

“Him who is to come”

(Rev 1:4-5a)



Truth Matters Church, Inc.

# Loose Ends from last study



❧ Blessed Is He study

❧ We focused on it being tied to covenantal blessing

❧ Abrahamic Covenant → Davidic Covenant → New Covenant (Last Supper)

❧ Blessed Is He is also addressed to the direct recipients of this letter who will be there in the end times!

❧ 7 churches, 144K, the 2 Witnesses

❧ Just like Jesus came to fulfill that which was written concerning Himself

❧ So will the 7 churches, 144K, 2 Witnesses will read and fulfill what was written concerning them and be BLESSED BY IT!

❧ Cyrus the Persian King is another great example of this

❧ Isaiah (chs. 44/45) prophesied about him ~700BC; Cyrus rose to power ~536BC

# “His bond-servants”



- ❧ “His” is referring to Jesus
- ❧ “bond-servants” is ‘doulos’
- ❧ So v.1 is referring to Christ’s slaves
- ❧ In Revelation Christ’s slaves that are mentioned are:

- ❧ The apostle John (Rev 1:1)
- ❧ Believers in Thyatira (Rev 2:20)
- ❧ 144K sealed Jews (Rev 7:3)
- ❧ OT prophets (Rev 10:7)
- ❧ Two Witnesses/Prophets (Rev 11:18)
- ❧ Moses (Rev 15:3)
- ❧ Glorified saints (Rev 19:5)

This is the audience of the book of Revelation and primary recipients of this letter!

And anyone who reads and hears the words of this prophecy! – v3

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These will be BLESSED when they read and believe!



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# Scripture Reading



Revelation 1:4-6 (NASB)

4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood – 6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father – to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

# Exposit Rev 1:4



4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

☞ John is passing to vision to the seven churches (seven = 7)

☞ ROE #7: Thou shalt not over spiritualize Scripture

☞ “to the seven churches in Asia (Minor)” are written to the 7 churches who are direct recipients of this letter

☞ Asia Minor (modern day Turkey)

☞ i.e. Believers in Ephesus are the direct recipients of Ephesians, believers in Colossae are the direct recipients of Colossians, believers in Galatia are the direct recipients of Galatians, etc.

## Q2: Who wrote it, when, and to whom was it written to?



Note: Although this letter was written to 7 actual churches in Asia Minor that existed in the first century, we will find it is also prophetic and implicates churches in the end times, at a minimum, in those regions



# Exposit Rev 1:4



4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

- ✧ “Grace to you and peace” is a common Christian greeting to remind believers of being recipients of God’s grace and peace (eirēnē ; shalom)
- ✧ “from Him who is and who was and who is to come” [more on this]
- ✧ “the seven Spirits” [more on this first]



# “from the seven Spirits”



☞ Again seven = 7

☞ ROE #7: Thou shalt not over spiritualize Scripture

☞ 7 means 7 (1,2,3,4,5,6,7)... this is speaking of 7 Spirits

☞ “Spirits” is ‘pneuma’ and means breath or spirit

☞ Context tells us if it’s talking about the human spirit, an angel’s spirit, or the Holy Spirit (the Holy pneuma)

☞ As we’ll see as we progress, it is referring to 7 angels who are before the throne in heaven

☞ INTERESING NOTE: the angels too extend grace and peace!

# “from the seven Spirits”



Luke 2:10-11

<sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; <sup>11</sup> for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

☞ Angels are bearers of good news of great joy!

☞ This remains the case in the delivery of this vision and prophecy!

# “from Him who is and who was and who is to come”



- ❧ The consensus out there is this is a paraphrase of God's divine Name (i.e. burning bush I AM WHO I AM)
- ❧ Others say something along the lines
  - ❧ Another way to say the first, the middle, and the last
  - ❧ Or the Alpha and the Omega (v.8)
  - ❧ Or that God is eternal
    - ❧ God is PAST (who was)/PRESENT (who is)/FUTURE (who is to come)
    - ❧ Jesus is PAST (who was)/PRESENT (who is)/FUTURE (who is to come)
- ❧ These are all true...

