

Revelation – Session Two

“Who do you think I am?”

Intro:

In Matthew Chapter 16:13, Jesus asks his disciples the questions “Who do you think I am”. Some say John the Baptist back from the dead, some say the Prophet Elijah, some say Jeremiah, and so on. The question still remains that is just as important today. **Who do you think Jesus is?**

C.S. Lewis approached this question with a trilemma. Logically, he said given the fact that Jesus Christ never claimed to be just a “good teacher”, he claimed to be the Son of God, we’re only left with three choices. He’s a lunatic, liar, or he is Lord. That’s a logical approach to who Jesus is. The problem is, many people do not want to be logical. They refuse to be backed into a corner that way. Countless surveys show that many people believe Jesus is a historical figure, but many younger generations of Americans refuse to believe he was sinless and that he was truly the Son of God.

So, who is Jesus to you? Has our culture taken Jesus question “Who do you say that I am”, and turned it into “Who do you want me to be?”

Do you believe Jesus IS the sum of our speculation about him? Is Jesus simply only who we wish that he was or want him to be? We can distort and construe all sorts of different ideas on who Jesus is, but it doesn’t change the facts and the truth. Jesus is not a little wimpy rabbi who just walked around Judea saying nice things to people. Jesus is not the kind teacher who judges nobody and is ok with sin.

Where do we look to get a glimpse of who the real Jesus is? Believe it or not, it is not the Gospels. That is a “veiled” Jesus in his first coming. **From our last study, what does Revelation mean? Apokalupsis?** If you want to see who Jesus really is, we must turn to Revelation Chapter One.

Revelations 1:1-3

- **Apokalupsis of Jesus Christ?** This is the Greek for Revelation meaning the “Unveiling of Jesus Christ”
- **When will these things happen?** These things will happen “soon”. John states these things are still future and have not took place.
 - **Preterist View:** Some believe that all these things in Revelation have already taken place. **From what you know about Revelations, do you believe all the events in it have already happened?** Revelations describes events that no period in human history can correspond too that John will unveil to us. Most importantly, all the Christian are still here???
 - **Does anybody know when it will all happen?** No man knows the day or hour. This word John uses, “soon” in Greek is “tachei” and has certain implications to it:
 - **Imminence: What does it mean if something is imminent?** It can happen at any moment. The way I read Revelations, and we will get into this down the road, is he’s referring to the great Rapture of the Church. There is nothing left that needs to be fulfilled before the Rapture can happen! It could even happen before we leave class tonight. It can happen “soon”it is “imminent”!!

- **Tachei also has a sense of the word repetitive to it:** It seems when these things start to happen, they will happen quickly and in succession. Like a row of dominoes.
- **Did John dream, hallucinate, or imagine these things?** John states 44 times in this letter he “saw” these things.
- **Who is blessed according to verse 3?** There is a special blessing to those (you) that read this book and most importantly, “heed” the things that are written.
- **What does John make sure to repeat at the end of verse 3?** The time is near!! **Do you get the sense that John is expressing urgency in his voice?**
- **Understanding the use of the Greek word “time” in Revelations:**
 - **“Kronos”:** This is “clock” time or “calendar” time, but that is not the word used here!!
 - **“Kairos”:** This refers to a season or period of time. John is saying the “season” is near.
 - **EXAMPLE:** I am now 43 years old. Someone may joke around with me and tell me, “You better watch out, 50 is right around the corner!” **Does this mean that I’m turning 50 tomorrow?** No, but this is the next “season” of life for me. It is getting closer and closer over time. It’s the same way with the coming of Christ. They day is getting closer and closer every day that passes.
- **In Romans 13:11, Paul pleads with the Roman Christians that the “hour has come for you to AWAKEN from your slumber, for your salvation is NEARER TODAY than it was when you FIRST BELIEVED. Wait!! What?? I thought I already had salvation?? What does Paul mean by this??** As a Christian, you’ve been justified and forgiven, but in the bible, salvation refers to all the things God has planned for you in the future!! **What are these things??** Our brand new bodies, a world with no crime or mourning or pain, for the “first things will have passed away”, etc..

