

How to Encounter Jesus as the Son of Man (Rev. 1)

I. UNVEILING THE MAJESTY OF JESUS

- A. The book of Revelation is called the *revelation of Jesus* because, first, it reveals the majesty of His heart and leadership in His plan to transition history to the age to come. Second, it is a book about events that take place in His end-time plan to purify the Church, bring in the harvest, replace all the evil governments, and drive Satan off the planet. God's purpose in Revelation is first to reveal the Man behind the plan. Many only see the end-time plan and miss the Man.
- ¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. He sent and signified it by His angel to...John... (Rev. 1:1)*
- B. In Revelation 1-3, John shares a vision which highlights **30 descriptions of Jesus'** majesty, ministry, and personality, and **18 eternal rewards**. Each description and reward communicates a specific insight into Jesus that is necessary in equipping the Church to overcome compromise.
- C. We identify the 30 descriptions from Jesus' titles, names, appearance, actions, and clothing. Each communicates a message about Jesus. For example, the garments that He wore speak of Him as a high priest. His eyes like fire reveal His passion, intensity, and full knowledge of every situation. There are 24 descriptions in Revelation 1, and 18 in Revelation 2-3, totaling 42. Since 12 are included in both Revelation 1 and Revelation 2-3, we identify **30 descriptions** (Rev. 1-3).
- D. ***Revelation 1 and Revelation 19 give the most complete picture of Jesus in the Bible.*** They describe *who He is* (how He thinks and feels) and *what He does* when more "fully revealed" in His end-time plan. If we read Revelation with the right perspective, it inspires us to adore Jesus and trust His leadership. In Revelation 1-3, we see what Jesus wants emphasized most about Himself to prepare His Church (Rev. 2-3) for the greatest release of His power in history. Many of the truths that Jesus emphasized about Himself here are being neglected today.

II. JESUS REVEALED HIS MAJESTY AS THE SON OF MAN

- A. Jesus revealed His majesty as the Son of Man, highlighting 24 aspects of His glory (Rev. 1). The two primary passages defining Jesus as the Son of Man are Daniel 7 and Revelation 1.
- ¹⁰I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, ¹¹saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,"...¹²Having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. (Rev. 1:10-17)*
- B. Jesus can manifest or veil His glory. On several occasions, believers did not recognize Jesus in His resurrected body because He veiled His glory (Lk. 24:13-31; Jn. 20:11-15; 21:1-14).

- C. This Son of Man title is from Daniel’s prophecy. It spoke of the Messiah who would rule all the nations with His people forever (Dan. 7:14) after He defeated the Antichrist (Dan. 7:11).
⁹The Ancient of Days [the Father]...His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame...¹¹I watched till the beast [Antichrist] was slain...¹³I was watching...One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [Father]...¹⁴To Him was given dominion...and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations...should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion...²⁷Then the kingdom...shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Dan. 7:9-14, 27)
- D. The Son of Man title emphasizes that Jesus is fully God and fully human. He is the God-man. Only One who is God can draw so near on a heavenly cloud to the Ancient of Days (the Father’s throne). Jesus was saying, “I am fully God, yet fully human. I am God, yet I am also one of you.”
- E. Daniel is the only one to prophesy about the Messiah as the Son of Man. Jesus was referring to this prophecy whenever He used this title. It was the title Jesus used most (85 references). It may have been His favorite prophecy. He must have thought on this passage often during His life. Jesus used this title when teaching about returning to rule the earth (Mt. 24:30; 25:31).
*³⁰They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power... (Mt. 24:30)
³¹When the Son of Man comes...He will sit on the throne of His glory. (Mt. 25:31)*

III. DESCRIPTIONS OF JESUS IN REVELATION 1

- A. **Alpha and Omega:** Jesus is God; The Greek alphabet starts with *alpha* and ends with *omega*. The phrase “alpha and omega” indicates completeness, signifying the first and last letters and all the letters in between. Jesus is equal with His Father in deity and is the Lord of all.
- B. **First and the Last:** Jesus is man; He is first in prominence and authority and He is the first to be raised from the dead (Col. 1:15, 18; Rev. 5:12). He was the first man to conquer all the enemies of the human race, including death (1 Cor. 15:24-28). He possesses total power over death itself.
*¹⁵He is...the firstborn over all creation...¹⁸and the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:15-18)
²⁶The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. (1 Cor. 15:26)*
- C. The First and the Last is the title Jesus used most in Revelation (Rev. 1:11, 17; 2:8; 22:13). He associated this title with His physical suffering, death, and resurrection to encourage believers to not fear martyrdom. Jesus suffered a cruel death, so He understands all our suffering.
*¹⁷I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. (Rev. 1:17-18)
⁸These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life...¹⁰Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer...be faithful until death. (Rev. 2:8-10)*

- D. **Eyes like fire:** His eyes like fire speak of His burning desire of love and His perfect knowledge that penetrate all things as fire penetrates metal. His eyes have fire in them because His heart is filled with the fire of desire for His people. His eyes are burning because His heart is burning. He **feels** love for us and **imparts** love to us as He **sees** everything about our life.

