

Rev. Chs. 1-3 (Summary)

What have we gleaned from the last three months of study in Rev. Chps. 1-3?

3:22 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.” =US!!!!!!

Revelation 1-3 presents one of the clearest and most exalted portraits of Jesus in all of Scripture. These chapters show Him as **the Glorified Son of Man, Lord of the Church, Eternal God, Faithful Judge, and the Reward-giving King.**

Jesus' Divine Titles and Names -Revelation ascribes to Jesus titles that **belong to God alone:**

- 1. The Alpha and the Omega (1:8; cf. 22:13)** Jesus shares this eternal title with God the Father — declaring Himself the beginning and the end.
- 2. The First and the Last (1:17; 2:8)** This is a divine self-designation from Isaiah, applied directly to Jesus.
- 3. The Living One (1:18)** He is the source of *and* He possesses inherent, indestructible life.
- 4. The Son of Man (1:13)** Daniel Ch. 7's divine figure, who receives everlasting dominion.
- 5. The One who has the Sharp, Double-Edged Sword (1:16; 2:12, 16)** A picture of His perfect authority, righteous judgment, and penetrating Word.
- 6. The Holy One and the True One (3:7)** Jesus shares the moral purity, glorious radiance, and innate truthfulness of God the Father.
- 7. The Amen (3:14)** The never changing, perfectly fixed, ultimate affirmation of God's truth; the faithful fulfillment of all God's promises.
- 8. The Faithful and True Witness (1:5; 3:14)** His testimony and promises are perfect, trustworthy, and eternal.
- 9. The Ruler of the Kings of the Earth (1:5)** Absolute Sovereign authority over all earthly powers -kings, presidents, and princes -over all countries, kingdoms, dominions worldwide
- 10. The One who Holds the Seven Stars (2:1; 3:1)** Lord over the angels or messengers of the churches. Jesus raises us pastors and leads pastors & loves the leaders of His Church
- 11. The One who Walks Among the Lampstands (2:1)** The ever-present Lord in the midst of His church. He knows our hearts, our local circumstances, and He sees our deeds & faithfulness AND our struggles, challenges, divisions, dissension, & wolves in sheep's clothing.

Jesus' Eternal and Divine Nature Revelation 1-3 repeatedly identifies Jesus as **fully God:**

- 1. Eternal — “I am... the First and the Last” (1:17; 2:8)** Jesus exists before all things and beyond all things. Never limited to ‘time/space’ **Transcendent**; & operates w/in it -**Immanent**
- 2. Immortal — “I was dead, and behold, I am alive forever and ever” (1:18)** Jesus shares God's eternal life. As fully man, He was killed, then resurrected. He is eternal & glorified/exalted
- 3. Sovereign Judge — “His face was like the sun” (1:16), “His eyes were like a flame of fire” (1:14)** His judgment is holy, penetrating, perfect, and righteous. He sees all!
- 4. Divine Authority — He holds “the keys of Death and Hades” (1:18)** Only God rules life, death, and the afterlife.

His Ultimate Identity and Role: Jesus IS Fully God; Perfectly holy; All-knowing; Lord over time, life, death, and eternity; Head of the church; Judge of the world and of believers; Redeemer who died and now lives forever; The coming King who brings eternal reward

Jesus' Glorified Appearance (Revelation 1:12-18) John's vision describes Jesus in overwhelming, divine majesty:

- **Robe and golden sash** — Priestly and kingly authority.
- **Hair white like wool or snow** Eternal purity and wisdom (echoing the Ancient of Days in Da. 7).
- **Eyes like blazing fire** — Piercing knowledge and judgment.
- **Feet like fine bronze glowing in a furnace** — Perfect holiness and stability.
- **Voice like the roar of many waters** — Divine power and majesty.
- **Seven stars in His right hand** — Absolute authority over the church's messengers.
- **Sharp two-edged sword from His mouth** — Word that judges and saves.
- **Face shining like the sun** — Full brilliance of His glory.
=John falls at His feet "like a dead man," reinforcing Jesus' divine majesty.

