



Pilgrim Home Baptist Church

NT 2022 Q4 • ETERNAL SUPREMACY • REVELATION 1:4-8 • 10/30/2022

MAIN POINT

Jesus Christ has supremacy over all things in heaven, on earth, and under the earth so we should never be discouraged regardless of what happens in this world.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

Which of the previous witnesses we've studied in John's gospel do you relate to the most: John the Baptizer, Nicodemus, the woman at the well, Philip and Nathanael, Peter, or Thomas? Why?

Since John has acted as reporter of these events, what do you think he came to conclude about Jesus through these encounters?

What do you know about John's life after Jesus died, resurrected, and ascended to heaven?

In the New Testament books that follow John's gospel, we learn that John continued to faithfully serve the Lord, proclaiming the gospel message along with the other apostles. He was exiled to the island of Patmos by Roman authorities, where he received a vision from God, which he recorded for the churches and is contained in the book of Revelation. In the seventh video session, Robby Gallaty explains the beginning of that book shows us that "regardless of what happens in this world, we know there is one Commander in Chief, one King of Kings, and one Ruler over all rulers, and His name is Jesus Christ."

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what the Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

| HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ REVELATION 1:4-8.

How does John describe God the Father in these verses?

How does he describe Jesus? How does he describe believers?

What three things does Christ do for us (vv. 5-6)? How has your life been changed by each of these actions?

John greeted them with the typical greeting of “grace and peace.” However, John said the source of these qualities was “One who is, who was, and who is coming.” The three tenses identified to the first-century readers that this Person is God. In threatening times Christians can take heart that God is always with them. No matter how desperate the times appeared, John knew that God transcended time and stood ready to reassure those who follow Him. John described believers as Jesus’ “servants” or “slaves” (v. 1), and also as “priests” (v. 6). John also identified Jesus in three ways: (1) the faithful witness, a reference to Jesus’ ministry as a prophet; (2) the firstborn from the dead, a phrase referring to his death and resurrection; and (3) the ruler of the kings of the earth. With these descriptions, John encourages us to imitate Jesus’ faithfulness, have hope in eternity, and remember that God’s eternal kingdom is bigger than anything we face in this world. About these verses, Pastor Robby concludes, “Jesus’ majesty is transcendent (4). Jesus’ sacrifice is sufficient (5). Jesus’ return is imminent (7).”

How does the portrait of God’s greatness in verses 4-8 impact the way you live today?

As Pastor Robby notes, “It caused John to break out in worship. John is showing us that the highest form of worship is rooted in a greater biblical understanding of God.”

If this is true, then what happens to our worship when we do not seek to know more of God in and through His Word? Have you seen the truth of this in your own life?

If we look to Jesus in the past, present, and future, what truths can we say about Him in those contexts?

What facts about Jesus from this passage are especially significant to you in your life? Why are these facts so important?”

John wanted the churches in Asia and the church today to know that though Christ had died for their sins, He lived and would one day return to set things right in their troubled world. He also reminds us of God’s eternal nature and His great power, a power no one can ultimately resist. John’s assurance that everything would work out in the end was rooted in faith in the One who loves us and has set us free from our sins.

APPLICATION

Help your group identify how the truths from the Scripture passage apply directly to their lives.

How would you live differently this week if you were to truly live with the anticipation of Christ's return?

Of Pastor Robby's three points from the text—Jesus' majesty is transcendent, Jesus' sacrifice is sufficient, and Jesus' return is imminent—which do you need to let impact your life the most today? Explain.

How can this group help each other in that?

PRAYER

Thank God for the confidence and hope John's witness of Jesus' supremacy gives every one of us. Pray that God would continue to use it in our lives to encourage us to live according to the transcendent majesty, sufficient sacrifice, and imminent return of Jesus.

COMMENTARY

| REVELATION 1:4-8

1:4. The naming of the author and audience, plus a characteristic greeting (grace and peace), indicate that Revelation has similar form as other letters of the New Testament. It is not some exotic, otherworldly work that cannot readily be understood. The One who is, who was, and who is coming (v. 8) means that God not only exists now, but always has existed and always will. The seven spirits before His throne may refer to: (1) "the angels of the seven churches" (v. 20; chaps. 2-3), (2) other angels seen in the book (e.g., 8:2), or (3) the fullness of the Holy Spirit described in Isa. 11:2.

1:5-6. Jesus is the faithful witness (martyr, the Greek word from which we get martyr). The firstborn from the dead looks back to His resurrection, the guarantee of the future resurrection of all believers and unbelievers (20:4-5; 1 Cor. 15:20,23). Though Christ has all the authority to be universal ruler now (Matt. 28:18), He will not fully exert it until His second coming (Rev. 19:11-21). Set us free from our sins by His blood does not mean we are automatically saved by Christ's death on the cross, as if all humanity is saved regardless of their beliefs. Revelation stresses the need for repentance (9:20-21) and a faith-response to the gospel (14:6-7). The wording here may mean that believers are already a kingdom and priests in this lifetime (1 Pet. 2:9).

1:7-8. This collage of Scripture from Dan. 7:13 and Zech. 12:10 expresses the theme for Revelation. The reference to mourn is sometimes understood as the response of those for whom it is too late to be saved. But the context of Zech. 12:10 indicates the mourning will be true saving repentance, even for those who pierced Him (i.e., the Jews). Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, emphasizing that God is the beginning and the end.