

Who Will Rule?
The Revelation of the Ruler

Revelation 1:1-8; Coast Community Church; Pastor Earl Miles; 11-8-20

The Election Drama

The big, lingering question this week was: Who is going to be the president for the next four years? Who won the election?

Who will 'rule'? Revelation 1 gives us the answer.

The Nature of the Book

The book of Revelation is:

1. An **apocalypse** so it communicates in symbols from the OT a message for all generations. (Revelation 1:1-2)
2. A **prophecy** so it has implications and application that go beyond the 1st century. (Revelation 1:3)
3. A **letter** so it has an intended 1st century audience and application. (Revelation 1:4)

The Question of the Church

The book of Revelation answers the question of the persecuted Church in the 1st century:

If Jesus reigns as King and we are His people, then why is all this happening to us and why hasn't He returned to set up His kingdom on earth?

– Acts 1:3, 6-8, 9-11; Revelation 6:9-11

1. God has a **plan**. (Revelation 5:1)

The events of our day and the history of the world are not an unraveling but an unfolding of God's wise and inscrutable plan.

2. That plan is to **exalt His Son** through gospel proclamation and a timely unveiling.

God is wisely orchestrating history for the glory of His Son as His people proclaim the gospel in the face of opposition and as He is revealed in glory to a world that resists Him to the end.

3. That plan is to **save** a people for Himself and to **purify** them through the way of the cross.

God plans to use suffering to save and purify His people so we should not be surprised by it when it comes.

4. That plan is to deal with all men **patiently**, judge all men **justly**, bring an **end to evil and suffering** when the time is ripe and establish **heaven on earth** in the end.

God is up to good things and is showing incredible mercy to sinners even as He keeps His promise to judge all sin, bring an end to sin and suffering and usher in His kingdom.

The Revelation of the Ruler

In light of the election, let me highlight some important truths for our comfort:

1. **Jesus is the Ruler of rulers.** (Revelation 1:5-6)
2. **Jesus rules over the rise and fall of rulers.** (Daniel 4:13-17)

God exalts ‘madmen’ and the ‘lowliest of men’ to rule and brings down the strong and proud in accordance with His love and mercy and justice and wisdom.

3. **Jesus rules over the hearts and decisions of rulers.** (Proverbs 21:1; Jeremiah 37:5-10)

God is not the author of evil and sin, but He is the restrainer and releaser of the sinful hearts of men according to His love and mercy and justice and wisdom.

4. **Jesus rules over the purposes accomplished through rulers.** (Jeremiah 25:9; 27:6; 43:10)

All rulers/authorities/presidents are ‘servants of God’ in that God will use them to accomplish His good purposes for His glory and the good of His people.

5. **Trust the rule of Jesus over all.** (Revelation 1:4-6)

Believe that God is at work for your good in everything.

6. **Submit to the rule of Jesus over you.** (Revelation 1:5-8)

Turn from your sin and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior.