

NEW LIFE CHURCH – IN PURSUIT OF HIM

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, AS THE GLORIOUS SON OF MAN (REV. 1) – COREY STARK

I. INTRODUCTION

A. There are many things in Scripture we may be unfamiliar with. However, hearing something new doesn't automatically mean that it's incorrect or unbiblical. We want to be like the Bereans who were *eager to learn* new things (not skeptical), yet diligent enough to *search the Scriptures* daily for themselves (Acts 17:10-11).

Acts 17:11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness [eager to learn], and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

B. Yet academic study isn't enough! As we diligently study the *written Word of God* we must not neglect cultivating our relationship with the *Living Word of God* by "coming to Him" by the Holy Spirit (Jn. 5:39-40).

Jn. 5:39 You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me. But you are not willing to come to Me that you may have life.

C. This is vitally important as we approach the end of the age. When asked about the signs preceding His return, Jesus' primary warning concerning the end times was *deception* (Mt. 24:4-5, 11, 23-27). These aren't only unbelievers, but "Christians" using bible verses and operating in spiritual gifts with signs and wonders!

Mt. 24:4 Take heed that no one deceives you. 5 For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and deceive many... 11 Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many. (Mt. 7:21-23; 2 Pet. 2:1-3)

II. THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST – THE FIFTH GOSPEL

A. Unfortunately, many students of Revelation fall into one of two common ditches. Either they allow the *structure of the book* (timelines, charts, graphs) to overshadow the glory of Jesus or they overemphasize the *negative dimensions* of the Day of the LORD completely ignoring the truth that it is a *great day* as well!

Joel 2:11 For the day of the Lord is great and very terrible... (Joel 2:31; Mal. 4:5; Acts 2:20)

B. For the diligent student the *main theme* of Revelation (Rev. 1:7) is found between these two ditches and it isn't a prophetic calendar of end time events, a "doomsday prophecy" about the end of the world or Satan's persecution of the saints, but rather the "good news" of Jesus' victory over all the enemies of God when He returns on the Day of the LORD to establish His Father's Kingdom over all the nations of the earth forever (Dan. 7:13-14, 18, 22, 27; Jude 14-15; Rev. 11:15-19; 19)! This is the Gospel of the Kingdom (Mt. 24:14)!

Rev. 11:15 The 7th [trumpet] sounded: And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, "The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!"

Mt. 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

C. In fact, out of 404 verses within the book *only 12* (less than 3%) speak directly about the persecution of Israel and the Church (Rev. 6:9-11; 11:7; 12:17; 13:7, 15; 16:6; 17:6; 18:24; 19:2; 20:4). The other 392 verses (97%+) describe our victory over Satan (Rev. 20:1-15). Therefore, as the first four Gospels describe Jesus' *spiritual victory* over darkness at His first coming, the book of Revelation is the *fifth Gospel* describing Jesus' *physical victory* over darkness at His second coming when He returns to physically enforce the spiritual victory that He has already legally obtained at the cross (Ps. 2:8-9; Rev. 1:7; 2:27; 11:15; 12:5; 19:11-21)!

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III. THE PRIMARY & SECONDARY PURPOSE OF THE BOOK (REV. 1:1; 22:17)

A. The title of the book is “*the Revelation of Jesus Christ*” NOT end time events (Rev. 1:1). The Father’s *primary purpose* is to unveil the unsearchable riches of Christ to *transform the Church* into a fully mature Bride who is made *comparable* to Jesus as His eternal companion (Jn. 17:20-26; Eph. 4:13-16; 5:27; Rev. 19:7; 22:17)! As we behold Jesus’ glory we are progressively transformed into the *same image* (2 Cor. 3:18)!

Rev. 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God [Father] gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants...

