

Session 5 The Beauty of God in the Face of Jesus (Rev. 1)

I. JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- A. Paul spoke of the glory or beauty of God being seen in the face or the person of Jesus (2 Cor. 4:6).
⁶*...to give the light of the knowledge of the glory [beauty] of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 4:6)*
- B. The book of Revelation is called the **revelation of Jesus** because it reveals the majesty of His heart and leadership in His plan to transition the earth to the age to come. It is a book about events that take place in His end-time plan to purify the Church, bring in the harvest, replace evil governments, and drive Satan off the planet. God's purpose in this book is first to reveal the Man behind the plan.
¹*The 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)*
- C. Revelation 1 and Revelation 19 give the most complete picture of Jesus in the Bible. They describe *who He is* (how He thinks and feels) and *what He does* in context to His end-time plan.

II. JESUS REVEALED HIS MAJESTY AS THE SON OF MAN

- A. Jesus revealed His majesty as the Son of Man, highlighting 24 aspects of His glory in Revelation 1. The title, *the Son of Man*, was first spoken by the prophet Daniel who was referring to the Messiah who would rule all the nations (Dan. 7:14). It emphasizes that Jesus is fully God and fully human.
¹⁰*I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last"...¹²Having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and 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. ¹⁴His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶He 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. ¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. (Rev. 1:10-17)*

III. DESCRIPTIONS OF JESUS IN REVELATION 1

- A. **Alpha and Omega:** Jesus is God; the Greek alphabet starts with *alpha* and ends with *omega*. The phrase "alpha and omega" indicates completeness, signifying the first and last letters and all the letters in between. Jesus is equal with His Father in deity and is the Lord of all.
- B. **First and the Last:** Jesus is man; He is first in prominence and authority and He is the first to be raised from the dead (Col. 1:15, 18; Rev. 5:12). He was the first man to conquer all the enemies of the human race, including death (1 Cor. 15:24-28). He possesses total power over death itself.
¹⁵*He is...the firstborn over all creation...¹⁸and the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:15-18)*
²⁶*The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. (1 Cor. 15:26)*

- C. The First and the Last is the title Jesus used most in Revelation (Rev. 1:11, 17; 2:8; 22:13). He associated this title with His physical suffering, death, and resurrection to encourage believers not to fear martyrdom. Jesus suffered a cruel death, so He understands all our suffering.
- ¹⁷I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. (Rev. 1:17-18)***
- ⁸These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life...¹⁰Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer...be faithful until death. (Rev. 2:8-10)***
- D. ***Eyes like fire***: His eyes like fire speak of His burning desire of love and His perfect knowledge that penetrate all things as fire penetrates metal. His eyes have fire in them because His heart is filled with the fire of desire for His people. His eyes are burning because His heart is burning. He ***feels*** love for us and ***imparts*** love to us as He ***sees*** everything about our life.
- ¹⁴His eyes like a flame of fire... (Rev. 1:14)***
1. God is love and is a consuming fire of desire. God connected His fire to His jealous love. His jealousy means that He will give all and require all because of His love.
- ²⁴For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous [passionate] God. (Deut. 4:24)***
2. The first time Jesus' eyes of fire are manifested is after His resurrection, when He appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:32). Jesus veiled His glory to them, but when He spoke, their hearts burned as the fire of His love touched them.
- ³²They [the Emmaus disciples] said to one another, “Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us...and while He opened the Scriptures to us?” (Lk. 24:32)***
3. Fire involves light and heat. Jesus' light enlightens our spiritual eyes and causes us to see differently. Jesus warms or tenderizes our heart and causes us to feel differently.
- E. Jesus' eyes of fire see everything about our life—in the way that fire penetrates flammable objects.
- ¹³There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Heb. 4:13)***
- ³The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on...evil and the good. (Prov. 15:3)***
- F. ***Jesus' voice***: His “trumpet voice” gathers people, warns of judgment, and announces His return.
- ¹⁰A loud voice, as of a trumpet...¹⁵His voice as the sound of many waters... (Rev. 1:10, 15)***
1. Jesus' powerful voice is like the sound of many waters and is full of majesty.
- ⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful...it is full of majesty. (Ps. 29:4)***
2. As the faithful witness, He trumpets God's warnings of judgment (Rev. 1:5; 3:14).
- ⁶If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned...[their] blood I will require at the watchman's hand. (Ezek. 33:6)***

- G. **Jesus' hair:** Jesus' head and hair are white as wool and snow, indicating the Father's glory. God's white garments and hair speak of His eternal existence, purity, and wisdom (Dan. 7:9).

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

⁹***His [the Father's] garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. (Dan. 7:9)***

- H. **Jesus' garments:** Jesus is seen as our High Priest—He is clothed in priestly robes with a golden breastplate, standing in the midst of seven lampstands (representing seven churches, v. 20). Jesus was girded about His chest with a golden band, just as Israel's high priest wore a robe girded with a breastplate (Ex. 28:4; Lev. 16:4). Isaiah saw Jesus' long priestly robe (Isa. 6:1; Jn. 12:41). The high priest stood before the seven-branched lampstand in the holy place (Ex. 25:31-40).

