

DATE: October 16, 2011

TEXT: Revelation 1: 4-8

TITLE: Who is Jesus ?



Are you ready to be blessed by God? Expect it.... it is a promise from God and he fulfills

His promises. *Rev 1: 3 says this* **“Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy”**

We are going to read and study this Word of God... expect to be blessed!

I said last week the central theme or Revelation is Jesus Christ. As I said, Revelation gives us a richer picture of Jesus than even the Gospels. We see this truth in our text this morning. It is entirely about Jesus. Our text gives us 7 statements about Jesus. We are going to look at each one. Let me say this morning... these are bullet points. There are nine of them... I will not spend a lot of time on any of them...but each are expanded upon later in Revelation.

Statement # 1 Jesus is God. Jesus is part of the Trinity. We see this in our first and our list verse of our text. First in *Revelation 1:4,5a*,

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirit before his throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ,.....

Notice in this first sentence the entire Trinity is mentioned. It begins with a description of

God the Father. He is... He was.... And he is to come... the Eternal One. The seven spirits is a reference to the Holy Spirit. It describes the 7 attributes of the Holy Spirit. For the first time we see this truth... John knew his Bible... the Old Testament. This is a reference from *Isaiah 2*

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him— the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of might, the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the LORD—

Let me also introduce this fact. Numbers have meaning in the Book Of Revelation.

The number 7 is used throughout the book of Revelation and it means completeness or totality.

The seven fold Spirit is the totality of the Spirit of God. It is the Holy Spirit.

Finally in verse 5 and in verse 8 we see that Jesus is part of the Holy trinity. He is God.

In *Rev 1: 8* we read...

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

Verse 4 gives states that God the Father is the one “who is who was and who is to come.”

Verse 8 now tells us that Jesus is the Alpha and the omega... who is, who was and who is to come. The exact same description that is given to God the Father is given to God the Son.

Let there be no doubt about it... Jesus is God. This has been a bit of a controversy this

week. There has been a controversy about Mormonism. Mormons have a high regard for Jesus.

They consider Him to be the Redeemer.... they will say He died on the cross for our sins. They believe in His resurrection. They will say he is the “son of God.” But they mean something different by that title. Here is the difference between Mormonism and Christianity. Mormons do not believe in the Trinity. They do not believe that the Holy Spirit is God. They do not believe that Jesus Christ is God. Scripture is clear.... almost every title given to God is given to Jesus Christ. Jesus Himself says **“I and the Father are One.”**(*John 10:30*) Jesus said **“Very truly I tell you,”** Jesus answered, **“before Abraham was born, I am!”** (*John 8:56*). Jesus is God.

Our Lord and our God.

Statement # 2 Jesus is the **“faithful witness.”** We live in a day and age where there are great questions about truth. What is right? What is wrong? This is not something new. Do you remember the words of Pilate as Jesus stood before him in *John 18:36-38*

37 “You are a king, then!” said Pilate.

Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”

38 “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again

Because Pilate did not accept truth he condemned Jesus to die. The same is true today.

When we reject the truth of Jesus we condemn Him to die in our lives. Jesus is a “faithful witness.” He speaks the truth... and he gives that truth to us.

Let us be clear... God desires us to know Him. God does not remain a “mystery being.”

God desires his children to know Him. He reveals Himself to us. Even in Revelation... which is full of symbolic language... God desires us to know Him in it's pages. Let us listen. Let us seek Him. The only reason to not know God and not know Jesus Christ is to ignore Him and to ignore His truth.

Statement # 3 Jesus is the “**firstborn from the dead.**” Jesus is alive. He is alive today.

He continues today to have a resurrected body. This is GOOD NEWS for you; and for me.

These bodies we live in are temporary. They come... they go. But because Jesus is resurrected we can be assured that we too will be resurrected. He is the “firstborn” we are to follow.

Remember John was writing this letter to people who were being put to death for their faith.

People were being brought before a Roman judge and were asked one question... “do you affirm

that the Emperor is god?" If they said yes, they were let go.. If they said no... they were put to death. How would you answer? You will not be asked to affirm the deity of a political figure..

But you are asked these questions...

Is money your god?

Is success your god?

Is security (as in Social security) your god?

Is family your god?

Is the pursuit pleasure your god?

Is comfort your god?

How do you answer these questions. Would you be willing to die for Jesus? In the first century thousands of men and women were put to death because they said "Only Jesus is my God." John has Good News.... death is not victorious. Jesus is the "firstborn of the dead."

