

Theme: 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.

I. Intro - Calendars

- A. A recent article - why a 7 day week?
- B. But there are many different calendars
- C. Jewish - 5782; lunar, but adjustments to keep with solar
- D. Chinese 4718; lunar/solar; 12-year cycle - currently the year of the rat
- E. The Church also developed a calendar - with its own rhythms, patterns, and distinctives
- F. Advent - actually the start of the Church calendar year
- G. Advent - a focus on the 2nd coming of Christ!
- H. This year - Christ Through Their Eyes - perspectives

II. The Revelation - Of Jesus Christ

- A. The final book of Scripture - The Revelation
 - 1. Given in Revelation 1:1 - apocalypse/revelation
 - 2. This book gives a Revelation, specifically of Jesus!
 - 3. It is not really about some of the things we suppose, but rather about seeing Jesus Christ in all His risen, reigning, and returning glory!
- B. A vision of the Risen Christ

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. Revelation 1:12–16

- 1. Very similar to Daniel's visions of Christ
 - a. One "like a Son of Man" - Daniel 7:13-14
 - b. White robe, golden sash, fiery appearance - Dan 10
- 2. This is an awesome vision of the Risen Christ!

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 1:17–18

 - a. Fell at his feet as though dead - John is overcome!
 - b. Clear references to Deity of Jesus
 - 1. Son of Man from Daniel is Divine
 - 2. The description is one of Deity
 - 3. First and the Last, the Living One
 - c. He is Risen, conquering death
 - 1. I was dead but am alive for ever and ever!
 - 2. I hold the keys of death and Hades!
 - 3. This is the ultimate victory over death - not just for Him but for us!

C. A vision of the Reigning Christ

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. Rev 1:12–13

1. The Son of Man is given authority in Daniel’s vision
In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. ¹⁴ He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed. Daniel 7:13–14
 - a. This is a vision of Jesus in the ascension
 - b. He is given all authority and is now ruling!
 - c. This is referred to as the “session” of Christ
2. He is walking among the lampstands (a reference to the churches) - He is Lord over them
3. He possesses authority over death and Hades now
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 1:18
 - a. The keys represent authority
 - b. He not only defeated death and hell for Himself but also for others!
 - c. He has the keys so He can unlock the door and set any prisoners free!

D. A vision of the Returning Christ

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 makes 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. Revelation 19:11–13

1. An awesome picture near the end of the Revelation!
 2. Another vision of the Ruling, Reigning Christ
 - a. Faithful and True, blazing fire, many crowns
 - b. This One is the Word of God - John’s Gospel!
 - c. This is very similar to Revelation 1
 - d. However, He is riding forth for war!
- ¹⁴ The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. ¹⁵ Out of his mouth comes 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. - Revelation 19:14-16
1. This one is riding forth for war, with His followers
 2. He is judging the nations - a reference to Psalm 2!
 3. He is the Returning Christ - coming to finish God’s Eternal Plan!
 4. This is very different than His first Advent!
 - a. The first time He came to redeem, now to judge

- b. The first time He came in humility, now in glory
- c. The first time He came to serve, now to reign!
- d. The first time He came to suffer, now to executed justice!
- e. The first time He stood before Pilate, now Pilate will stand before Him!

III. Applying the Word

- A. Do I have a focus on the risen, reigning, and returning Christ?
 - 1. Sometimes we love to focus on “sweet baby Jesus”
 - 2. Thank God for the Incarnation - we are lost without it!
 - 3. But the story does not end in the manger!
 - 4. Our story includes the fact that Jesus lived for us, died for us, and was raised for us and our salvation!
 - 5. Our story includes the fact that Jesus ascended to the Father, is seated at His right hand, and is ruling all things!
 - 6. Our story points forward to the return of Christ when He will complete God’s Eternal Plan!
 - 7. Our story looks forward to Christ returning to set all things right!
 - 8. This has been a major focus for BRCC this year!
 - a. Psalm 1 & 2 - The Way, Christ’s rule!
 - b. Daniel - Christ the Eternal King, the Eternal Kingdom of God

- 9. Let this be a major focus as we end the year!
- 10. This is the hope that sustains us as we journey through each year - whatever calendar we consider!
- 11. This Advent, don’t just look back - look forward!

B. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb

- 1. This Table lets us look forward to THE Table
- 2. Hear the invitation to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb and come!
- 3. The invitation and the Table

The Risen, Reigning, and Returning Christ

Revelation 1:12-18; 19:11-16

November 28, 2021

Communion

1 Thessalonians 5:23-24

Teaching keywords: Advent and Christmas, resurrection; ascension, exaltation, and session; eschatology; second coming

May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. ²⁴ The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it. 1 Thessalonians 5:23–24

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Revelation 1:12–18

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