:10); *His appearance behind John* (Rev. 1:10); *He commissions to write and send* (Rev. 1:11, 19); *He’s in the midst of the seven lampstands* (Rev. 1:13); *He’s clothed with a garment down to the feet* (Rev. 1:13); *He’s girded about the chest with a golden band* (Rev. 1:13); *He holds the seven stars in His right hand* (Rev. 1:16, 20); *Out of His mouth goes a sharp two-edged sword* (Rev. 1:16); *His appearance is deathly terrifying* (Rev. 1:17); *He laid His right hand saying “Do not be afraid”* (Rev. 1:17); *He has the keys of Hell and Death* (Rev. 1:18); *He reveals mysteries* (Rev. 1:20).
- F. These 52 aspects of Jesus’ majesty are merely hints that “whisper” of His infinite glory. Each aspect is like the tip of a massive iceberg of truth waiting below the surface that the Holy Spirit will use to guide us into the deeper things of God’s heart and mind (Pr. 25:2; Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:9–12).

¹³ When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth... ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine [thoughts, emotions, etc.] and declare [reveal] it to you. (Jn. 16:13–14)

¹ Adapted from Corey Stark’s *THE BOOK OF REVELATION: S02 part one: The Revelation of Jesus Christ*.