¹⁴**His eyes like a flame of fire... (Rev. 1:14)**

1. God is love and is a consuming fire of desire. God connected His fire to His jealous love. His jealousy means that He will give all and require all because of His love. Desire implies want, but not lack. Jesus is deeply invested in His relationship of love with us.

²⁴**For the LORD your God is a consuming fire, a jealous [passionate] God. (Deut. 4:24)**

2. The first time Jesus' eyes of fire are manifest is after His resurrection, when He appeared to the disciples on the road to Emmaus (Lk. 24:32). Jesus veiled His glory to them but when He spoke, their hearts burned as the fire of His love touched them.

³²**They [the Emmaus disciples] said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us...and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" (Lk. 24:32)**

3. When Jesus looked down upon the prayer meeting in the Upper Room, the fire of God rested on each of them (Acts 2:3). It was not the fire of judgment, but an expression of how Jesus felt about them.

³**There appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. (Acts 2:3)**

4. Fire involves light and heat. Jesus' light enlightens our spiritual eyes and causes us to see differently. Jesus warms or tenderizes our heart and causes us to feel differently.

- E. Another dimension of His eyes of fire is His ability to see everything about our life. He sees the full truth about us. He is fully attentive to His people. The essence of the fear of God increases in us as we grow in the awareness that God sees everything about us continually.

¹³**There is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account. (Heb. 4:13)**

³**The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on...evil and the good. (Prov. 15:3)**

- F. **Jesus' voice:** His "trumpet voice" gathers people, warns of judgment, and announces His return.

¹⁰**A loud voice, as of a trumpet...**¹⁵**His voice as the sound of many waters... (Rev. 1:10, 15)**

1. Jesus' powerful voice is like the sound of many waters and is full of majesty.

⁴**The voice of the LORD is powerful...it is full of majesty. (Ps. 29:4)**

2. As the faithful witness, He trumpets God's warnings of judgment (Rev. 1:5; 3:14).

⁶**If the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, and the people are not warned...[their] blood I will require at the watchman's hand. (Ezek. 33:6)**

- G. **Jesus' hair:** Jesus' head and hair are white as wool and snow, indicating the Father's glory. God's white garments and hair speak of His eternal existence, purity, and wisdom (Dan. 7:9).
¹⁴His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow... (Rev. 1:14)
⁹His [the Father's] garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. (Dan. 7:9)
- H. **Jesus' garments:** Jesus is seen as our High Priest—He is clothed in priestly robes with a golden breastplate, standing in the midst of seven lampstands (representing seven churches v. 20). Jesus was girded about His chest with a golden band, just as Israel's high priest wore a robe girded with a breastplate (Ex. 28:4; Lev. 16:4). Isaiah saw Jesus' long priestly robe (Isa. 6:1; Jn. 12:41). The high priest stood before the seven-branched lampstand in the holy place (Ex. 25:31-40).
¹³Clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded...with a golden band. (Rev. 1:13)
- I. Jesus, the Son of Man, is our sympathetic High Priest who understands us (Heb. 4:15). Revealing Himself as our High Priest is a declaration of His love and our sure salvation. Jesus shows Himself as our High Priest who made a way for us to live in God's presence (Heb. 10:19-22)
- J. **Walking in the midst:** His walking in the midst of the candlesticks, or churches, (Rev. 1:20) assures us of His deep involvement. He walks with us, aware of our needs, frailty, and pressures.
- K. **Jesus' right hand:** Jesus holding the seven stars, or the leaders, speaks of His promise to anoint, direct, and protect them. He is tender towards us even when we feel inadequate. Jesus holds and helps His leaders to do what He entrusts to them. The stars speak of the leaders of the churches, who were responsible to make known the message John received from Jesus. The stars signify those who faithfully speak the truth (Dan. 12:3). The right hand is the place of favor (Ps. 110:1).
¹⁶He had in His right hand seven stars...²⁰The seven stars are the angels [messengers] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands...are the seven churches. (Rev. 1:16, 20)
- L. **Jesus' mouth like sword:** This speaks of His zeal to intervene against sin in the Church (Rev. 2:16) and against those who oppress the Church (Rev. 19:15). The sword of His mouth refers to the power released by His commands.
¹²He who has the sharp two-edged sword... (Rev. 2:12)
¹⁶I will fight against them with the sword of My mouth. (Rev. 2:16)
- M. Jesus' words are like a sharp sword (Eph. 6:17; Heb. 4:12). We are to use the Word like a sword to resist temptation like Jesus did (Mt. 4:4). If we do not use it against temptations, then Jesus will use it against our sinful agendas. If we seek to obey, His Word is a **sword that liberates us**. If we disobey, it will be a **sword that troubles us**. The sword strikes the heart of immoral believers in the Church (Rev. 2:16) and the lives of wicked leaders in the nations (Rev. 19:15).
¹²The word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword... (Heb. 4:12)
¹⁷Take...the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God... (Eph. 6:17)