2 Cor. 3:18 But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory [progressively], just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

B. The word “*revelation*” literally means to “*unveil*” and occurs when the Holy Spirit takes the unsearchable things of God, previously hidden from man’s understanding and reveals them to us by His grace (Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13-15; 2 Cor. 2:9-11). The *entire book* of Revelation (including the events) is meant to give us unprecedented insight into the perfection of Jesus’ *heart* (emotions), His *mind* (thoughts) and His *leadership* (actions) in preparing the nations for the future glory of God (Hab. 2:14; Num. 14:21; Ps. 72:19; Isa. 11:9).

1 Cor. 2:9 “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor entered the heart of man the things God has prepared for those who love Him.” 10 But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit... [who] searches all things, yes, the deep things of God... 12 that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God.

C. The book of Revelation also gives more details and specific information into the brilliance of God’s master plan of events in the end times than any other book in the bible, because its’ *secondary purpose* is to *prepare the Church* as a House of Prayer that contends for His will to be done on earth as it is in heaven, transitioning this age into the Millennium in mature *partnership* with Jesus. How can release a plan we are unfamiliar with?

Jer. 23:20 The Lord will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart [His end time plans]. In the latter days you will understand it perfectly. (Ps. 149:6-9; Jer. 30:24; Mt. 6:10)

IV. THE BASIC STRUCTURE OF THE BOOK: THREE PARTS (REV. 1:19)

A. According to Jesus’ instructions to John the basic structure of the book has only *three parts* (Rev. 1:19).

Rev. 1:19 Write the things you have seen... things which are... things which will take place after this.

PART ONE: The REVELATION of Jesus Christ, which John saw (Rev. 1)

Rev. 1:12 I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw... the Son of Man...

PART TWO: The EVALUATION of the seven churches, which are (Rev. 2-3)

Rev. 1:11 What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are... (Rev. 1:4, 20)

PART THREE: The RESTORATION of all things, which must take place (Rev. 4-22)

Rev. 4:1 Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this.

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V. THE PRIMARY BATTLEFRONT OF OUR DAY – THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS CHRIST

A. Today within the Church there is both an *overt denying* certain truths about Jesus, as well as a more *subtle ignoring* of truths about Him, because it's costly, embarrassing and uncomfortable. However, our salvation, sanctification and glorification are directly knit to knowing Him in truth not just the things that are popular.

Jn. 8:31 Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, “If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. 32 And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

B. Paul warned about a “*different gospel*” with “*another Jesus*” who is an imposter and counterfeit (2 Cor. 11:4), having *no resemblance* to the true Jesus of the bible and therefore *no power* to transform the human heart (Jn. 7:38; 2 Cor. 3:18). *An unbiblical Jesus has no ability to transform people into a biblical Church!*

C. Jesus wants *much more* than to just fulfill our dreams, give us more favor and bless our circumstances. He wants an *eternal partner* who has been transformed into *His image* and made compatible with Him forever!

Eph. 4:13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and [unity] of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Jn. 17:23; Rom. 8:29; Eph. 5:27).

D. Our individual maturity and victory, as well as that of the global Church is dependent upon our experiential knowledge of God (i.e. intimacy; what He thinks, feels and does) that is grounded in biblical truth (Jn. 7:38).

Dan. 11:32 The people who know [H3045 yada] their God shall be strong [vibrant in inner man], and carry out great exploits. 33 And those of the people who understand shall instruct many...

Jn. 7:38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.

E. We will partner with Jesus, having a *vibrant spirit* (Dan. 11:32; Jn. 7:38; Eph. 3:16-19), being *victorious over darkness* and having *authority in intercession* only to the degree that we *know Jesus*, as the Scriptures declare Him (Jn. 7:38). He is the “Son of Man” who is both fully God and fully Man forever (Mt. 16:13-19)!

Mt. 16:13 “Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am?” 14 So they said, “Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” 15 He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” 16 Simon Peter answered and said, “You are the Christ [humanity], the Son of the living God [divinity].” 18 And... on this rock [of truth] I will build My Church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. 19 And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

F. To focus on “binding and loosing” (v. 19) w/out growing in experiential knowledge of Jesus (v. 16) leads to *prayer without intimacy* that is duty-based, producing workers disconnected from His heart (Lk. 9:53-56).

