

## Jesus Gets the Last Word

(Revelation 1:4-8)

Jesus Christ is Preeminent in...

### 1. His **Person** (*Who He Is*)

Revelation 1:4–5a(NKJV) “<sup>4</sup>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, <sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth....”

“Grace and peace” was a common Christian greeting. The Greeks greeted you with the word “grace” or “charis”, and the Hebrews would greet you with “shalom” or peace. However, this represents how the gospel impacts our lives, in that order: first grace, then peace. Romans 5:1, “Therefore being justified by faith (that’s God’s grace), we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Seven (perfection, completeness, or fullness) see **Isa. 11:2; Zech. 4:1-6**. Not angels as some argue, but the perfect Holy Spirit.

Jesus is: 1) “the faithful witness” – you can trust what is written here because it comes from Jesus; 2) “the firstborn from the dead” – (prototokos) we get the word “prototype”. Jesus’ resurrection was the “prototype” for all Christians who will also one day be resurrected; 3) “the ruler of the kings of the earth” – ultimately, He will reign.

### 2. His **Plan** (*What He wants to Do for You*)

#### A. He **cherishes** us (*loved us*)

Revelation 1:5b, “...To Him who **loved us**...”

In Greek, this verb is in the present tense (not loved, but loves). Bill Bennett states, “This is really in the present tense; therefore, it’s saying, ‘Who loves us right now’. We often think of Jesus as having loved us on the cross, but John is stressing the fact that He loves us right now. And Jesus Christ is doing everything He can to show you and me that He really loves us, that He really cares. He loves each of us as if there was only one of us. Many people do not experience the love of Jesus because they will not open their hearts to His love. *Until to Him who does love us* and he goes on to the next phrase and

says, *unto to Him Who washed us*, or literally loosed us. That's past tense, which is indicating the cleansing of our sins by His blood which He accomplished on the cross."<sup>1</sup>

#### B. He **cleansed us** (*washed us or loosed us*)

Verse 5 continues, "...To Him who **...washed us** from our sins in His own blood,

In Greek, this verb is aorist, which means this is once and for all.

Daniel Akin writes, "The KJV and NKJV say He 'washed us,' viewing sin as a stain, and that is certainly true. However, the best manuscripts do render the text as He 'loosed' or 'set us free' where sin is viewed as a chain. I delight in saying it this way:

- He freed us from sin's *penalty*—our *justification*.
- He is freeing us from sin's *power*—our *sanctification*.
- He will free us from sin's *presence*—our *glorification*."<sup>2</sup>

#### C. He **crowned us** (*made us kings and priests*)

Verse 6, "and has **made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

#### D. He is **coming** for us

Verse 7, "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."

Matthew 24:30–31- "<sup>30</sup>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. <sup>31</sup>And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other." See also Acts 1:11.

"even they who pierced Him" - Jesus said to Caiaphas, the high priest, "But I say to all of you: In the future **you will see the Son of Man** sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven" (Matt. 26:64).

"all the tribes of the earth will mourn" because they rejected Him while they were living.

### 3. His **Power** (*His Authority*)

Revelation 1:8 - "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."

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet; omega is the last. Robert Jeffress explains, "Jesus was saying, 'I am the first and the last. I created this world with a word. I had the first word in human history, and I will have the last word in human history.' Understand this: The devastating report you receive from the doctor – that is not the last word. Your mate's declaration that he or she is leaving you – that is not the last word. The casket containing the remains of your loved one – that is not the last word. Jesus Christ will have the last word in history, and He will have the last word in your life as well. That is the promise of His coming."<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Bill Bennett, *Satanic Reverses*, unpublished material from my personal files.

<sup>2</sup> Daniel L. Akin, *Exalting Jesus in Revelation*, Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary (Nashville, TN: Holman Reference, 2016), 11.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Jeffress, *Final Conquest* (Dallas, TX: Pathway to Victory, 2020), 19.