Revelations 1:4

- **Who does John say he is addressing in his greeting? Why is he addressing them?**
 - **Grace and Peace:** The world was in turmoil. Christians needed encouraging, guidance, and direction and assurance God is in control.
 - **What is the source of this grace and peace? What mystery of God do you see revealed in this verse?** John gives a clear triune description of the Godhead.
 - **Who is, and was, and is to come:** The ETERNALITY of God the Father
 - **The seven spirits of God: What do you think this refers to? Is it saying there are SEVEN holy spirits? What do you think the word Seven is referring to?** Seven is used throughout the Bible to refer to completion (seventh day he rested after completing creation, in Revelations 7 churches, 7 seals, 7 trumpets, seven vials, 7 thunders, 7 years, etc) or a variation of 7 combined with 10 (70 is often used for judgement; 70 souls left Cannan to go into Egypt, 70 original nations established by God when you add up the names in Genesis 10 “table of nations”, Jerusalem captivity for 70 years.

- **Furthermore there appears to be (4) 490-year cycles (only counting the years Israel was in obedience to God) from God's first dealings with Abraham and the promise given to the millennial kingdom to come.**
 - From the birth of Abraham to the 10 commandments (The Law) given at Mt Sinai (490 years)
 - The 10 commandments (new law) given to the dedication of Solomon's temple (God's new place of holy presence) (490 years)
 - Dedication of the Solomon's temple to Artaxerxes commandment (decree) to rebuild Jerusalem in 445BC (490 years)
 - From Artaxerxes decree to the "consummation" and "abomination of desolation" and the "fulfillment of God's original promise to Abraham in the millennial Kingdom" (490 years)
 - The 70 years prophecy (490 years) is given in the book of Daniel. From Artaxerxes to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ covered 483 years. **What about the last 7 years???** **What stopped the countdown???** God broke off his covenant with His people, the Israelites. It's as if time is standing still for Israel. We are waiting for that last seven year period to begin. We are in the time of Gentiles. If I understand right, there will be increasing tribulation for Christians in the world, and the rapture will kick off the final seven years. **What do you think tribulation will look like?**

Revelations 1:5-6

- **This grace and peace comes from who?** Jesus Christ Himself. **What kind of three-fold description is given about Jesus in this verse?** This description refers to his Present, Past, and Future
 - **In the present he's called "The Faithful Witness": Why do you think this is His present title?** Because you can bank on everything we are studying because it is all calling from Jesus Himself
 - **The "First Born of the Dead": What about this title?** This is His past; what he has already accomplished for us when he came as a suffering servant to earth.
 - **This term "first born" in Greek is "protaticus", also used in Collosians 1:18. Does this word sound like anything to you?** Prototype. He is the prototype of those who will be raised from the dead. Jesus is leading the way. He is the first to be raised, and all those that believe in him and "die" to their old selves and take on Christ will be raised as well.
 - **The "Ruler of the Kings of the Earth":** This is his future. Every knee will bow, every king, and every tyrant will bow to Jesus.
 - **Does verse 6 say we will be left behind? Will we be nobody's?** No, we will be considered Kings and Priests unto God the Father.

Revelations 1:7-8

- **Here we have the theme of the Book of Revelation:** The Return of the King! **Does it say only some will see him?** Every eye will see him. Make notice that the Rapture states that all

Christians will be called up into the clouds to meet Him. According to my understanding of the Scripture, the rapture will happen seven years earlier. While we don't know exactly what this will look like, we do know that the Rapture is not the same thing as the Second Coming. This verse here is talking about the Second Coming when ALL will see Jesus and it will be an event like no other you could imagine. The entire world will stop what they are doing and realize in a single moment, there is no going back and changing things in their lives. The time is here!

- **Who do you think are "those who pierced him?"** This must refer to those who crucified him. The Jewish Religious leaders.
- **Who are all the tribes of the Earth? Why mourn??** The second coming of Christ is a joyous and great occasion for Christians. But if your not, it will be the worst day of your life. Their will be mourning and weeping for those that did not take the opportunities they had while here on earth to accept Christ. **Two things can happen!! People can face him now as their savior and receive forgiveness and justification, or they can face him later as their judge with only condemnation to come.**
- **Alpha and Omega?** The beginning (I created the universe with a simple word and thought) and the end(I will have the last word in this universe)
- **Let me tell you what is NOT the last word!!** That sickness or disease you are fighting, that anxiety, that family problem, that hurt or pain you're feeling...THAT IS NOT THE LAST WORD!! You insert into the blank the thing that you may be battling or struggling with...THAT IS NOT THE LAST WORD!! That casket that you see lowered into the ground of a loved one...THAT IS NOT THE LAST WORD....That is, if they have accepted Christ as their personal saviour.

