



The Risen, Reigning, and Returning Christ

Key idea:

John is given a vision of Jesus as the Risen Christ, Who reigns over everything, and Who will return to complete God's Eternal Plan.

Key text:

Revelation 1:12-18

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Revelation 19:11–16

I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and wages war. ¹² His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. ¹³ He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. ¹⁶ On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Key points:

1. The book of Revelation is a record of the revelation of Jesus Christ given to the apostle John.

2. Revelation gives us a glimpse of Jesus as the risen, reigning, and returning Christ!
3. The vision of Jesus in Revelation 1 has many parallels with the visions given to the prophet Daniel.
4. Jesus tells us He is victorious over death and Hades, and that His victory is given to His people.
5. Jesus, the Son of Man, is seated at God's right hand with all authority now and is ruling to accomplish God's Eternal Plan.
6. Jesus will return to earth to complete God's Eternal Plan, subjecting and judging all nations and people to Himself.

Questions for discussion/application:

1. What part of Sunday's teaching stood out most to me? Why?
2. Have I ever thought about the fact that different cultures and institutions follow different calendars? How does the calendar I follow shape my perception and experience of reality?
3. Have I ever understood that Advent is actually the start of the Christian calendar year and is not only focused on the first Advent of Christ but also on His Second Advent - His glorious return at the end of time? How does this change my perception of Advent?
4. How did John, the Beloved disciple who spends years as a close friend and follower of Jesus, react when He saw Christ in His Risen glory? Why did John have this reaction? What does this tell me about how I should view Christ?
5. Why is Jesus' victory over death essential for a proper understanding of His Person and work?
6. Why does John reference Daniel (one like a Son of Man) and Psalm 2 (He will rule them with an iron scepter) in these revelations? What does that tell me about the identity and work of Christ? How can these references deepen my understanding of Jesus?
7. Why is the doctrine of the return of Christ referred to as "the blessed hope" in Titus 2:13? What is lost if I do not believe in the Second Coming? What is lost if I say I believe in it but never think about it? How does the return of Christ affect my daily lifestyle and choices now?

8. When I consider the blessed hope, the glorious return of Christ, what do I look forward to the most? Which aspect of His return do I struggle with the most? Why?
9. How can I focus on the return of Christ this Advent season?
10. Who will I call or see to encourage this week?

For Further Study:

[Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Consummation](#) (Series - February-October, 2007)

[Systematic Theology Classes](#) - Lessons 54-57

[An Authentic Eschatology](#) (June 21, 2015)

[Our Future - Walking Alive Forever!](#) (August 12, 2012)

[The Psalms and the Future](#) (November 17, 2003)

[The Beasts, the Little Horn, and the People of God](#) (September 26, 2021)