

Revelation 1:5-7

Intro: Many people often tend to shy away from the book of Revelation, but there are some great lessons to be learned. We have a beautiful introduction to the Son of God in Rev. 1:5-7 ⁵ And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, ⁶ And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. ⁷ Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”

I. JESUS.

- A. A name above every name; Phi. 1:5-11** ⁵ Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: ⁶ Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. ⁹ Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: ¹⁰ That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; ¹¹ And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”
- B. The name means:**
1. Savior.
 2. It corresponds to the Hebrew name, Joshua.
- C. Mat. 1:21** ²¹ And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

II. CHRIST.

- A. The name means:**
1. Anointed One.
 2. It corresponds to the Hebrew name Messiah.
 3. It is not a last name to Jesus.
- B. Has reference to the work He performs and the office He holds. The background is in the Old Testament.**
1. Priest.
 - a. duty to offer sacrifices for sins.
 - b. cf. the name Jesus.
 2. Prophet.
 - a. Declaring God’s message.
 - b. cf. the Faithful Witness.
 3. King.
 - a. Selected by God to rule over His people.
 - b. cf. Prince of the kings of the earth.
 4. They had ceremonial oil poured on their heads.

III. THE FAITHFUL WITNESS

- A. A witness is one who bears testimony of another.**
1. Psa. 89:37 ³⁷ It shall be established for ever as the moon, and *as* a faithful witness in heaven. Selah.”
 2. Inherent in the word witness is that one is not seen.
 - a. Sun goes down and is no longer seen.
 - b. The moon bears witness that it is still there.

B. The Father is hidden from our view, but we know He is still there because of Christ.

1. Heb. 1:1-4 ¹ God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, ² Hath in these last days spoken unto us by *his* Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; ³ Who being the brightness of *his* glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high; ⁴ Being made so much better than the angels, as he hath by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.”
 - a. Prophet (speaks for God)
 - b. Priest (when he purged our sins)
 - c. King (sat down at the right hand of God)
 - d. The express image of God.
 - (1) He expresses God’s character.
 - (2) Christ is the complete similarity of the essence and substance of God.
 - (3) Express image is from the Greek χαρακτήρ (*character*).
2. John 14:9 ⁹ Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou *then*, Shew us the Father”
3. Mat. 11:27 ²⁷ All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and *he* to whomsoever the Son will reveal *him*.”
4. John 1:18 ¹⁸ No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared *him*.”
5. Mat. 1:23 ²³ Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.”
6. 1 Tim. 3:16 ¹⁶ And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

C. Faithful or True.

1. Christ was faithful or true in revealing God’s nature.
2. John 4:34 ³⁴ Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work.”
3. John 5:19, 30 ¹⁹ Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.... ³⁰ I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me.”
4. John 6:38 ³⁸ For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”
5. John 8:28 ²⁸ Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am *he*, and *that* I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things.”
6. John 12:48-50 ⁴⁸ He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day. ⁴⁹ For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. ⁵⁰ And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak.”
7. Mat. 26:39 ³⁹ And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou *wilt*.”

IV. FIRST BEGOTTEN FROM THE DEAD.

A. This is the central theme of the Bible.

1. The Old Testament leads up to it.
2. The New Testament centers around it.

B. First born.

1. Not the first numerically to be raised from the dead.
2. He was the first never to die again.
 - a. Heb. 7:25 ^{“25} Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”
 - b. As opposed to man who dies; Heb. 9:27 ^{“27} And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
3. It is from the Greek πρωτότοκος (*prototokos*).
 - a. It is made up of two parts:
 - (1) *Protos* meaning “first”
 - (2) *Tikto* meaning “to bear”
 - b. Here it carries the idea “the first to give birth to others by His death.”
 - c. Man’s hopes of resurrection lie in Christ and His resurrection.
 - d. 1 Cor. 15.
4. Col. 1:18 ^{“18} And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.”

V. PRINCE OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH.**A. Prince.**

1. Premillennialism.
 - a. They say is not king now but king in promise and prophecy.
 - b. With the Second Coming He will be king.
 - c. Christ came to be king, but the Jews rejected Him.
 - d. So he set up the church as an afterthought.
 - e. When Christ comes again He will set up an earthly kingdom.
 - f. They use prince here to *prove* that He is only king in promise and only prince.
2. The Greek word is ἀρχων (*archon*) which literally means ruler or chief.
3. Why the term prince?
 - a. Translators in 1611 did not foresee problems of today.
 - b. Notice Rev. 1:4-5 ^{“4} John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; ⁵ And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,”
 - (1) John is writing from God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and Christ.
 - (2) In relation to the Father, Christ is prince.
 - c. Thus, a prince to the Father over the kings of the earth.