Revelations 1:9-11

- **Here we have John entering into the actual visions he saw:** Remember the outline John gave us? These are the "things which you have seen".

Revelations 1:12-13

- **What are these seven golden lampstands?** In verse 20 Jesus tells us. These are the churches. **What does a lampstand do? Why a lampstand for the churches?** The churches are a light in a dark world. This youth group here...it is a refuge for you to come to and be with other Christians your age...It's a place you can come and not be judged for your faith....It's a place where you can come imperfect and we all understand because we are imperfect as well. **What is this youth group to you?** Did you ever notice when Jesus was here on earth, he said "HE" was the light of the world. But now, Jesus has physically left the world after his ascension, and now he is telling us, you, me, the church, that "YOU" are the light in the world. **Does a lampstand seem very bright when it's burning in a fully lit room? As the darkness around a lampstand gets darker, what happens to the light from the lampstand?** It shines that much brighter! It stands out even more from the darkness around it. There is no better time to live in if you are looking to witness and lead souls to salvation!!
- **Who is in the midst of the lampstands?** The Son of Man. **Did you know that was one of Jesus favorite descriptions of Himself? Why that title?** 700 years earlier, we first find even Daniel using this term in Daniel 7:13 to refer to the Messiah.

- **Notice the garments. Who wore these types of garments?** These are the garments related to the high priest, and that is exactly who Jesus is, our High Priest, who intercedes for us. *(Describe how Jesus intercedes for us)*

Revelations 1:14-15

- **White hair:** This is a direct quote also from Daniel talking about the “Ancient of Days” and referring to his wisdom.
- **Eyes like flames of fire:** Fire is a representation of God’s judgement. *(personal story about how my dad could always ‘see’ right through me, especially if I was lying)* This picture is that Jesus is among his church and can see right through every one of us. Nothing is hidden!
- **Feet like fine brass burned in a furnace:** When bronze is glowing in a furnace, that refers to the purity of the bronze. **Why are his feet like bronze? How do you stay stable and are able to stand?** This is referencing Jesus purity and stability. Bronze represents strength. Even though the world is spinning out of control, Jesus is not out of control, he is stable.
- **Voice as the sound of many waters: Have you ever been to a huge waterfall and tried to have a conversation?** This is the best description John can come up with to describe what he is hearing.

Revelations 1:16

- **Jesus tells us in verse 20 what these stars represent:** Angels
 - **View One: Angels represent the pastors/leaders of the churches:**
 - **View Two: Angels represent the actual angels that were assigned to tend to each of the churches**

Revelations 1:17

- **How does John respond to this vision of the exalted Christ? Have you ever heard anyone say that when they face God one day, they have a few things to say to him? Based on John’s How does John respond to seeing this vision of the exalted Lord? Some people say that when they see God one day, they have a few things they’d like to say to him. Based on John’s response here, what do you think about those people that say that?** They won’t say a word. Seeing God in his full glory will be so overwhelming, we won’t know what to do. Even Moses caught a glimpse of God’s glory, he took off his sandals and hid his face. Isaiah when he saw the vision of the exalted Lord, he said “Woe is me, for I’m a man of unclean lips!” He started apologizing immediately. When Peter even saw the resurrected Jesus in Luke, he fell down and said “depart from me, for I am a sinful man.”
- **If we had a vision of who God really is, it’s gonna lead to a number of things:**
 - **Why would it lead to humility?**
 - **Why would it lead to worship?**
 - **Why would it lead to thankfulness?**
 - **Why would it lead to love?**

Revelations 1:18-20

- **John fell down and worshipped. What should be our response?**

- **Who is Jesus to you? What kind of Jesus do you really believe in? In the words of Chuck Swindall “Do I know and adore the awesome, glorious powerful Jesus portrayed in the Bible...or have I adopted a culturally and politically appropriate mild-mannered, user-friendly Jesus after my own imagination”**
- **What do you fear most in life? What is it that’s nagging you?** Whatever it is, just imagine Jesus walking among believers, among you, and he’s there to help you fight the battle. Jesus will have the final word.