

“The Glorified Jesus Christ” by E A Terry 10 11 20
Zechariah 14:1 – 21; Matthew 24; 3 – 25; Revelation 19:11 – 21; **Revelation 1:1 - 20**

If I were to ask you what is the purpose of The Book of Revelation, what would you say?

Some of you would say that the purpose of The Book of Revelation is to reveal how the world is going to end and it certainly does that.

Some of you would say that The Book of Revelation tells us the Revelation 1:1 tells us; ***“to show his servants what must soon take place.”***

You see The Book of Revelation is a book of prophecy

Others of you would say that The Book of Revelation tells us about God defeating Satan and all evil and that is also true.

Some of you would say that the purpose of The Revelation is to encourage believers to remain faithful and to assure Christians that Jesus will triumph and will right all wrongs.

And that is also true, Revelation reveals the rewards that await the faithful.

Some of you would say the purpose of Revelation is to scare people because tells all the horrible things God is going to do to an unbelieving evil world.

The world is in a desperate condition and things are too bad for any human to straighten out.

Some of you would say that The Book of Revelation is a warning to the Church because it points out the Church’s failure to convert the world to Christianity.

It is true that the Church is no longer instrumental in shaping moral behavior, dealing with social injustice, feeding the hungry, and economic disparity.

Some of you would say that the purpose of Revelation is a last warning for unsaved people to turn to Jesus and Revelation is a wakeup call for all Christians to get ready for Jesus to return.

All of the above purposes are compelling reasons for all of us to study The Book of Revelation.

But all of these purposes are secondary purposes.

The main purpose of The Book of Revelation is to reveal the person of the risen glorified Jesus Christ, Jesus’ present ministry in heaven, and Jesus future ministry.

So, if the main purpose of Revelation is to reveal or unveil the power of our risen glorified Savior Jesus then we need to spend some time mediating on the descriptions of our Risen Glorified Savior that are given to us in in The Book of Revelation.

As we begin looking at the descriptions of the glorified Jesus there are a few basic things we need to know to help us understand the Book of Revelation.

And I am grateful to Bible teacher J. Vernon McGee for helping us understand Revelation.

In verse 1 we read; ***the revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants ...***

The word ***“show”*** means *by word pictures, by symbols, by representatives, by figurative language.*

The language of Revelation is figurative of actual events that will take place.

Also, in verse 1 we read; ***“to show his servants what must soon take place.”***

The word ***“soon”*** used here does not mean Jesus will return immediately but rather when Jesus returns the events described in Revelation will take place in rapid succession; within a short period of time.

Verse 1 also tells us this revelation originated with God, it was given to Jesus, Jesus gave the revelation to His angel, and His angel delivered the message to The Apostle John to write down.

“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, (verse 4)

Grace always precedes peace.

You see there is no peace without God’s grace.

In verse 4 we read ***“The seven spirits”*** or the sevenfold Spirit.

The number 7 in The Bible is the perfect or complete number.

“The Seven Spirits of God” refers to the complete personality and the complete ministry of God The Holy Spirit.

In verses 5 and 6 we are given several titles of Jesus; ***“the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead”, the ruler of the kings of the earth.” “Him who loves us and who has freed us from our sins by his blood 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!***

Verse 7 states ***“he is coming with the clouds”***.

This assures us that Jesus second coming is personal and physical.

When Jesus comes again, ***“every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him.”***

This is a reference to Jesus’ second coming.

This is **not** a reference to The Rapture that we can read about in 1st Thessalonians 4.

Remember The rapture is when Jesus returns and removes the church.

The church is removed so believers will not experience the horrible wrath that is poured out on an unbelieving earth during the Great Tribulation.

All the people on earth will mourn because these are the people who refused or neglected to ask Jesus to save them from the penalty of their sins.

Jesus is coming to judge.

In verse 8 Jesus identifies Himself by saying; ***‘I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,’***.

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and omega is the last letter in the Greek alphabet.

“I am the First and the Last” (verse 8)

We find this same thought in the 1st chapter of The Gospel According to John.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.” He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. (John 1:1- 3)

Everything begins with Jesus and everything ends with Jesus.

Jesus is clearly stating that He is God!

Verses 9 – 16 contain John’s vision of the risen glorified Jesus.

In verse 13 John saw ***“someone like a son of man”*** standing in the mist of seven golden lampstands.

Jesus is the ***“someone like a son of man”*** and this is a reference to Jesus The Messiah. Verse 20 tells us the golden lampstands are the churches. As we saw in our study of the seven churches Jesus is with His church, Jesus is aware of every church’s circumstances, and Jesus knows the amount of light that each church is producing.