# “from Him who is and who was and who is to come”



❧ But my question is, who is “HIM” being spoken of here?

❧ Which Person of the Trinity?

❧ Is it Jesus?

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him [Jesus?] who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His [Jesus's?] throne

❧ Thankfully the next verse tells us which Person of the Trinity...

# Exposit Rev 1:5



<sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood –

☞ “and from Jesus Christ” [we’ll cover in today’s study]

☞ The rest of v.5 we’ll cover in our next study

# “and from Jesus Christ”



☞ v.5, tells us which Person of the Trinity is being spoken of in v.4!

☞ “and from Jesus Christ” is a clear indication that Jesus was NOT in view in v.4, here’s what I mean:

☞ This cannot be true:

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him [Jesus] who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His [Jesus] throne. <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ...

☞ “and from” makes it clear that Jesus is not the Person of the Trinity spoken of in v.4... which means...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



❧ v.4 was speaking of NOT Jesus, but the FATHER!

❧ So let's relook at v.4 and enter the correct Person of the Trinity...

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him [the Father] who is and [the Father] who was and [the Father] who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His [the Father's] throne,<sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ...

❧ So this shalom greeting is from the Father → Angels → Jesus Christ

❧ Clearly, the Father is the subject in v.4 and the Son is the subject in v.5

❧ OVERLOOKED TRUTH: Much attention has been given to Jesus 2<sup>nd</sup> coming, but v. 4 tells us nuggets of truth!... Drum roll....

# “and from Jesus Christ”



- ❧ Did you know that the Father is coming too? AMEN!
- ❧ So Revelation is about Jesus and the Father!
- ❧ Revelation is the unveiling of both the Father and the Son!
  - ❧ And I'll show you more of this as we progress!
- ❧ So this shalom greeting, vision and prophecy originated from the Father's throne!
- ❧ Another overlooked detail is concerning the throne in heaven



# “and from Jesus Christ”



☞ v.5 tells us the 7 spirits are before whose throne? - The FATHER'S THRONE (not Jesus):

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him [the Father] who is and [the Father] who was and [the Father] who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His [the Father's] throne

☞ Which begs the question...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



- ❧ Does Jesus have a throne in heaven?
- ❧ There is definitely a Most High throne in heaven
- ❧ There is definitely Someone sitting on it
- ❧ I've checked and it wasn't Jesus! It was His Father!
- ❧ From here I'd like to do a mini systematic theology study on “the Most High throne in heaven” by looking at both the OT and NT...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



OT:

“throne” is kisseh (Heb) or korse (Ara)

which means throne or seat of honor

kisseh is used 134x and korse just 1x

I found that kisseh was used 8x and korse 1x (Dan 7:9) to explicitly speak of a throne or multiple thrones in heaven

Let’s look at them to see what it says and see which Person of the Trinity is sitting on the throne of God

# “and from Jesus Christ”



❧ First mention of a throne in heaven in the OT is in:

1 Kings 22:19 (conversation in heaven about enticing Ahab)

Micaiah said, “Therefore, hear the word of the LORD. I saw the LORD sitting on His throne, and all the host of heaven standing by Him on His right and on His left.

❧ There is certainly a throne in heaven and the LORD (Yaweh) was sitting on it

❧ Host of heaven standing on His right and left

❧ Whose the LORD (Yaweh)? The Father? The Son? Both? Lets keep going... next mention was in Isaiah...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Isaiah 6:1-3

<sup>1</sup> In the year of King Uzziah's death I saw **the LORD (Yaweh) sitting on a throne**, lofty and exalted, with the train of His robe filling the temple. <sup>2</sup> Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. <sup>3</sup> And one called out to another and said,

“Holy, Holy, Holy, is the LORD of hosts,  
The whole earth is full of His glory.”

☞ Same mention of throne in heaven and the LORD sitting on it, but

☞ Still no mention of which Person of the trinity is sitting on it

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Isaiah 66:1-2

<sup>1</sup> Thus says the LORD (Yaweh),

“**Heaven is My throne** and the earth is My footstool.

