

Easter 2026 Revelation 1:17-18 From Grave to Throne: Jesus Reigns

Calvary Chapel Titusville April 5th 2026

Pastor Paul Andris

"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." (Revelation 1:8 NKJV)

The One who walked out of that tomb is alive, He is the glorified, reigning Christ.

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. (Revelation 1:17a NKJV)

The same Jesus whose glory overwhelms John is the Jesus whose grace restores him.

But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. (Revelation 1:17b NKJV)

The empty tomb means Jesus is alive forevermore.

"I [am] He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. (Revelation 1:18a NKJV)

He is not merely one who possesses life; He is life itself.

Life is not found apart from Him.

But He [was] wounded for our transgressions, [He was] bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace [was] upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:5 NKJV)

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, (1 Peter 3:18 NKJV)

The tomb is empty because Christ is victorious. Jesus rose bodily, gloriously, and eternally.

knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no longer has dominion over Him. (Romans 6:9 NKJV)

Easter means not simply that Jesus came back, but that Jesus conquered death forever. who was delivered up because of our offenses, and was raised because of our justification. (Romans 4:25 NKJV)

The resurrection is not an inspiring ending to the story of Jesus; it is the victorious confirmation of everything He claimed to be.

Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. (Hebrews 2:14-15 NKJV)

The empty tomb does not just answer a theological question, it answers the deepest fear of the human heart.

Christian courage is never rooted in easy circumstances, It is rooted in a reigning Savior.

"Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I [am] the First and I [am] the Last; Besides Me [there is] no God. (Isaiah 44:6 NKJV)

The risen Christ stands over everything that tries to make you afraid.

Fear loses its grip when faith sees the risen Jesus clearly.

Who holds the keys???... Jesus holds the keys

And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. (Revelation 1:18b NKJV)

The one who holds the keys is the one in control.

Jesus walked into the grave and came out holding the keys.

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So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where [is] your sting? O Hades, where [is] your victory?" The sting of death [is] sin, and the strength of sin [is] the law. But thanks [be] to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:54-57 NKJV)

Because Jesus holds the keys, death becomes the doorway into His presence.

This is why Easter is more than a holiday. It is the dividing line of human history.

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. (John 11:25 NKJV)

Easter is the announcement that the One who died for sinners now rules over eternity.

The risen Christ does not merely open the tomb; He holds the keys to everything beyond it.

that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. (Romans 10:9 NKJV)

Revelation 1 gives us the Easter message in the voice of the risen Christ Himself:

"I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

This Easter do not stop at the empty tomb. Go all the way to the throne.

The One who was dead now says forever: "Do not be afraid."