

The Risen King!

Revelation 1:10-18

Pastor/Elder Phil Layton, GCBC, April 4, 2021

He is risen! The banners on the wall behind me say what we sang:
The Lord Jesus is risen from the dead (#1-2) & He is Lord (#3 now reigns).
Every knee shall bow and every tongue confess (#4 banner, He will return).

At the end of time all will fall before the Lord, but for those who don't in this life it will be too late. Bow in faith, confess Jesus is your Lord today.

Jesus is Lord=Master, to obey **He is Risen**=Savior, giver of life
He Now Reigns=King, in control **Will return**=Judge, offers pardon now

Kids sang 'see the empty tomb today, Death could not contain Him [**Lord Jesus is risen**]
Once the servant of the world, Now in victory reigning [**Now Reigns**]
See Him in the new Jerusalem' [**Will Return to a new Jerusalem in a new world**]

Those few words sum up Easter, the gospel and the message of the Bible:

| JESUS IS LORD | HE IS RISEN | NOW REIGNS | WILL RETURN |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|
| Ps 23 | Ps 16 | Ps 29 | Ps 96 |
| Mt 28:7 | Mt 28:7 | Mt 28:18 | 28:20b |
| Acts 2:21, 36 | Acts 2:24 | Acts 2:34-35 | 3:19, 1:11 |
| Rom 10:9a | Rom 10:9b | Rom 15:12 | 16:20 |
| 1 Cor 12:3 | 1 Cor 15:4 | 1 Cor 15:25 | 15:52 |

We could see that pattern in many books, today we'll see it in Revelation:
Jesus is the Lord of glory (Rev 1-3) He is the risen lamb (Rev 4-5) He reigns
over history to the end (Rev 6-19) He'll return to judge (19-20)

Those banners outline the book, they're also all in the first chapter, Rev **1:1**
'*The revelation of Jesus Christ*' (Christ is word for Messiah, HE IS LORD)
v. 5 calls Him '*the faithful witness, firstborn of the dead...*' (HE IS RISEN)
v. 5 goes on '*... and the ruler of kings on earth*' (JESUS NOW REIGNS)
v. 7 '*Behold, he is coming with the clouds...*' (HE WILL RETURN)

It says every eye will see Him, even His enemies, all the tribes of the earth. That's not a secret coming, that's His second coming to judge in Rev 19.

Contrast His Palm Sunday coming

- Rode on a donkey.
- Entered as a servant.
- Shouts of 'Hosanna!'
- Palms are cast at His feet.

His Powerful Second Coming

- Will ride on a white horse
- Will return as King of kings
- Shouts of 'worthy is the Lamb'
- Crowns are cast at His feet

'If they don't praise, rocks will cry out' - Men cry for rocks to fall vs. wrath.

Jesus will deal with enemies at the end, first He deals with the enemy of sin. On Palm Sunday they praised Jesus with all glory, laud, and honor as King. They wanted Him to conquer the Romans, but He died to conquer their sin. The next Sunday Jesus rose. The worship of Jesus continued as Mary fell at His feet and clung to Him. He met with His disciples that Sunday, explained the Scriptures to them, then met with them a week later on Sunday (pattern).

A week later He reappeared on a Sunday as they gathered

Pentecost was a Sunday, the day the church was born, and in the book of Acts we see churches gathering on Sunday, the first day of the week. In all the world ever since, Christian churches have gathered together on Sundays.

They called it the Lord's Day because it was the Day the Lord rose again. It was also on a Sunday that Christ's final revelation for the churches is given:

Look at Rev 1:10 *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book..."*

On Good Friday, Sunday was coming. This Sunday John sees a 2nd coming day is coming. This was on the Lord's Day, but the Last Day is coming. In John's case, his government didn't let him worship with a gathered church. He was in physical lock down and literal isolation on Patmos as a prisoner.

As persecution rises in the west, we need to see what John sees in this text. Let's look past pandemics and politics to the preeminence of our risen King.

*¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "**Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.***

He is risen! **Let's pray** for His help. King Jesus, we come humbly to your feet in the Spirit this Lord's day to hear your voice in your Word. Show us your glory. You are holy, holy, holy. You're a consuming fire, your Word can pierce our hearts and cut us both ways. Help us not to fear as we see you. Give us patience to endure. You're risen indeed and you hold the keys. You hold the stars in your right hand and lay that hand on us to hold us fast. And because you live, we can face tomorrow. Because you live, fear can be gone, we know you hold the future, because you live. In your name we pray.