¹³***Clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded...with a golden band. (Rev. 1:13)***

- I. Jesus, the Son of Man, is our sympathetic High Priest who understands us (Heb. 4:15). Revealing Himself as our High Priest is a declaration of His love and our sure salvation. Jesus shows Himself as our High Priest who made a way for us to live in God's presence (Heb. 10:19-22).

- J. **Walking in the midst:** His walking in the midst of the candlesticks, or churches, (Rev. 1:20) assures us of His deep involvement. He walks with us and is aware of our needs, frailty, and pressures.

- K. **Jesus' right hand:** Jesus holding the seven stars, or the leaders, speaks of His promise to anoint, direct, and protect them. He is tender towards us, even when we feel inadequate. Jesus holds and helps His leaders to do what He entrusts to them. The stars speak of the leaders of the churches, who were responsible to make known the message John received from Jesus. The stars signify those who faithfully speak the truth (Dan. 12:3). The right hand is the place of favor (Ps. 110:1).

¹⁶***He had in His right hand seven stars...²⁰The seven stars are the angels [messengers] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands...are the seven churches. (Rev. 1:16, 20)***

- L. **Jesus' mouth like sword:** This speaks of His zeal to intervene against sin in the Church (Rev. 2:16) and against those who oppress the Church (Rev. 19:15). The sword of His mouth refers to the power released by His commands.

¹²***He who has the sharp two-edged sword... (Rev. 2:12)***

¹⁶***I will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. (Rev. 2:16)***

- M. Jesus' words are like a sharp sword (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). We are to use the Word like a sword to resist temptation like Jesus did (Mt. 4:4). If we do not use it against temptations, then Jesus will use it against our sinful agendas. If we seek to obey, His Word is a **sword that liberates us**. If we disobey, it will be a **sword that troubles us**. The sword strikes the heart of immoral believers in the Church (Rev. 2:16) and the lives of wicked leaders in the nations (Rev. 19:15).

¹²***The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword... (Heb. 4:12)***

¹⁷***Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... (Eph. 6:17)***

- N. **Jesus' feet like brass:** Jesus' feet like brass speak of His zeal to intervene to alter circumstances and increase the fear of the Lord in our lives (Rev. 2:18-23). Brass is a symbol of judgment against sin. Jesus "steps in" and "steps on" circumstances to alter or crush the circumstances which empower His people to continue in sin. As a redemptive judgment, He cuts off sinful options and frustrates circumstances to make it more difficult to persist in sin.

¹⁵***His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace... (Rev. 1:15)***

- O. **Jesus' countenance:** Jesus' glorious radiance exhilarates the saints and destroys His enemies.

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

²⁴***The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. The nations...shall walk in its light... (Rev. 21:24)***

IV. HOW TO APPLY THE DESCRIPTIONS OF JESUS: A-R-K

- A. Jesus' name will be the "ark of safety" and the "ark of His presence" in the end-time pressures. His name makes our spirit strong and peaceful instead of dull, fearful, and full of compromise.

¹⁰***The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. (Prov. 18:10)***

¹¹***Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me... (Jn. 17:11)***

- B. **A-R-K:** We apply the truths of the descriptions of Jesus in Revelation to our lives in three ways: **A-agreement**; **R-ask for revelation**; **K-keep the prophecy**. Jesus promised to bless any who resolve to "keep" the prophecy set forth in the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 9). We resolve to "keep" each of the truths by responding in faith and obedience in our actions and attitudes.

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

- C. **Agreement:** We make *declarations of agreement* to Jesus about who He is and what He does. We identify the core truths in each of the 30 descriptions (some overlap), then simply declare these truths back to Jesus with affection and gratitude. For example, pray:

1) "You are..." declarations: You are a faithful witness, the firstborn, the ruler of kings, etc.

2) "You have..." declarations: You have a sword; You have the keys of the kingdom, etc.

3) "Your..." declarations: Your face is like the sun; Your eyes are like fire, etc.

- D. **Revelation:** We pray for *increased revelation* of the truth implied in each description (Eph. 1:17). For example, "Reveal Yourself to me as the faithful witness," or "Reveal Yourself to me as the firstborn. Show me Your glory as the ruler of all kings. Teach me more about these."

- E. **Keep the prophecy:** We make simple declarations of resolve to obey or believe these truths. For example: "I commit to be a faithful witness to the truth, regardless of the cost. Help me to do this. I will submit to Your leadership as the ruler over the earth. Empower me to obey You."

- F. **More examples:** Pray, "You are the firstborn from the dead; I will take time to cultivate understanding of the resurrection. I will give You preeminence over all things in my life because You are the ruler over the kings of the earth. I seek to love you as Your eyes of fire empower me."