

INTRODUCTION

1. Rv 1:1-3 Review. v3 - We are blessed.
2. Rv 1:4-5a - prolog [v1-20] overture to symphony: intro'd to themes

1st: The Salutation: the Apostolic Author

1. *John* - human author: apostolic.
2. Appreciate apostolic authority - 1C 14:37

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2nd: The Salutation: the Church - Recipients of the Letter

1. *to the seven churches* - actual churches - some faring better than others.
2. Symbolic significance of #7. *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches* - applies to us in GCBC.
3. v1 - *to His bond-servants*, now *to the seven churches*. Would you let a friend read a letter sent to you from your fiancé? [Ps 50:16-17]. Word of God invites men to come part of Jesus' church.

3rd: The Salutation: the Greeting

1. *Grace & Peace* = common form of letter writing [1 Pt 1:2; Phil 1:2].
2. More than polite protocol: *grace & peace* of salvation. Jn 14:27 - Jn 16:33
3. *to you* [plural] - people gathered to worship: hear & heed Scripture.

4th: The Father Greet You

1. *from Him who is & who was & who is to come* - [I am - Ex 3:14-15]
2. God who transcends time & speaks into entirety of history - 1:19.
3. God as eternal, transcendent, holy, sovereign - 1:8

5th: The Spirit Greet You

1. *from the seven Spirits* - HS presented as perfect, complete
 - i. Epistle's use of numbers - sequential quantity [*one Spirit* - Eph 4:4-6].
 - ii. Are there 7 Spirits or 1 Spirit? The 1 Spirit is the perfect HS.
2. *who are before the throne*: 1st use of *throne* - [4:2].
 - i. The One sitting on throne is Father & Son = One revealed by HS given to church: living community of the Spirit: NCov temple [Eph 2:22].
 - ii. We commune w/ the One on throne in Spirit - 5:6
 - a. HS - the horns & eyes of the Lamb. HS enables us to overcome as the Lamb overcame.

b. HS sent out into all the earth - to effect the building of the church & NCov worship that transpires *before the throne*.

6th: The Son Greet's You

1. *from Jesus Christ - v1 - The revelation of Jesus Christ to us: His church.*
 - i. Jesus - incarnate Son of God - life, death, resurrection, reign, return.
 - ii. Christ - Messiah; Son of David; enthroned as Priest-King.

2. *the faithful witness* - significant vocab [v2 *testimony/testified*]. We are witnesses who follow the Witness & bear witness to the witness of the Word concerning the Witness. All legal implications: before throne.

3. *Istborn*: Son who is rightful Heir: position of authority: Col 1:15-16.

4. *of the dead* - was dead, but conquered death - 1:17-18
 - i. Authority: *keys of death & Hades*
 - ii. *I am alive forevermore* [*life-giving Spirit* - 1C 15:45].
 - iii. Col 1:18 - *the 1st- firstborn from the dead*

5. *the ruler of the kings of the earth* - King of kings & Lord of lords. In a world that claims "Caesar is Lord". *I also shall make him My Istborn, the highest of the kings of the earth* [Ps 89:27] - Mat 28:18 *all authority*

Applic: Receive This Greeting in the Fear of God

1. Letter w/ government letterhead. Here is letter from Triune God: *fear God!*
 - i. *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom* [Ps 111:10; Pr 9:10].
 - ii. Fear entails reverence, respect, service: love - Jesus *loves us & released us from our sins by His blood* [1:5].

2. Rv 1:1-5a Our Triune God has sent us a letter!