“Jesus is dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.”
(verse 13)

The garment Jesus is wearing emphasizes His majesty and the dignity of His office as King of Kings and The Lord of Lords.

The golden sash reveals Jesus role as high priest and His authority to forgive the sins of all who believe.

Jesus’ ***“head and hair was white like wool, as white as snow.*** (Verse 14)

In the Bible white represents purity and white hair represents wisdom and dignity.

Proverbs 16:31 says; ***“white hair is a crown of splendor; it is obtained by a righteous life.”***

Verse 14 ***“His eyes were like blazing fire.”***

Blazing eyes symbolize judgement of all evil and Jesus ability to look into the depths of a person’s heart.

Jesus is able to see through a person’s facades, their disguises, and the false pretends of people. Hebrews 4:13 tells us; ***“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”***

Verse 15 - ***“His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace.”***

Bronze is symbolic of judgement.

Jesus’ unlimited power allows Him to punish and to crush all evil.

Jesus judges His church in chapters 2 and 3 and in Chapter 19 we can read about Jesus judging the world.

Also in verse 15 we read; ***“His voice was like the sound of rushing water”.***

This is the voice of authority. Remember Jesus spoke the world into existence.

Jesus spoke and raised Lazarus from the dead and Jesus will call believers from the grave.

1st Thessalonians 4:16 says; ***“For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.”***

“In His right hand He held seven stars”. (verse 16)

Verse 20 tells us the seven stars represent the angels or the spiritual leaders of the seven churches.

In His hand speaks of protection and that Jesus controls their destiny.

Also, in verse 16 we read: ***“out of His mouth came a sharp double-edged sword”*** Hebrews 4:12 tells us the sword represents The Word of The Lord.

In Revelation 19:15 we can read that Jesus will destroy all of His enemies with that sword.

Jesus destroys His enemies with His Word. God’s word is all powerful.

Jesus spoke and created the earth and Jesus will speak and destroy the world.

Verse 16 also tells us Jesus’ ***“face was like the sun shining in all of its brilliance.”***

Emanating from Jesus' face was the light of glory.

It was the brilliance of Jesus' glory that knocked Saul of Tarsus down.

Matthew 17:2 tells us Jesus' face shone like the sun at The Transfiguration.

The sun is so bright that it will blind us if we look directly at it.

We all will fall down and worship Jesus when we see the light of His glory just like The Apostle John did. (Revelation 1:17)

In verse 18 we read; ***"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 Hell"***.

Our sins convict us and we all have been sentenced to spiritual and eternal death.

But the good news is that Jesus holds the keys of death and hell.

Jesus alone has the power and authority to free us from Satan's bondage and to free us from the power of sin.

But we must believe in Jesus, ask Jesus to forgive our sins, ask Jesus to be our savior, and we must repent!

As believers we do not have to fear death and hell because Jesus holds the keys to death and hell.

Jesus is alive and Romans 8:34 tells us ***"Jesus is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us."***

When we put our lives in Jesus' hands, Jesus restores our brokenness and Jesus allows us to enjoy a peaceful and eternal relationship with Him.

However, if we disregard Jesus and we attempt to control our lives, we will choose a course that leads us to spiritual death and to hell.

Today we are facing a health pandemic, hatred, rioting, violence, civil unrest, and weather phenomena.

We have to wonder what is coming next.

But here in Revelation Jesus reassures us that He knows all of our fears and struggles.

In Revelation Jesus appears in power, glory, splendor, and authority to reassure us that He is in full control of the universe and that He will come again to stamp out all evil.

Jesus also promises to generously reward all faithful believers and that we will be with Him in heaven throughout eternity.

Remember, *“If God is for us, who can be against us?”* (Romans 8:31) and *“nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord .”* (Romans 8:39)

This morning we all need to reevaluate the way we think about our risen Lord Jesus, the way we interact with Jesus, and the way we serve The Lord..

Jesus is our savior and our friend but Jesus is also our judge and He holds all of us accountable for our thoughts, our words, and our actions.

While Jesus is loving, merciful, and forgiving Jesus is also holy and His righteous demands our complete obedience and our total submission to Him.

God’s word to us today challenges all us to take the time to mediate on these word pictures of the glorified Jesus.

If we do that we would all fall down and worship Him, we would obey all of His commands, and we would commit ourselves to serving Jesus in all that we do and say.

What about you will you allow these powerful images of our glorified Lord Jesus Christ to transform your life?

AMEN