

# REVELATION

## Every Knee Shall Bow

Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. - Rev. 22:7

### Revelation 1:4-8 Greetings To The Church

#### Introduction

##### A. Review

#### Verse 4

##### A. Seven churches in Asia:

1. Why only these seven? (Revelation 1:11; 2-3)
2. Numerology and the Bible and what we can learn. Some examples to ponder.
3. Seven is the number of fullness, completeness and totality. So these seven churches represent the church in all its need. They also receive the full counsel of Jesus to them.

##### B. Grace and Peace:

1. Grace defined: our definition vs. His! A vital lesson we need to help us grow in faith and in our walk with Him.
2. Grace precedes peace for it is one of its fruits.

##### C. Seven Spirits who are before the throne:

1. The fullness of the work of the Holy Spirit, repeated in Rev. 3-5. We see the numeric symbolism used and referenced in (Isa. 11:2) and compliments its use to the seven lamp stands which are the seven churches.
2. This imagery is used again in Rev. 4:5 to show us the Holy Spirit.

#### Verse 5

##### A. With verse 4 we see this grace and peace offered from the Triune God: Father, Holy Spirit and Son. Jesus is listed last for He is the subject of this unveiling.

##### B. Faithful witness: (See also Rev. 3:14)

1. Jesus came to a world sitting in darkness to reveal the heart of God and His love, and to that He was faithful in every way. All He did, all He said, and in every action and reaction He took He properly presented God to man (Heb. 1:3). Want to know God? Look at Jesus (Jn. 1:18; 14:9; 18:37). Jesus finished His work (Jn. 17:4).
2. Now we are called to be those faithful witnesses to our generation (Lk. 24:48). Not that we are perfect, but it is our goal to be able to say "Follow me as I follow Christ!" So (Acts. 1:8) (2Co. 5:18-20).

##### C. Firstborn from the dead:

1. (Prototokos) means first in priority, pre-eminent in importance. By far it was Jesus' resurrection that was the most valuable for without His resurrection, we cannot rise (1Co. 15:11-20, Col. 1:18, Heb. 1:6).

##### D. Jesus was also the first to receive a glorified body (1Co. 15:11-20)

##### E. Ruler over the kings of the earth:

1. True in the sense of His sovereignty today as Nebuchadnezzar (Dan. 4) slowly learned. As Jesus returns every knee shall bow before His throne (Heb. 2:8, Zec. 14:9, Ps. 72:11, Isa. 9:6-7).

- F. To Him who loved us:
  1. Notice this grace of love was uncaused by us (Isa. 53:6). I was loved by God the same as His enemy and now as His child. This un-altering love is a foundational truth that should establish and solidify our faith at all times.
  2. Often we are told of God's degree of love followed by the actions that came from it...as in Jn. 3:16 with Jn. 3:14-15 or here as His love drove Him to save us, wash us in His own blood.
- G. And washed us from our sins in His own blood:
  1. From the fall of Adam and Eve and the animal skins provided by God to cover their nakedness and shame...to the sacrifices of the Old Testament and finally Jesus "Lamb of God", we have been told of the cleansing power of the blood. (Isa. 1:18)...
  2. How powerful? (1Jn. 1:9) ...don't miss the word "all"! (1Pe. 1:18-19)

### **Verse 6**

- A. The role of the priest was two-fold: appearing before God for the people and then before the people for God. So Jesus our high priest appeared before God for us, dying in our place and now appeals to us for God's love and forgiveness.
- B. So we are called to be His priests now, and one day in His kingdom rule and reign with Him as kings and priests (1Pe. 2:9-10).

### **Verse 7-8**

- A. Behold He is coming: The subject of this book!
- B. In the clouds: (Acts 1:9-11)
  1. The rapture vs. His second coming: private and public view (1Th. 4:13-15, 1Co. 15:52, Mt. 24:29-30).
- C. Even they who pierced Him and all the tribes of the earth will mourn...:
  1. Both the nation of Israel (Zec. 12:10-12; 13:6) and all men (Mt. 24:30). Some will rejoice (Isa. 25:9) but most will mourn, seeing they have rejected the Lord.
  2. Those raptured by the millions will return with Jesus at His second coming (Jude 1:14, Col. 3:4).
- D. I Am:
  1. A trademark in the book of John as Jesus is set forth as God come in the flesh. So (Jn. 8:24) (Jn. 8:58)(Jn. 18:6) and by comparison to the words the Father used with Moses (Ex. 3:6,14). Jesus is God!
- E. Alpha and Omega:
  1. First and the last (Isa. 41:4; 44:6; 48:12-13). The Father is referred to by this same title in (Rev. 21:6) for Jesus is God!
- F. Who is, Who was and Who is to come:
  1. Here spoken of Jesus, in (Rev. 1:4) it was a reference to the Father...Jesus is God indeed!
- G. Almighty:
  1. The Omnipotent One who has the rule over all!!!
- H. Next week: Rev. 1:9-20 Face to face with Jesus Christ