Lk. 9:54 Lord, do You want us to command fire to come down and consume them, just as Elijah did?

G. To focus on “victory over darkness” (v. 18) w/out growing in experiential knowledge of Jesus (v. 16) leads to *power without intimacy* and ministry style that is presumptuous, self-willed, foolish (Mt. 7:21-23; 25:1-8).

Mt. 25:3 Those [virgins] who were foolish took their [ministry] lamps and took no oil [intimacy]...

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VI. PART ONE – THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST, WHICH JOHN SAW (REV. 1)

A. In *part one* of the book of Revelation (Rev. 1), Jesus charged John to write, “*the things which you have seen*” (Rev. 1:19). Jesus then reveals Himself as the glorious “*Son of Man*” (Rev. 1:13; 14:14), which is central throughout the book and founded upon the core reality of the Messiah, who is *fully God* and *fully Man*.

Rev. 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw... 13 in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man... 17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.

B. Around 555 B.C. Daniel had the *only* vision in the O.T. revealing the Messiah as the “Son of Man”. He was undoubtedly perplexed as he saw a human in heaven approach Almighty God and be given dominion over every nation and sphere of society forever, then sharing this eternal term with the saints (Dan. 7:18, 22, 27).

Dan. 7:13 Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days... 14 To Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him... 27 His kingdom is everlasting... and all dominions shall serve and obey Him.’

C. In Revelation 1 John declares that Jesus is “*coming with clouds*” (v. 7) immediately before the “*Son of Man*” designation (v. 13), clearly revealing Jesus as the coming Messiah of Daniel’s prophecy (Dan. 7:13-14).

Rev. 1:7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him... 13 One like the Son of Man...

D. Jesus used the title “Son of Man” more than any other (83x). The “*son of*” designation denotes one possessing the characteristics that follow. For example, Barnabas was a “son of encouragement” because he encouraged (Acts 4:36). Jesus referred to a “son of peace” as one who brought peace (Lk. 10:6), etc. As the “*Son of Man*”, Jesus is the ideal or *perfect Man*, ultimately fulfilling all of God’s *original design* for man to be created in His image and likeness, God’s *desire* for man to be in intimate fellowship with Him and God’s *decree* for man to subdue the earth and take global dominion for the glory of God (Mt. 6:10; 1 Cor. 15:45).

Gen. 1:26 “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...” 28 Then God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion... over everything...”

E. There is no one like Jesus! When He descended from heaven at the incarnation He *never ceased* to be God. When He ascended back to the Father after the resurrection He *never ceased* to be Man. He is the only *unique Person* to be both fully God and fully Man forever. The Father and the Spirit are *not human* and *no human* will ever be God, yet Jesus reveals the perfection of both in His dual nature, as the glorious Son of Man!

F. As the Son of Man, Jesus is the *highest revelation of God to us*, revealing all the fullness and perfection of the Godhead (Col. 1:15, 19; 2:2-3, 8-10; 2 Cor. 4:4-6). Jesus is our “divine invitation” into the presence of God by revealing how He related to the Father *for us* and how He represented the Father *to us* (Jn. 14:6, 7-11).

Col. 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness [of the Godhead 2:9] should dwell...

G. As the Son of Man, Jesus is the *highest revelation of Man to us*, revealing all of the fullness and perfection of who man was *ultimately intended* to be (Lk. 13:32; Heb. 2:10; 5:9; 7:28)! He is our “divine invitation” to comprehend and apprehend our original design, legitimacy and eternal destiny (1 Cor. 15:49; Col. 3:3-4).

1 Cor. 15:49 As we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall bear the image of the heavenly Man.

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VII. FIFTY-TWO DISTINCT ASPECTS OF JESUS' ETERNAL MAJESTY (REV. 1)

A. In Revelation 1 Jesus reveals Himself, as the “*Son of Man*”, highlighting 52 distinct aspects of His eternal majesty, strategically given in *14 titles*, *10 attributes* (inherent qualities) and *28 descriptions* (authority, appearance, apparel, articles, action, words), giving us the most comprehensive picture of who Jesus is today!