Where then is a house you could build for Me?

And where is a place that I may rest?

<sup>2</sup> “For My hand made all these things,

Thus all these things came into being,” declares the LORD (Yaweh).

☞ Isaiah likens heaven to the LORD’s throne

☞ However, still doesn’t tell us which Person of the Trinity it is

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Jeremiah 17:12

<sup>12</sup> A glorious throne on high from the beginning  
Is the place of our sanctuary.

- ✎ Jeremiah too just sees a throne in heaven and likens it to the place of Israel's sanctuary
- ✎ But he doesn't tell us Whose throne it is nor Who is sitting on it

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Ezekiel 1:1 (The Vision of Four Figures)

<sup>1</sup> Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I [Ezekiel the priest] was by the river Chebar among the exiles, **the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God (Elohim)**...

- ☞ Elohim conveys characteristics of God, such as: Creator/King/Judge/Savior
- ☞ Whereas Yaweh or Yehovah (YHWH) is a construct of the proper name of God (equivalent to I AM WHO I AM declaration at the burning bush)
- ☞ Anyhow, part of Ezekiel's vision was a throne...



# “and from Jesus Christ”



Ezekiel 1:26-28

<sup>26</sup> Now above the expanse that was over their heads there was something **resembling a throne**, like lapis lazuli in appearance; and on that which **resembled a throne, high up**, was a figure with **the appearance of a man**. <sup>27</sup> Then I noticed from the appearance of His loins and upward something like glowing metal that looked like fire all around within it, and from the appearance of His loins and downward I saw something like fire; and there was a radiance around Him. <sup>28</sup> As the appearance of the rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the surrounding radiance. **Such was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD (Yaweh)**. And when I saw it, I fell on my face and heard a voice speaking.

✧ Finally Ezekiel give us something to work with, he sees the appearance of a man in the likeness of the glory of the LORD... he mentions the throne again

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Ezekiel 10:1

<sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and behold, in the expanse that was over the heads of the cherubim something like a sapphire stone, in appearance resembling a throne, appeared above them.

- ✧ Ezekiel mentions seeing a throne in heaven again, but still not much in terms of Whose throne it is and Who's sitting on it
- ✧ The best we have so far is the resemblance of a man in the likeness and glory of the LORD
- ✧ How about the David in the Psalms.. What did he see...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Psalms 11:4

<sup>4</sup> The LORD is in His holy temple; **the LORD'S throne is in heaven;**  
His eyes behold, His eyelids test the sons of men.

Psalms 103:19

<sup>19</sup> The LORD has established **His throne in the heavens,**  
And His sovereignty rules over all.

☞ David too sees a throne in heaven, but doesn't give us much intel

# “and from Jesus Christ”



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Psalms 103:19

<sup>19</sup> The LORD has established **His throne in the heavens,**  
And His sovereignty rules over all.

☞ David too sees a throne in heaven, but doesn't give us much intel

☞ But low and behold, Daniel, gives us much heavenly intel!...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Daniel 7:9-10 (Four Beasts Vision; Sees the Ancient of Days taking His seat)

<sup>9</sup> “I kept looking

Until **thrones were set up,**

And **the Ancient of Days took His seat;**

His vesture was like white snow

And the hair of His head like pure wool.

**His throne (Ancient of Days’)** was ablaze with flames,

Its wheels were a burning fire.

<sup>10</sup> “A river of fire was flowing

And coming out from before Him;

Thousands upon thousands were attending Him,

And myriads upon myriads were standing before Him;

The court sat,

And the books were opened.

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Daniel 7:13-14 (sees the Son of Man presented before the Ancient of Days)

<sup>13</sup> “I kept looking in the night visions,  
And behold, with the clouds of heaven  
One like a Son of Man was coming,  
And He came up to the Ancient of Days  
And was presented before Him.

<sup>14</sup> “And to Him was given dominion,  
Glory and a kingdom,  
That all the peoples, nations and men of every language  
Might serve Him.

His dominion is an everlasting dominion  
Which will not pass away;  
And His kingdom is one  
Which will not be destroyed.

