**Jesus Christ Unveiled**

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday April 8th, 2018

Text: Revelation 1

Intro

1. The Book of Revelation unveils Jesus and shows us what He will be like at His 2nd Coming!
   1. Rev. 1:1: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”
   2. Revelation is about the unveiling of the Son of God: The “unveiling,” the *apokalupsis [ap-ok-al'-oop-sis] (G602):* disclosure, unveiling, to reveal. *(The word apocalypse)*
2. Revelation 1 contains many titles and pictures of Christ unveiled!
3. Jesus Christ Unveiled
   1. Rev. 1:1: “The revelation of Jesus Christ” (Christ = 3 times in ch. 1 – 1:1, 2, 5)
      1. Christ is not a surname like a family identifier (IE: Mine is Morrison).
      2. “Christ” is *“Christos” (G5547)* and means “Anointed One,” the equivalent to “Messiah” (Jn. 1:41) in *Hebrew (H4899).*
      3. Three different offices were anointed in the O.T.:
         1. Prophets
         2. Priests
         3. Kings
      4. Jesus is all three!
         1. He is God’s final prophet to mankind – Heb. 1:1-3 *(Acts 3:22-26)*
         2. He is God’s High Priest to saints – Heb. 4:15-16; 7:25
         3. He is King of kings and Lord of lords – I Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:16
   2. Rev. 1:5: “Faithful Witness”
      1. A witness is one who has first-hand knowledge, based on what he has seen and heard.
      2. A faithful witness is one who gives perfect testimony, absolutely accurate recounting of the facts.
      3. The testimony that Jesus gives to God, to man, to sin, to righteousness, to judgment, to salvation, to heaven, hell, life, and death – testimony that He gives to anything and everything on which He speaks – is absolutely faithful.
      4. Rev. 3:14: He is called “the Amen, the faithful and true Witness.” “Amen” means “so let it be.” If He says it, then that’s how it is.
      5. Jn. 18:37: He said, “For this I was born and for this I have come into the world to testify to the truth.” In a world of lies, under the control of the arch-liar, Satan (Jn. 8:44), you can trust everything that Christ says. He is holy God, and God cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
      6. At the very beginning of this book of judgment and reward, we can be sure that every judgment and every reward is based on faithful testimony to the facts for He is the faithful Witness!
   3. Rev. 1:5: “Firstborn of the dead”
      1. It doesn’t mean that He’s the first person to ever be raised from the dead.
         1. There were some before Him (I Kings 17:22: Son of the widow of Zarephath; II Kings 4:32, 35: Son of the Shunammite woman; 13:21: The man being buried and touched Elisha’s bones)
         2. Three occasions in the Old Testament where a prophet of God, by the power of God, raised someone from the dead.
         3. We also know from Matthew 9, Luke 7, and John 11, that Jesus raised people from the dead. This all happened before He was ever raised.
         4. It’s very rare. Those are the only references we have to resurrections among all the hundreds of millions of people who have come and gone in the world. But this isn’t talking about that.
      2. The word here is *prōtotokos [pro-tot-ok'-os] (G4416)* and it is from *G4413,* which means “the primary one, the preeminent one, firstborn; foremost, primary, chief.”
         1. It’s not the first, chronology-wise. It’s the first in terms of preeminence, the most important one. **Rank is the issue here.** Of all who have ever been raised, or ever will be raised in the future, He ranks first!
         2. *Col. 1:15-17:* “Firstborn of all creation.” It does not mean that Jesus was the first created being, as some cults teach, but that He is preeminent over all creation – He is the most important because He is the Creator!
         3. The firstborn is the supreme one, the premier one, the preeminent one, the highest ranking one, higher than the kings of the earth.
         4. This is the right of the firstborn to possess the full estate of the Father.
   4. Rev. 1:5: “Ruler of the Kings of the Earth” (Ps. 89:27):
      1. What does it mean that He is the “ruler of the kings of the earth?” He is the supreme ruler!
      2. Since He is God’s preeminent Son, God will make Him the ruler over all other rulers – Absolute sovereign over the rulers, and all the affairs of the entire world (Mt. 28:18: “All authority”; Jn. 18:37: He is King; 19:11: Even Pilate’s power was from God above)
      3. I Tim. 6:15; Rev. 19:6: He has the title “King of kings” and as such He will judge the small and the great – *Mt. 25:31-46.*
      4. Rev. 5:1-14: John saw God holding a scroll written on both sides sealed with seven seals, and an angel crying out, “Who is worthy to open the book and open the seals?”
         1. As the scene unfolds, it is revealed the Lamb of God (Jesus) was worthy.
         2. The 4 living creatures and 24 elders sang, “Worthy are You to take the book and to break its seals; for You were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation” (5:9).
         3. Myriads and myriads of angels cried out, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!”
      5. Jesus: The One who is the absolute sovereign *(I Tim. 6:15),* has a name above every name *(Phil. 2:9),* a name at which every knee bows *(Phil. 2:10-11),* who is head over all things *(Col. 1:18),* and the One who possesses final authority *(Mt. 25:31-46; 28:18).*
      6. Jesus is the “ruler of the kings of earth” and is worthy to open the scroll and its seven seals *(Rev. 6-8)* and judge the small and the great *(Rev. 20:11-15).*