I was in this chapter a year ago when everything shut down so I wasn't able to give it in person. I'm excited we get to hear it today as a gathered church.

³*Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.*

There's a blessing in reading and hearing this and in responding rightly to it. 7x in the next 2 chapters the Lord says '*He who has an ear, let him hear...*'

OUTLINE: 1. The Risen King
2. The Response

First the Risen King is introduced in v. 5, the middle of the v. 5 calls Him '*firstborn from the dead [first risen] and ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom...*' King Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so here.

On Good Friday, they stripped Jesus of His robe and mockingly said behold your king! They gave Him a purple royal robe and a crown of thorns on His head to make a mockery of the king of the Jews. They stripped Him of His robe and strung Him up on a cross in weakness. John remembered that but now he sees the Lord in v. 13 and what's He wearing? A long robe and a golden sash around His chest, that's what a king would wear in those days.

John had leaned against that chest at the last supper when Jesus stripped to a towel like a slave to wash John's dirty feet. But in glory, Jesus no longer looks the part of a slave, He's fully clothed in a robe with royal gold. The chest John leaned against now has a king's sash, and John falls at His feet.

John was first to the empty tomb to see grave clothes, now His glory clothes

And notice what v. 13 says Jesus looked like: '*...one like a son of man...*'

This is a vision and that's a title for Messiah-King from the vision of Dan 7:

'one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven [same phrase in Rev 1:7. Daniel sees the coming son of man] was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed' (v. 13-14 NIV). Jesus told His disciples this in Mt 24, and John was there and he would remember this:

Mt 24:29 '*after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened... Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn [Rev 1:7] and they will see **the Son of Man coming on the clouds** of heaven with power and great glory. And he will send out his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other'* [His coming after tribulation].

In Mt 26, when Jesus was on trial, the high priest asked 'are you the Christ? Jesus said to him, "It is as you said...hereafter you will see the Son of Man ...coming on the clouds of heaven"' (v. 64 NKJV). At that point those Jews tore their robes, but Jesus is the Son of Man in Rev 1 coming on the clouds. And in v. 13 He's wearing a robe. Rev 19:16 tells us a bit more about this robe: 'On his robe...he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords'

Rev 1:14 says *The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire – speaks of the holiness of the risen King*
¹⁵ *his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace – King's purity and his voice was like the roar of many waters – can't ignore King's voice*
¹⁶ *In his right hand he held seven stars – King's sovereignty, perfect power*
[He's got the whole world in His hand, the whole universe]
from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword – King's deadly judgment and his face was like the sun shining in full strength – King's dazzling glory

John had seen that shining face before on the mount of transfiguration. Mt 17: '*Jesus took with him Peter and James, and **John** ... he was transfigured before them, and **his face shone like the sun...** the disciples ... **fell on their faces** and were terrified. But Jesus came and **touch**ed them, saying, "Rise, and **have no fear.**" ... Jesus commanded them, "Tell no one the vision, until the Son of Man is raised from the dead."* John sees that risen glory again.

In Rev 1:13 the glorified Christ isn't wearing a robe and a blue sash, like the children's Bible pictures, there's a golden sash across His chest. In v. 14 He doesn't look like a Scandinavian with blue eyes, His eyes look like fire. In v. 15 His voice isn't heard softly and tenderly, it sounds like a tsunami or a tidal wave. v. 16 isn't a domesticated 'gentle Jesus, meek and mild,' it's the double-edged sword Jesus. John doesn't hop on His lap; he falls at His feet.

That takes us from #1. The Risen Christ, to #2. The Response

¹⁷ *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.*

John was the only one of the 12 disciples there at the cross where His feet were nailed when He died, now in v. 17 John falls at His feet like he's dead.

The first response to the risen King is to fall at His feet. Fear, worship Him.

You get the impression reading v. 9-10 John longed for worship in church on the Lord's Day, any service possible, he missed church worship. In light of the Lord's risen glory, worship! It's the Lord's day, not our day. Notice it wasn't called "the Lord's *hour*.' It wasn't something early Christians got out of the way in the morning to do whatever they wanted to the rest of the day, they called it 'the Lord's *Day*' and wanted to spend it with the King's people.

An ancient Christian writing called *The Didache*, written around the same time as Revelation) said 'every Lord's Day do ye gather yourselves together ... and give thanksgiving ... for I am a great King, saith the Lord ...' (14.1).

