

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 1:4-8 John reveals 5 pieces of information in the greeting of his letter.

- I. The greeting reveals the author to be John (v. 4a).
- II. The greeting reveals the recipients to be the 7 church of Asia (v. 4b).
- III. The greeting reveals a trinitarian blessing.
 - A. Grace & peace from God the Father (v. 4c).
 - B. Grace & peace from Holy Spirit (v. 4d).
 - C. Grace & peace from Jesus (v. 5a).
- IV. The greeting reveals a doxology (v. 5b-6).
- V. The greeting reveals affirmations.
 - A. A word about Jesus: He is the Royal Judge (v. 7).
 - B. A word from God: I am the Eternal Sovereign (v. 8).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 15, 2018

Passage: Revelation 1:4-8

Memory Passage: Revelation 1:7

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:4-8.** To whom is John writing and why is this important for you to know?
- (b) What does the number 7 represent when used symbolically, is John's usage at all symbolic, and if so, how?
- (c) Define "grace" and "peace" (typical blessings found in NT greetings), and explain how they are related.
- (d) According to our context, what is the source of grace and peace?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:4-8.** What strikes you when you read the Trinitarian presentation (unique to NT greetings) in vs. 5-8?
- (b) What do you learn about God the Father (vs. 4 & 8)? We will encounter this description again in 4:8, with a variation in 11:17 & 16:15, yet nowhere else in the NT. How does this description connect with Exodus 3:15 & the "I am" statements in John's gospel?
- (c) Why does John refer to the Holy Spirit as "the seven spirits" (cf. also 3:1, 4:5, 5:6), and how do Isaiah 11:1-2 & Zechariah 4:2-10 help you understand?
- (d) Why do you think Holy Spirit is mentioned 2nd instead of 3rd?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:4-8.** Why does John provide a more lengthy description of Jesus than the Father and Holy Spirit?
- (b) Explain what is meant by each of 3 descriptions of Jesus in v. 5.
- (c) In what ways does this 3-fold description introduce major themes covered in the book (recall last week's reading)?
- (d) In what ways does this 3-fold description of Jesus encourage the persecuted saints in the 7 churches and of all ages?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:4-8.** "To him" begins the first of 5 doxologies found in Revelation. As v. 5a contains a 3-fold description of who Christ is, vs. 5b-6a contain a 3-fold description of what Christ has done. Meditate on the meaning & tenses of "loves" (present) and "has freed" (past; not "washed" as in KJV/NKJV). What are the implications of these two blessings (including the tenses) and what encouragement do they bring to you? How should they practically affect your day-to-day life?
- (b) **Read Ex. 19:5-6, Rom. 12:1-2, Heb. 4:14-16, 10:19-25, 13:15 (and surrounding context), & 1 Pet. 2:4-10.** Read & reflect on these verses in light of "made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father" (v. 6) and record your findings. Write down at least 4 specific applications from your findings which you will begin applying immediately.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:4-8, Dan. 7:13-14, & Zech. 12:9-10.** Consider these OT texts and explain the meaning of v. 7.
- (b) What does God mean to convey when he describes Himself as: "I am the Alpha and the Omega" (cf. 21:6 & 22:13 and notice the bookends this phrase makes for the entire book)?
- (c) Summarize vs. 1-8 in your own words.
- (d) What do you learn about God in this passage, and how should these truths affect your worship life? How should they affect your pursuit of holiness? What encouragement will they bring to you when persecution hits you and your family?

DATE: April 15, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 1:4-8

Trinitarian Greetings to the 7 Churches in Asia