

INTRODUCTION

1. Rv 1:1-8 Review. v8 - Who is speaking? Father or Jesus Christ?
 - i. Jesus is already enthroned.
 - ii. Jesus has come, is coming, & will come - v7 - 22:20
2. v8 the God of Rv introduces Himself - the God of Rv, from whom Rv comes, about whom Rv concerns. v8 must be kept in view thru Rv.

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1st: The God of Covenant Faithfulness

1. *Lord God* - revealed by Moses - incarnated Son, now exalted
2. *says* - Hb 1:1-2
3. *He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to churches* [Rv 2:7].

2nd: The True and Living God

1. The true God, midst false gods: demons. Living God who gives life.
2. *I am* - Ex 3:14 God of the living, not of the dead. The God of Exodus
3. Recalls Jesus' *I am* sayings [Jn 8:58; 6:35; 8:12; 10:7, 11, 25; 14:6; 15:1].
4. Redundant: *I, I am* - focus on the reality of the true & living God
 - i. Be confronted by the *I AM*
 - ii. Yet men, in sin, try to avoid the God *w/ whom we have to do* [Hb 4:13]
 - iii. God is. God says. He speaks to us so that we might have life.

3rd: The Transcendent History-Encompassing God

1. *Alpha & Omega* = A & Z. A "merism": top to bottom; head to toe.
 - i. 1:17 *the 1st & last* - same truth. God stands at both ends of history & over everything in between.
 - ii. 22:6,13 v13 - *Alpha & Omega; 1st & last; beginning & end*
2. God transcends time & is sovereign over history.
 - i. Eccl 7:10 - we yearn, not for "good ol' days" but for glorious new days!
 - ii. Our God gives us resurrection life that transcends history
 - a. Isa 40:28 everlasting
 - b. Isa 41:4 - *I am*
 - c. Isa 48:12-14 Jacob: *listens & loved*. Babylon: judgment
3. Lord God - Alpha & Omega: all encompassing sovereign love: Ps 131; Dt 33:26-29 underneath are His everlasting arms.

4th: The Transcendent Time-Encompassing God

1. *He who is* = Ex 3:14 - I am who I am: present & faithful.

2. *He who was* = past history to creation & before fndtn of world
3. *He is to come* - not speaking of God's being [God is], but pointing to future act, revelation - *He is coming* - v7, 22:20-21; Ps 96:12-13; Isa 40:10
4. This description - 5x in Rev. 1:4; 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 16:5. In final 2 vss, *who is to come* is omitted => He who is to come has, at that point, come
5. We know God by His self-disclosure - in course of time [Hab 2:2-4]
 - i. God is *I am* = revelation of who He is in rln to us, His people.
 - ii. Isa 40:9-11 - God begins to reveal His salvation w/ the revelation of Himself as our God - *behold! your God! He is coming!*

5th: The God of Supreme Omnipotence

1. *The Almighty* - [7x in Rv] - the power of God over enemies: *Lord of hosts*. *Almighty* translates *Lord Sabbaoth* - military name [229x in OT]
 - i. Isa 6:3 *Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts*
 - ii. Isa 44:6-8 YHWH - King & Redeemer of Israel; Lord of Hosts; 1st & last - no God other than our God.
2. *Almighty*: all powerful; authority; strength; ability to do all His holy will
 - i. Rm Emperor called himself *autokrator* - ruler of self: the mighty self.
 - ii. The chosen nobodies of Jesus have *the Almighty, Lord Sabbaoth* as our God. *If God be for us, who can be against us?* [R 8:31]

6th: Who Is Speaking? The Father or The Son?

1. Jn wants us to ask that question whenever the voice/word of God is uttered.
 - i. Rv 11:15-17 Who reigns? According to v15, the Lord's Christ.
 - ii. Rv 21:22 who is *Lord God Almighty*? differentiated from *the Lamb*.
 - iii. Titles of deity attributed ONLY to YHWH
2. In Rv 1:8, who is speaking? Father or Son? It is the Son who is prominent. v1; v2; v5-6; v7 - in v8 GOD speaks & we hear & see Jesus.
3. Rv 1:1-8 sum & essence of what is rev'd in Rv. [Rm 8:38-39]. Behold your God!