B. Christ is the ruler.

1. Eph. 1:20-23 ^{“20} Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set *him* at his own right hand in the heavenly *places*, ²¹ Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: ²² And hath put all *things* under his feet, and gave him *to be* the head over all *things* to the church, ²³ Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”
2. Col. 1:18 ^{“18} And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.”
3. We do not have a Savior who will be king but is king now.

4. He is Lord.
 - a. Acts 2:14-36 David prophesied that Christ would be raised from the dead to reign supreme on David's throne.
 - b. Acts 2:36 ³⁶ "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ."

C. John speaks of the anti-Christ.

1. They deny Jesus as Christ.
2. Premillennialism does just this.

VI. UNTO HIM THAT LOVED US.

A. God loves us.

1. One of the greatest lies perpetrated by the devil is that God is a fiendish monster waiting for man to sin so He can cast man into hell.
2. God is not like that.
3. Instead, all the good that we enjoy comes from God; Jas. 1:17 ¹⁷ "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning."

B. Gal. 2:20 ²⁰ "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

C. Christ loved the church; Eph. 5:2 ² "And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour."

D. Love gives. The expression of that love is in the next phrase.

VII. WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD.

A. Salvation is by blood.

1. Mat. 26:28 ²⁸ "For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins."
2. Eph. 1:7 ⁷ "In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;"
3. Col. 1:14 ¹⁴ "In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins;"
4. Heb. 9:22 ²² "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission."
5. 1 John 1:7 ⁷ "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."
6. It is not a literal washing in Christ physical blood. It is symbolic.

B. In the scriptures, every time this washing is applied to man in man's doing something to receive the remission of sins the application is always baptism.

1. Acts 22:16 ¹⁶ "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
2. Purchased with Christ's blood but with the washing of water.
 - a. Acts 20:28 ²⁸ "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
 - b. Eph. 5:25-26 ²⁵ "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; ²⁶ That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,"
3. 1 Pet. 3:21 ²¹ "The like figure whereunto *even* baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ:"

4. Heb. 10:22 ^{“22}Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.”
5. Rom. 6:1-7 ^{“1}What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin.”

C. Most preaching is how to be saved and not how to remain a Christian.

1. Preaching should be a balanced message.
 - a. Mat. 28:19-20 ^{“19}Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: ²⁰Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.”
 - b. Acts 20:20, 27 ^{“20}And how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you*, but have shewed you, and have taught you publickly, and from house to house, ²¹Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ²²And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there: ²³Save that the Holy Ghost witnesseth in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions abide me. ²⁴But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. ²⁵And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more. ²⁶Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I *am* pure from the blood of all *men*. ²⁷For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.”
2. Even in the Christian life we need a continual cleansing from sin.
 - a. Even though we are a Christian we still commit sin, even as the man of the world.
 - (1) The Christian tries to live above and apart from sin, as opposed to the man in the world who is content to live in sin.
 - (2) All are sinners.
 - (a) 1 Kings 8:46 ^{“46}If they sin against thee, (for *there is* no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;”
 - (b) Ecc. 7:20 ^{“20}For *there is* not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”
 - (c) Rom. 3:23 ^{“23}For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
 - (d) Gal. 3:22 ^{“22}But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”
 - (e) 1 John 1:8, 10 ^{“8}If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”
 - b. To remain a Christian there must be this continual washing of our sins.
 - (1) He must be holy and one of the meanings of holy is free from sin.
 - (2) 1 John 1:7 ^{“7}But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”
 - (a) 1 John 1:4 ^{“4}And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full.”
 - (b) Yet, there is no sin in God; 1 John 1:5 ^{“5}This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.”
 - (c) When we live to the best of our ability as God would have us the blood of Christ continually cleanses us from sin.

- (3) He continues to purify himself; 1 John 3:3 ⁴³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.”

VIII. AND HATH MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS UNTO GOD AND HIS FATHER.

A. Newer translations have “*to be a kingdom, to be priests*” (ASV).

1. Based on whether kingdom is singular or plural.
2. It really does not matter. Both ideas are presented in Revelation and the New Testament and prophecies concerning the Lord.

B. A Kingdom.

1. Many of the 333 prophecies in the Old Testament concerning Christ speak of the kingdom that He would set up.
 - a. Most of the religious world says that the kingdom is yet to be established.
 - b. The prophecies of the kingdom find their fulfillment in the church.
 - (1) Writing to the church; Rev. 1:4 ⁴⁴ John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;”
 - (2) Those in the church are in the kingdom; Rev. 1:9 ⁴⁹ I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”
 - c. Rev. 5:9-10 ⁴⁹ And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰ And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”
 - (1) Same problem with singular or plural.
 - (2) We are a kingdom.
 - d. Mat. 16:18-19 ¹⁸ And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.”
 - e. Heb. 12:22-23 ²² But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, ²³ To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect.”
 - (1) Come unto the mount and in the Old Testament this mount has reference to the kingdom.
 - (2) We are come unto the church.
 - (3) We receive a kingdom; Heb. 12:28 ²⁸ Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:”
 - f. The kingdom is now and they are in it; Col. 1:12-13 ¹² Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: ¹³ Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
2. 1 Pet. 2:5, 9 ⁵ Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁶ Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷ Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. ⁹ But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into

his marvellous light: ¹⁰Which in time past *were* not a people, but *are* now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.”