- N. **Jesus' feet like brass:** Jesus' feet like brass speak of His zeal to intervene to alter circumstances and increase the fear of the Lord in our lives. Brass is a symbol of judgment against sin. Jesus "steps in" and "steps on" circumstances to alter or crush the circumstances which empower His people to continue in sin. As a redemptive judgment, He cuts off sinful options and frustrates circumstances to make it more difficult to persist in sin. Feet speak of our inheritance and victory over the enemy (Josh. 1:3). Jesus tramples His enemies under His feet (Ps. 110:1).
- ¹⁵**His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace...** (Rev. 1:15)
- O. **Jesus' countenance:** Jesus' glorious radiance exhilarates the saints and destroys His enemies.
- ¹⁶**His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.** (Rev. 1:16)
- ³**...who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person...** (Heb. 1:3)
- ¹⁵**The kings of the earth...hid themselves in...the rocks...¹⁶and said to the mountains... "Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne..."** (Rev. 6:15-16)
- ⁸**Then the lawless one [Antichrist] will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.** (2 Thes. 2:8)
- ²⁴**He will blow on them [wicked leaders, Antichrist], and they will wither...** (Isa. 40:24)
- ²³**The moon will be disgraced and the sun ashamed; for the LORD of hosts will reign on Mount Zion and in Jerusalem and before His elders, gloriously.** (Isa. 24:23)
- When the Son of Man comes...then He will sit on the throne of His glory.** (Mt. 25:31)
- ²⁴**The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light. The nations...shall walk in its light...** (Rev. 21:24)
- ¹¹**I saw a great white throne and Him...from whose face the earth...fled away.** (Rev. 20:11)
- ¹²**Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world."** (Jn. 8:12)
- P. **Summary:** John heard a voice like a trumpet preparing the Church to experience God's glory (Rev. 2-3) and warning all nations that the King of kings was coming to earth (Rev. 6-19). The One who spoke is fully God (Alpha/Omega) and fully man (First/Last). He is the glorious Son of Man who will rule all nations as a sympathetic High Priest (garment to the feet), yet as One who is eternal, holy, and wise like His Father (head and hair white) in all that He does. He will cleanse the nations with His eyes of fire and feet like brass. All will listen to Him because His voice is like many waters. In the midst of all His mighty works, He upholds His messengers (stars) and fights against all who harm them (sword). None can resist Him because He is God with such brightness (sun), so that even His people fall at His feet overwhelmed with His glory.

IV. HOW TO APPLY THE DESCRIPTIONS OF JESUS: A-R-K

- A. Jesus' name will be the "ark of safety" and the "ark of His presence" in the end-time pressures. His name makes our spirit strong and peaceful instead of dull, fearful, and full of compromise.
- ¹⁰The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. (Prov. 18:10)*
- ¹¹Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me... (Jn. 17:11)*
- B. **A-R-K**: We apply the truths of the descriptions of Jesus in Revelation to our lives in three ways: **A**-agreement; **R**-ask for revelation; **K**-keep the prophecy. Jesus promised to bless any who resolve to "keep" the prophecy set forth in the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 9). We resolve to "keep" each of the truths by responding in faith and obedience in our actions and attitudes.
- ⁷Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. (Rev. 22:7)*
- C. **Agreement**: We make declarations of agreement to Jesus about who He is and what He does. We identify the core truths in each of the 30 descriptions (some overlap), then simply declare these truths back to Jesus with affection and gratitude. For example, pray:
- 1) **"You are..."** declarations: You are a faithful witness, the firstborn, the ruler of kings, etc.
 - 2) **"You have..."** declarations: You have a sword, You have the keys of the kingdom, etc.
 - 3) **"Your..."** declarations: Your face is like the sun, Your eyes are like fire, etc.
- D. **More examples to pray**: "You are the Son of Man. You are fully God and fully man. I love this about You. You became a man to win me. I trust Your leadership. You are the ruler over all kings. They will soon bow before You. I love Your greatness. Thank you that You have eyes of fire and You desire to fill me with Your love. Jesus, You are the faithful witness to the truth. You are the truth. I thank you that You always tell the truth. I love this about You. I trust what You say. You are reliable, I can count on You. You took a stand that cost Your reputation and life. You are the firstborn. I rejoice in Your preeminence."
- E. **Revelation**: We pray for increased revelation of the truth implied in each description (Eph. 1:17). For example, "Reveal Yourself to me as the faithful witness," or "Reveal Yourself to me as the firstborn. Show me Your glory as the ruler of all kings. Teach me more about these."
- F. **Keep the prophecy**: We make simple declarations of resolve to obey or believe these truths. For example: "I commit to be a faithful witness to the truth, regardless of the cost. Help me to do this. I will submit to Your leadership as the ruler over the earth. Empower me to obey You."
- G. **More examples**: Pray, "You are the firstborn from the dead, I will take time to cultivate understanding of the resurrection. I will give You preeminence over all things in my life because You are the ruler over the kings of the earth. I seek to love you with all my heart as Your eyes of fire empower me. I will resist immorality as your feet like brass will surely "step in" to help.