   5. Rev. 1:8: “I am the Alpha and the Omega”
      1. Alpha is the first letter in the Greek alphabet. There are 24 letters. Omega is the last letter in the Greek alphabet.
      2. What does it mean to say He is the first letter and the last letter?
         1. It could mean He is the First (Creator) and the Last (Consummator).
         2. It does mean that, but that is also stated in 1:17 as just that way.
      3. This is talking about letters. Between Alpha and Omega, there are 22 Greek letters, and out of the total of those 24 letters, all words can be formed.
         1. Therefore, all truth can be communicated. All truth can be conveyed.
         2. All wisdom can be articulated.
         3. To say that He is the Alpha and the Omega is to speak of His perfect knowledge, His omniscience.
         4. We saw something of His omnipotence (all power) in the fact that He is the ruler of all of the kings of the earth, and now we see His omniscience (all knowing).
         5. He is the source of all knowledge, the source of all truth, the source of all wisdom. No word escapes His mind. No thought is beyond Him.
      4. This will be apparent the next time He comes:
         1. People mocked His knowledge the first time.
         2. They said, “Can anything good come out of Nazareth?” (Jn. 1:46)
         3. He’s a Galilean, an uneducated man, hasn’t been to the right schools.
         4. They scorned His teaching; and His knowledge, they rejected Him.
         5. The next time He comes, His perfect, consummate, vast, impenetrable knowledge will be on display. He will perfectly fulfill everything He ever said He would do.
         6. Every judgment, every promise - He will fulfill. Every truth He ever articulated will come into clarity at the end. He is the Word (Jn. 1:1).
   6. Rev. 1:8: “Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty”
      1. His eternality, His self-existence!
      2. Jn. 1:1-2; Heb. 13:8: He has always been and will be!
         1. He’s not defined by time; He’s not confined by time. He’s not defined by space; He’s not confined by space.
         2. He is eternal, self-existent, transcendent, completely uninfluenced, has control over space, time, energy, matter, over time, and over eternity! .
         3. He is eternal, above and beyond all that is temporal and physical.
      3. If that’s not enough, verse 8 ends with the fact that He is “the Almighty!”
         1. A full statement in one word about His omnipotence – He has all power.
         2. In other words, there is no power that He doesn’t possess. There is no power beyond His power. Omnipotent!
         3. Because He possesses all power, no one or thing can hinder Him: Not a person, not an event, not a collection of people; Not any source of power, whether it’s human or angelic.
         4. The first time He came, He subjected Himself to human power (Jn. 19:11).
         5. He subjected Himself to the power of men who beat Him, and who murdered Him (Lk. 23:46).
      4. The next time He comes, with all power, He will destroy all His enemies, and He will do it with a word out of His mouth *(Mt. 25:41-46; Rev. 1:16;20:11-15)*
      5. He is the Almighty. That’s an expression obviously of His deity, because God, in the Old Testament, is called the Almighty *(Gen. 17:1; Ex. 6:3).*
   7. Rev. 1:13: “Son of Man”
      1. Jesus described Himself as such (Mt. 8:20; 9:6; 16:27; and many more…)
      2. Heb. 2:14-18: He knows our plight and struggles and can give aid in our time of need!
      3. He identifies with the King of Daniel’s prophecy *(Dan. 7:13-14).*
   8. Rev. 1:17-18: “I am the first and the last.”
      1. This is where He’s talking about beginnings and endings, historically.
      2. He is saying here: I am the living One.
      3. 1:18: “…and the Living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades” (or the grave).
      4. He is saying, “I control life, and I control death.”
      5. That’s what the first and last means. He is the Creator and Consummator!
      6. Mt. 25:31-46; Rev. 20:11-15: He has the keys and controls what happens to people when they die. This is incomprehensible power, incomprehensible authority.
   9. This is the unveiled Christ!

Conclusion

1. The first time Jesus came it was to save man from sin as a sacrificial Lamb; but when He comes again it is as a conquering King and Judge!
2. He holds reward and punishment in His hands!
3. This is the unveiled Christ.
   1. The world doesn’t see Him now.
   2. Just as the world didn’t understand or accept Him in His time *(Jn. 1:10-11),* they reject and mock the One who came to save them from their sins! *(II Pet. 3:3-4)*
4. But the day is coming when “every eye will see Him” *(Rev. 1:7)* and will fall on their knees in praise of Him *(Phil. 2:10-11)* and recognize He has the power over their souls’ eternity!
5. It doesn’t have to be a surprise!
   1. Jesus already “unveiled” Himself *(Rev. 1:1)* so those who read and understand can know Who He is, what He came to do, and what He will come back to do!
6. At His 2nd Coming saints will be like Him and see Him as He is *(I Jn. 3:2)* and will be with Him for eternity! *(Jn. 14:3; I Thess. 4:17)* – Let us look for and hasten His return! *(II Pet. 3:12)*
7. You don’t have to be surprised with the world at His return, but see Christ unveiled ***NOW!***
8. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized into His name!
9. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be renewed!
10. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!