- a. a spiritual house is the church; 1 Tim. 3:15 ¹⁵“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
 - b. Royal priesthood is the same as Rev. 1:6 ⁶“And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”
 - c. Holy nation is the kingdom.
3. This is the basis for understanding; Rev. 20:1-6 ¹“And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ²And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, ³And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season. ⁴And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. ⁵But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This *is* the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.”
- a. We will reign with Christ a thousand years.
 - b. Peter says that Christ began reigning at His death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven in Acts 2:29-36 ²⁹“Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. ³⁰Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; ³¹He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. ³²This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. ³³Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. ³⁴For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, ³⁵Until I make thy foes thy footstool. ³⁶Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”
 - c. We are now reigning with Him as we are now priest at the same time the kingdom is in existence and that John says is now.

C. Made us kings.

1. We are kings in a kingdom; Rev. 5:9-10 ⁹“And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; ¹⁰And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.”
2. A kingly priesthood; 1 Pet. 2:9 ⁹“But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light.”
3. Many people have problems understanding this idea. They say if anything the elements rule over us.
 - a. Rom. 6:1-14 ¹“What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? ²God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? ³Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? ⁴Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. ⁵For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: ⁶Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. ⁷For he that is dead is freed from sin. ⁸Now if we be dead with Christ, we

believe that we shall also live with him: ⁹ Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. ¹⁰ For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. ¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. ¹³ Neither yield ye your members *as* instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members *as* instruments of righteousness unto God. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”

- (1) We are made free from sin.
 - (2) We are raised free of sin.
 - (3) We are no longer the servant of sin and sin no longer reigns in our bodies (Rom. 6:14 “¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace.”).
 - (4) We reign over sin: a spiritual reign, not a physical reign.
- b. When the disciples disputed over who would be greatest in the kingdom, Christ told them His kingdom is not like the world.
- (1) Not one above the other.
 - (2) Some forms of premillennialism say when Christ comes again some will be kings, but not all will attain this, but some governors or mayors, etc.
 - (3) We are all brethren, not one over another, but all are kings.
 - (4) We reign with Christ.
 - (5) Another form of premillennialism says that the saints will go to heaven, while others will reign under Christ.
 - (a) Writing to the church which is the kingdom and says they are saints; 1 Cor. 1:1-2 “¹ Paul, called *to be* an apostle of Jesus Christ through the will of God, and Sosthenes *our* brother, ² Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called *to be* saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:”
 - (b) 1 Cor. 4:8 “⁸ Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.”
 - (i) Paul is condemning the division of the Corinthians.
 - (ii) He says they are reigning and proud of it.
 - (iii) Only problem is they were reigning without the apostles; division.
- c. Rom. 8:37 “³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”
- (1) Many persecutions and things of this world and they seem to be winning the battle.
 - (2) But we are conquerors and thus we reign.
4. Rev. 20 in context is we reign with Christ when we are priest. When are we priest”
- a. 1 Pet. 2:5, 9 “⁵ Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁶ Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷ Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. ⁹ But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”
- (1) spiritual house is the church which is the kingdom; 1 Tim. 3:15 “¹⁵ But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
 - (2) Holy priesthood—or royal priesthood.

- (3) Holy nation—the kingdom of God.
- (4) Peculiar people—God’s own people.
- (5) Called out of darkness in His light. In Col. 1:13 those called out of darkness were translated into the kingdom; ¹³ “Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son:”
- b. Heb. 13:15-16 ¹⁵ “By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. ¹⁶ But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”