# “and from Jesus Christ”



- ❧ Daniel's end times vision into heaven gives us great nuggets of truth:
  - ❧ The Ancient of Days = the LORD (Yaweh) = God the Father
  - ❧ The Son of Man = God the Son
  - ❧ The Ancient of Days took a seat on His throne (there were other thrones)
  - ❧ The Son of Man did NOT take a seat
  - ❧ The Ancient of Days held a heavenly court proceeding, books were opened
  - ❧ The Son of Man came UP to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him
  - ❧ The Ancient of Days gave the Son of Man an everlasting dominion and kingdom
    - ❧ What dominion and kingdom was that?...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



## ☞ The Davidic Kingdom!

2 Samuel 7:13 (concerning the Davidic Covenant)

<sup>13</sup> He [Messiah] shall build a house for My name, and I will establish **the throne of his [Messiah's] kingdom** forever.

☞ More nuggets of truth: Not only will the Father establish Messiah's kingdom, but Messiah will build a house (temple) for His Father!

☞ Zechariah tells us more of Messiah's kingdom and throne promised to David...



# “and from Jesus Christ”



Zechariah 6:12-13

<sup>12</sup> Then say to him, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, “Behold, a man whose name is Branch (Messiah), for He will branch out from where He is; and He (Messiah) will build the temple of the LORD (His Father).” <sup>13</sup> Yes, it is He (Messiah) who will build the temple of the LORD (His Father), and He (Messiah) who will bear the honor and sit and rule on His (David’s) throne. Thus, He (Messiah) will be a priest on His (David’s) throne, and the counsel of peace will be between the two offices.”

☞ This passage is proof “the LORD” = the Father (whereas Jesus is Messiah)

☞ SIDE NOTE: Messiah has two offices: KING AND PRIEST

☞ Ah! Finally! Jesus has His own throne! Where will that be?

# “and from Jesus Christ”



☞ You guessed it... in Jerusalem!

Ezekiel 43:6-7

<sup>6</sup> Then I heard one speaking to me from the house, while a man was standing beside me. <sup>7</sup> He said to me, “Son of man, **this is the place of My throne** and the place of the soles of My feet, where I will dwell among the sons of Israel forever.

☞ In context, it was where the holy temple was built

☞ The throne will be established in Jerusalem!

☞ PERPLEXING NOTE: There is another mention of a different location of the place of the throne...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Jeremiah 49:38 (prophecy against Elam)

<sup>38</sup> ‘Then **I will set My throne in Elam**  
And destroy out of it king and princes,  
Declares the LORD.

- ☞ Ancient Elam is present day Iran/Iraq
- ☞ So the OT gives us two locations of where God’s throne will be established: Jerusalem and Elam
- ☞ Perhaps in Elam first, then Jerusalem?
- ☞ We’ll leave this here for now and may refer back to it as we progress in our study

# “and from Jesus Christ”



- ❧ CASE IN POINT: The OT/NT affirm that God has a throne in heaven, but there is no explicit mention that it was Jesus's throne!
- ❧ The best insight we got was from Daniel's vision
- ❧ Daniel saw thrones (plural) set up in heaven, the Father took His seat, but Jesus did NOT sit on any of those thrones in heaven!
- ❧ Jesus later makes this distinction Himself in chapter 3...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



Revelation 3:21 (Jesus speaking in the letter to Laodicea)

<sup>21</sup> He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.

☞ “My throne” is distinct from “[the Father’s] throne”

☞ Why, is this so?... Drum roll...

# “and from Jesus Christ”



- ❧ Because before the world began God the Father planned to give His Son His own throne!...
- ❧ Where.... On earth!
  - ❧ The Father elected His eternal family (bride)
  - ❧ The Father elected to establish an eternal throne for His Son!
- ❧ But wait a minute.. doesn't the NT teach that Jesus sat down at the right hand of the Father?
- ❧ Doesn't that mean or imply Jesus has His own throne in heaven?

# “and from Jesus Christ”



☞ We'll answer that in our next study ☺