Jesus' Relationship to His People Jesus is deeply involved with His church:

1. **He loves us and freed us from our sins by His blood (1:5)** His cross-work is central.
2. **He made us a kingdom and priests (1:6)** Delegates His authority to us -Ambassadors & Priests to mediate between the lost and Christ; and Jesus alone brings us near to God.
3. **He walks among the lampstands (churches) (1:13; 2:1)** Present, shepherding, observing, upholding.
4. **He knows their works (2:2, 9, 13, 19; 3:1, 8, 15)** Perfect omniscience of His people's faithfulness or compromise.
5. **He disciplines those He loves (3:19)** His correction flows from covenant love & adoption.
6. **He rebukes idolatry, compromise, and corruption (2:14-15, 20)** He demands holiness in His bride.
7. **He opens and shuts doors no one can alter (3:7)** Guiding the church's mission with sovereign authority.

Jesus' Authority as Judge of His Church He alone has the right to inspect His church.

Throughout chapters 2-3, Jesus evaluates each church and judges with divine knowledge:

- **Commends** what is faithful (e.g., endurance, doctrinal purity, love).
- **Corrects** what is sinful (e.g., compromise, false teaching, lukewarmness).
- **Calls to Action -obedience** Repent of consequences (2:5, 16, 22-23; 3:3, 16).
- **Promises reward** to those who overcome.

Jesus' Promises to Overcomers Jesus personally guarantees heavenly, eternal rewards: These reveal His role as **Savior, Rewarder, Bridegroom, and King**.

Listen to everything Jesus has promised to His children, those who persevere.....

1. The privilege of eating from the tree of life (2:7),
2. The crown of life (2:10)
3. Protection from the second death (2:11)
4. The hidden manna (2:17)
5. A white stone with a new name written on it (2:17)
6. Authority to rule the nations (2:26-27),
7. The morning star (2:28) -who is Jesus
8. White garments, symbolizing purity and holiness (3:5),

9. Name never blotted out (3:5)
10. The honor of having Christ confess their names before God the Father and the holy angels in heaven (3:5)
11. to be made a pillar in God's temple (3:12)
12. and to have written on them the name of God, of the new Jerusalem, and of Christ (3:12).
13. **And...** to sit with (Christ) on His throne

Jesus' Future Return: the Second Coming Revelation opens with a prophetic announcement: **"Behold, He is coming with the clouds" (1:7)**

- His return in glory.
- Every eye will see Him.
- Even His enemies will mourn.
- He comes in judgment and triumph.
- His coming is certain and unmistakable.

Jesus' Evaluation of the 7 Churches (Ch. 2-3) Jesus speaks uniquely to each church, revealing His heart, authority, and priorities:

- **Ephesus:** Values love and holiness. His priority is a daily, abiding, LOVE relationship w/ Him
- **Smyrna:** Jesus is Sovereign over suffering.
- **Pergamum:** Jesus Opposes false teaching and compromise.
- **Thyatira:** Jesus judges corruption, protects the faithful.
- **Sardis:** Jesus discerns spiritual deadness despite outward reputation.
- **Philadelphia:** Jesus opens doors of opportunity and protects the faithful.
- **Laodicea:** Jesus rejects lukewarm faith and offers grace & second chances; He wants a relationship ("I stand at the door and knock").

Every message reveals Jesus as the **personal, omniscient, authoritative Lord of the church.**

APPLICATION

1. We are commanded to seek the riches of Christ Himself: spiritual riches of grace, mercy, wisdom, holiness, faithfulness, contentedness, & joy =salvation & life in Him alone!
2. We are commanded to have Him open our eyes, to gain His eyesight in order to see what He sees =true reality vs. counterfeit/false/temporary reality
3. We are commanded to 'put on' Christ (Rom. 13:14), to be clothed with Jesus - that we would have His imputed righteousness and holiness, and not that of our own.
4. We are commanded to listen and open the door when Christ knocks, allowing Him in to be the Savior and LORD over our lives
5. We are commanded to listen what Jesus is instructing His churches (the Church). And to repent, obey, be healed and be continually used by Him as a lampstand (light) in a dark world!

Community Group Questions

1. What surprised you most about the picture of Jesus in Revelation 1–3?
2. How does Revelation’s vision correct incomplete or casual views of Jesus?
3. Which divine title of Jesus gives you the most confidence right now? Why?
4. How does seeing Jesus as Righteous Judge affect your understanding of His love?
5. Which promise speaks most deeply to where you are spiritually?
6. Where do you see faithfulness, compromise, or lukewarmness in your own life?
7. Why is Jesus’ judgment a comfort to believers, not a threat?
8. Which command to the seven churches feels most relevant to our time?
9. What would it look like to “overcome” this week in your context?