10 years after the *Didache*, the church father Ignatius wrote 'Let us therefore no longer keep the Sabbath after the Jewish manner ... let every friend of Christ keep the Lord's Day [Sunday] as a festival, the resurrection-day, the queen and chief of all the days [of the week] ... on which our life both sprang up again, and the victory over death was obtained in Christ ...'

Hebrews says don't forsake the assembly and we're commanded repeatedly in scripture to assemble as God's people to worship Him together. It's not something we can just do virtually, the church by definition is an assembly. It's the Lord's Day, not yours. Like v. 10 we still get to hear the Lord speak in His Word, and like John it can be a day where we behold Christ's glory.

1st response is fear and worship, a 2nd response is repent, bow to the King
Sinners need to fall at the burnished purified feet of Jesus as the place of mercy. His eyes like flames of fire see our sin and so we're as good as dead

Look at Rev 2:18: *"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: 'The words of the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze... 21 I gave her time to repent, but she refuses to repent... [look back at v. 16] Therefore repent. If not, I will come to you soon and war against them with the sword of my mouth [v. 5] Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent... [fall at those burnished feet]"*

Repent of your sin that His eyes see and that His sword brings judgment on. You can't ignore His voice, it's roaring like many waters, like Niagara. Let it drown out all other competing voices, or it will take you down. In Rev 1, v. 16 His Word is like a trumpet and a 2-edged sword that cuts both ways. If His Word hasn't pierced and saved you, trust Christ before He judges you!
Heb 4 says His Word is like the surgeon's scalpel that can dissect '*soul and spirit,*' it's '*sharper than any two-edged sword... discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.*'

His eyes of fire can burn through and see you in your innermost sin. But if you repent, this convicting vision also has a comforting voice for you. In v. 17 John falls before Christ's holy blazing glory traumatized, immobilized and paralyzed. But the Savior doesn't leave John there! The right hand that holds the stars in v. 16 reaches to pick up this trembling servant in v. 17. The mouth that in v. 16 has a sword speaks to John words of peace: *fear not*

The last response is trust Him. In v. 17 Jesus has His hand on His servant!

The feet like burning bronze in v. 15 didn't incinerate John when he fell at them. The eyes like flames of fire in v. 14 didn't consume him, they saw his heart and his fears and the voice like many waters in v. 15 now soothes fear.

- the One who walked on the waters in a storm and said "*It is I, **fear not...***"
 - who also said His eye is on the sparrow and '*not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. **Fear not, you are more valuable than many sparrows!***' Jesus cares for little things, and your cares aren't little to Him, He values and loves you, so FEAR NOT

He whose hand holds stars and helps John says in Jn 10:28 '*I give ... eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand.*' There's eternal life and eternal security for all in Christ's hand, so fear not! If His right hand is on you like in v. 17 you have His favor, blessing, power.

17 ...Fear not, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

We sang 'lives again our glorious King, where O death is thy sting, alleluia'

Trust Him in suffering. That was John's context in v. 19. Samuel Rutherford wrote 'Do not be afraid at suffering for Christ, for He has a sweet peace for a sufferer... Grace withers without adversity... a pool of standing water will turn stagnant... Whatever direction the wind blows, it will blow us to the Lord... Lay all your loads by faith on Christ, ease yourself, and let Him bear all. He can, He does, and He will bear... Have courage, I am your salvation!'

This is what John and the early church needed to see and it's what we need.

We don't need to fear because as '*the first and the last,*' Jesus is the Creator, and because He's a living God who rose from the dead He's the Sustainer of all life, and because He holds death's keys He's the Savior who can set free.

Jesus holds the keys to Hades so its gates can't prevail against His church.

He's eternally sovereign over when we live and die, when He turns the key is when we die, and He's in control and in charge of all our life till that day.

Steve Green sings: 'all the things that have kept you away, that keep you defeated day after day after day, the heartache that nobody sees, that eats at your soul like a cruel disease.

He who set the captives free, It is He, it is He who holds your keys ... He holds the keys'

May this vision of the risen King in His glory be the key with our fears of today or fears of the future. May the glory of our sovereign Savior help us with our struggles. And may His blazing glory like the sun in its strength be the center of our universe that everything else revolves around, in worship on the Lord's day and all of life. May He dazzle us and eclipse all else, so that we fear and worship Him, repent and trust Him. He is risen ... indeed!