Statement # 4 Jesus is the "ruler of the kings of the earth." In some ways this had to seem like a foolish statement to the initial readers of this letter. The Emperor was all powerful. He held their lives in his hands. John is saying.. Jesus is the King of kings and Lord of lords.

Do you understand this truth. Jesus is Lord. Jesus is sovereign. President Obama is our President... Jesus Christ is our King, and Jesus Christ is the King of our President... whether he acknowledges that truth or not... it does not matter.... Jesus is King. *Psalm 24 states this truth..*

**1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;**

**2 for he founded it on the seas
and established it on the waters.**

**3 Who may ascend the mountain of the LORD?
Who may stand in his holy place?**

**4 The one who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not trust in an idol
or swear by a false god.**

**5 They will receive blessing from the LORD
and vindication from God their Savior.**

**6 Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek your face, God of Jacob.**

**7 Lift up your heads, you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

**8 Who is this King of glory?
The LORD strong and mighty,
the LORD mighty in battle.**

**9 Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.**

**10 Who is he, this King of glory?
The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory**

Jesus is the “ruler of kings on the earth.

Statement # 5 Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins This could be a sermon unto
itself. Let me do something I rarely do... let me teach a little bit of grammar... Greek grammar. I
don't do this because my wife is the grammar expert... not me... I can barely speak, and I am not

a Greek scholar. But I do study and almost every commentary observed this truth. *Revelation 1:*

5 says this...

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,

This is what I want to point out. Notice that in this last line it is in the present tense. “To him how loves us.” Not past tense. Jesus loves us. Not loved... not will love... loves. His love is with us today. His absolute commitment to us is present today. Not a future hope. Not a past action... a present reality.

The second stanza is in the aorist tense. This means it happened in the past once and for all... but still applies today. On the cross the last words of Jesus were “It is finished”, “it is accomplished.” Jesus has freed us from our sins. Jesus said this in *John 8:31*

To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. 32 Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

Here is a great lie of Satan... Christianity is a set of rules and regulations that bind you and prevent you from enjoying life. That is a lie.

Last Summer Kim and I went to Spain. It was a wonderful, wonderful trip. We rented a

car and drove across Spain. One day we were driving from the French border to town named VIC, through the mountains. We had to go on a 30 kilometer road down the side of a mountain. It was beautiful... and it was scary. Narrow, narrow road... very, very windy, cliff on our one side. I learned the value of guard rails. Guard rails give you safety. Guard rails give you peace. Guard rails let you joy. Guard rails are your friend. The Truth of God are the guard rails in our lives. Sin is destructive and a bondage.

I heard this story this past week. A pastor from Sudan was visiting our area. He was talking to a group of ministers. He was teaching about premarital counseling. He says he does 60 hours of pre marital counseling. 60 hours. He was asked this question, "What about couples that are living together?" He said "What do you mean." "You know couples who are intimate before marriage." He still barely understood the question. You see in the Christian community in Sudan, that does not happen. He was then asked about the divorce rate. Again he did not understand... in the Christian community there is no divorce.

The sexual freedom in the united States has not brought peace, joy, or love. Do you know

that the divorce rate for couples that are first intimate on their wedding night is 1%. Jesus loves us and has loosed us from our sins. Truth has set us free.

Statement # 6 Jesus has made us priests to His Kingdom Our text says *Rev 1: 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.

We are the new Covenant community. We have taken the role held before by the nation of Israel. We are priests. This means we can directly approach our Lord. A Jewish Priest enters the Holy of Holies into the very presence of God. We can enter into the very presence of God. We do not need intermediaries. We do not pray to Mary. We do not have Saints. We have a much access to Jesus as does Mary. Praise be to God ... he hears our prayers and according to His will answers our prayers.

Statement # 7 Jesus is returning to this earth. *Rev. 1: 7 states...*

**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**

This is the entire book of Revelation so I will only mention it. Jesus is coming. His

coming will be a blessing or a terrible, terrible curse. Those who love him will rejoice... those who “pierce him” that is everyone who denies his Lordship, will mourn and be judged. Every person who does not follow Jesus is a person who drives nails into his hands and feet. Jesus is coming back.. As redeemer and as judge.

That’s it. The 7 statements about Jesus

1. Jesus is God.
2. Jesus is Faithful witness
3. Jesus is firstborn from the dead
4. Jesus is ruler of the kings on earth
5. Jesus loves us and has freed us from our sins
6. Jesus has made us priests able to approach the very throne of God
7. Jesus is coming again in glory to bless and to judge.

AMEN