

**Introduction:** “Advent” season In preparation for the celebration of the incarnation of the Son of God

- Pre-incarnate – incarnate (humiliation) – post resurrection (glorification) – most clearly in Revelation
- several “portraits” or verbal pictures of the Lord Jesus Christ
- I do not intend to....explain the book of Revelation...end times questions...interpret all of the various details...rapture
- Main purpose is to see Jesus Christ in His glorified state
- Immediate audience were ordinary people suffering in a fallen world (speculative theologians 2,000 years later)
- A book of comfort for God’s people – practical purpose for everyday Christians
- Apocalyptic literature (in form of some OT prophets) - “a pageant of visions”, like a parade of dramatic scenes
- Pulling back the veil of the unseen in a world in which the seen does not seem to correspond to a faith view
- This kind of literature is almost counter-intuitive to us, and would think we need straightforward realism to help
- It is a specific kind and form of literature, and as such uses literary devices to communicate – colors, numbers, creatures

### Prophet – vv.1-3

**1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ,** (both its object and means)

*which God gave Him to show His servants* (the ordinary people of God, in fallen world)

*things which must shortly take place* (immediate things, things in God’s timeline)

**And He sent and signified it by His angel**

*to His servant John,* (the identity of the writer)

**2 who bore witness to the word of God,**

*and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.* (during His 3 year ministry)

**3 Blessed is he who reads** (single reader to hearers who may have been largely illiterate, no Bibles of their own)

*and those who hear the words of this prophecy,* (the blessing of hearing... connect. of revelation with prophecy)

*and keep those things which are written in it;* (not mere knowledge, but to obey)

*for the time is near.* (immediacy, and long term)

### King – vv.4-5

**4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:** (a 7 sampling to represent the churches, of which there were more)

**Grace to you and peace** (the common NT greeting) (Trinitarian greeting...)

*from Him who is and who was and who is to come,* (the Father)

*and from the seven Spirits* (the Spirit, 7-fold perfection and omnipresence)

*who are before His throne,* (doing His will)

**5 and from Jesus Christ,** (the Son – 3-fold designation)

*the faithful witness* (as to His identity)

*the firstborn from the dead,* (taking role as King)

*and the ruler over the kings of the earth.* (in the midst of Roman turmoil, and now worldwide)

### Priest – vv.5-6

**To Him who loved us** (setting His love before time, demonstrated in...)

**and washed us from our sins** (priestly duty)

*in His own blood,* (His own sacrifice)

**6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father,** (making us priesthood)

**to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.** (Priest-King)

### Judge – v.7

**7 Behold, He is coming with clouds,** (connection w/judgment in Gospels)

**and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.** (universal witnessing)

**And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.** (universal sorrow)

### God – v.8

**8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega,** (first and last letter of Greek alphabet...the Word...)

*the Beginning and the End," says the Lord,* (the source of creation, the purpose and end of creation)

*"who is and who was and who is to come,* (self existent, everlasting, coming One)

*the Almighty."* (omnipotent)

- All these parts of the portrait have very practical and daily importance to us, no matter who we are
- These are fundamental things that shape our view of the world as followers of Jesus – our Great Confession
- These are things to teach our children, these are our witness, these are our hope
- Whatever you are facing (guidance, forgiveness, strength, idolatry) these sketches of the Savior are remedy
- Jesus is utterly unique – none other have made such claims and vindicated with resurrection
- Believe...acknowledge...renew your mind by...be transformed with... live...these truths of our Savior (P/P/K)