

SERMON OUTLINE

In Revelation 1:9-20 Christ the King has 4 connections with his servant, John.

- I. Christ the King has an exiled servant, John (v. 9)
- II. Christ the King commissions John (vs. 10-11, 19-20).
- III. Christ the King reveals Himself to John (vs. 12-16).
- IV. Christ the King comforts John (vs. 17-18).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, April 22, 2018

Passage: Revelation 1:9-20

Memory Passage: Revelation 1:17-18

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:9-20.** What do you learn about John and his setting in v. 9?
- (b) Explain the 3 types of partnership John shares with the believers to whom he writes and why they are important.
- (c) Why might John avoid claiming his apostolic authority?
- (d) What differences do you see between John's experience "in the Spirit" (v. 10; 4:2; 12:3; 21:10) and records of "trances" such as Acts 10:10-6, 22:17-21, & 2 Corinthians 12:2-4?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:9-20 & Zech. 4:2-10.** In Zechariah, what does the lampstand symbolize and what is the primary point of the passage?
- (b) What do the lampstands represent in Revelation (cf. v. 20)? How are they similar to Zechariah? How are they different?
- (c) Who is "one like the son of man" (see Daniel 7:13-14) and why is it important that he is "in the midst" of the lampstands?
- (d) What is noticeably missing from the lampstands and why is this important?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:9-20 & Dan. 7:9-10, 13-14; 10:5-6.** What are we to see about Christ from the symbolism used in v. 13 (consider: the Greek word for "long robe" occurs only here in the NT, but 6 of the 7 times it is used in the Greek version of the OT it refers to the High Priest)?
- (b) What was the priests' role with the lampstands in the OT, and what does this tell us about Christ's role in Revelation 1?
- (c) What should we understand by the fact that the descriptions of "The Ancient of Days" in Daniel 7 are transferred to "one like a Son of Man" in Revelation 1:14-15?
- (d) What does each of the descriptors in vs. 14-15 signify about Christ?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:9-20.** What is communicated by Christ holding the stars "in his right hand"?
- (b) Verse 20 informs us that the stars are "the angels of the seven churches." Are these literal angels or do they represent something else? On what do you base your answer?
- (c) What is being conveyed about Christ by the sharp 2-edged sword (cf. Is. 11:1-4; 49:2-7; Rev. 2:12, 16; 19:15, 21)?
- (d) Summarize what we are to understand about Christ's character and work from the vision in vs. 13-16.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Rev. 1:9-20.** How do Jesus' claims about Himself (vs. 17-18) enable John (and you!) to "fear not"?
- (b) Explain what John is supposed to write. In other words, is he to write about 3 times (things he has seen = past, things that are = present, and things that are to take place after this = future), or 2 times (write what you have seen, both things that are and things that are yet to be). What bearing will this have on your understanding of Revelation?
- (c) We often think of tribulation as yet future, but John begins the book by telling us that he, already in the 1st-century, is a "partner in the tribulation" and "the patient endurance" which are part of "the kingdom." How does this truth reorient our 21st-century thinking and lives (i.e. endurance instead of victory or separation; tribulation instead of success and happiness, etc.).
- (d) In this vision, Christ is present among the churches, and in chapters 2 & 3 he is present with words of both judgment and comfort. How should the reality of Christ's enduring presence affect ministry in BCC and your presence & participation in it?

DATE: April 22, 2018

PASSAGE: Revelation 1:9-20

The Living Lord in the Midst of His Church