D. Made us priest.

1. In the Old Testament there are many prophecies concerning the kingdom; these are partially summed up in Isa. 65-66 under the figure of a new heaven and new earth.
 - a. It had an immediate fulfillment in their return from Babylonian captivity.
 - b. It was not a physical heaven and earth but a new relationship with God. No longer were they cast off in captivity but now they would be recognized as God’s people.
 - c. But it has specific reference to Christ’s kingdom and this new relationship.
 - d. New creation (Greek) is the new heaven and earth; 2 Cor. 5:17 ¹⁷ “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
2. Those in the kingdom are now priests; Isa. 66:21-22 ²¹ “And I will also take of them for priests *and* for Levites, saith the LORD. ²² For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain.”
3. 1 Pet. 2:5, 9 ⁵ “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ⁶ Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. ⁷ Unto you therefore which believe *he is* precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, ⁸ And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, *even to them* which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. ⁹ But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”
 - a. a spiritual house; cf. 1 Tim. 3:15 ¹⁵ “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”
 - b. holy or kingly priesthood.
 - (1) This shows the new heaven and earth are now.
 - (2) 2 Cor. 5:17 ¹⁷ “Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
 - (3) Thus, we are to be separate; 2 Cor. 6:14-17 ¹⁴ “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? ¹⁶ And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ¹⁷ Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you,”
4. The work of a priest is to offer sacrifice.
 - a. Heb. 5:1 ¹ “For every high priest taken from among men is ordained for men in things *pertaining* to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins:”
 - b. Heb. 8:3 ³ “For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore *it is* of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer.”

- c. 1 Pet. 2:5 ⁴⁵Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”
 - (1) Lively stones.
 - (a) God wants people who are zealous of good works (offering sacrifices).
 - (b) Rev. 3:15-16 ⁴⁵I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. ¹⁶So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”
 - (2) Holy
 - (a) separated from sin.
 - (b) dedicated to the Lord.
 - (3) Tit. 2:14 ¹⁴Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.”
- 5. What is our sacrifice to God?
 - a. Heb. 13:15-16 ¹⁵By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of *our* lips giving thanks to his name. ¹⁶But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”
 - (1) Do good is do that which God has set forth for us to do.
 - (2) Communicate is to teach others and support others in their teaching.
 - (3) We do this enthusiastically zealously, on fire for God.
 - b. Rom. 12:1-2 ¹I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is* your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what *is* that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
 - (1) Living sacrifice means devoted, consecrated, committed, given to the Lord.
 - (2) Not conformed to this world.
 - (3) Renewed mind, start thinking correctly that expresses itself outwardly in life.

IX. THE COMING OF CHRIST.

A. Revelation was written to give comfort to persecuted saints.

- 1. All kindred shall wail because of His judgment.
- 2. cf. the weeping and gnashing of teeth.
- 3. The Lord will punish those persecuting you.
 - a. 2 The. 1:6-9 ⁶Seeing *it is* a righteous thing with God to recompense tribulation to them that trouble you; ⁷And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, ⁸In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: ⁹Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;”
 - b. 1 Pet. 4:17 ¹⁷For the time *is come* that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if *it first begin* at us, what shall the end *be* of them that obey not the gospel of God?”
- 4. But our attitude toward them.
 - a. Ma. 5:44 ⁴⁴But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;”
 - b. Rom. 12:20 ²⁰Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head.”

B. Behold He cometh.

- 1. In the 260 chapters of the New Testament, there are 318 direct references to the Second Coming of Christ, or 1 out of every 25 verses.

2. John 14:1-3 ¹Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. ²In my Father's house are many mansions: if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also."
3. Acts 1:11 ¹¹Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."
4. 1 Tim. 4:1, 6-8 ¹Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; ²Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; ³Forbidding to marry, *and commanding* to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. ⁴For every creature of God *is* good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: ⁵For it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer. ⁶If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained. ⁷But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself *rather* unto godliness. ⁸For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."
5. 1 Cor. 1:7 ⁷So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:"
6. Jas. 5:7 ⁷Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain."

C. With clouds—the manner of His coming.

D. Other teaching on the manner of Christ coming.

1. Unexpectedly.
 - a. Mat. 25:13 ¹³Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."
 - b. 1 The. 5:2 ²For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night."
 - c. 2 Pet. 3:10 ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."
 - d. Rev. 16:15 ¹⁵Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed *is* he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame."
 - e. As a thief in the night.
2. Audibly.
 - a. John 5:28-29 ²⁸Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."
 - b. 1 The. 4:16 ¹⁶For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"
3. Gloriously.
 - a. Tit. 2:13 ¹³Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;"
 - b. 2 Pet. 3:10-12 ¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ¹¹*Seeing* then *that* all these things shall be dissolved, what manner *of persons* ought ye to be in *all* holy conversation and godliness, ¹²Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?"
 - (1) great noise.
 - (2) elements melt with fervent heat
 - (3) earth burned up.

4. With angels; 2 The. 1:7 “⁷ And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,”
5. With all His saints.
 - a. 1 The. 3:13 “¹³ To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”
 - b. 1 The. 4:14 “¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”
6. In the clouds.
 - a. Mat. 26:64 “⁶⁴ Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.”
 - b. 1 The. 4:16-17 “¹⁶ For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: ¹⁷ Then we which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”

Conclusion: Are you ready for the coming of the great Son of God? If not, prepare now.