Rev. 1:12 I saw...¹³ One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;¹⁵ His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.

B. The study of God’s beauty takes time, effort and dedication (Ps. 27:4; Lk. 10:38-42; Phil. 3:3-14). Like emerging from a dark room into the blinding light of the summer sun, be patient as your eyes slowly adjust to the glorious light of God’s Son. Seasoned understanding comes progressively, as we consistently behold these truths with anticipation (Mt. 5:6), while talking to Him in their application (Lk. 8:18; Jn. 5:38-40).

Ps. 27:4 One thing I have desired of the Lord, that will I seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in His temple.

C. Titles (14): Jesus (Rev. 1:1, 2, 4, 9 x2); Christ (Rev. 1:1, 2, 4, 9 x2); Faithful Witness (Rev. 1:4); Firstborn from the Dead (Rev. 1:4); Ruler over the Kings of the Earth (Rev. 1:4); Him Who Loved Us (Rev. 1:5); Lord (Rev. 1:10); Alpha (Rev. 1:11); Omega (Rev. 1:11); First (Rev. 1:11, 17); Last (Rev. 1:11, 17); Son of Man (Rev. 1:13); He who Lives and was Dead (Rev. 1:18); Alive Forevermore (Rev. 1:18).

D. Attributes (10): *Blood* washed us from sin (Rev. 1:5); *Voice* like a trumpet; as many waters (Rev. 1:10, 12, 15); *Feet* like fine brass (Rev. 1:13, 15, 17); *Chest* with golden band (Rev. 1:13); *Head* white like wool (Rev. 1:14); *Hair* white as snow (Rev. 1:14); *Eyes* like flame of fire (Rev. 1:14); *Right Hand* (Rev. 1:16, 17, 20); *Mouth* with sharp two-edged sword (Rev. 1:16); *Countenance* like sun shining in strength (Rev. 1:16).

E. Descriptions (28): His revelation (Rev. 1:1); His servants (Rev. 1:1 x2); He sent and signified (Rev. 1:1; 11); His angels (Rev. 1:1); His testimony (Rev. 1:2, 9); He loved us (Rev. 1:5); He washed us from our sins in His own blood (Rev. 1:5); He made us kings and priests (Rev. 1:6); His God (Rev. 1:6); His Father (Rev. 1:6); He is coming with clouds (Rev. 1:7); Every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him (Rev. 1:7); All the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him (Rev. 1:7); His tribulation (Rev. 1:9); His kingdom (Rev. 1:9); His patience (Rev. 1:9); His Day (Rev. 1:10); His appearance behind John (Rev. 1:10); He commissions to write and send (Rev. 1:11, 19); He’s in the midst of the seven lampstands (Rev. 1:13); He’s clothed with a garment down to the feet (Rev. 1:13); He’s girded about the chest with a golden band (Rev. 1:13); He holds the seven stars in His right hand (Rev. 1:16, 20); Out of His mouth goes a sharp two-edged sword (Rev. 1:16); His appearance is deathly terrifying (Rev. 1:17); He laid His right hand saying “Do not be afraid” (Rev. 1:17); He has the keys of Hell and Death (Rev. 1:18); He reveals mysteries (Rev. 1:20).

F. These 52 aspects of Jesus’ majesty are merely hints that “whisper” of His infinite glory. Each facet is like the *tip of a massive iceberg of truth* just waiting below the surface that the Holy Spirit will use to guide the hungry into the deeper things of God’s heart and mind (Pr. 25:2; Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:9-12).

Jn. 16:13 When He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth... 14 He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine [thoughts, emotions, etc.] and declare [reveal] it to you.

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VIII. A.R.K – PRAYING THE FIFTY-TWO ASPECTS OF JESUS’ ETERNAL MAJESTY (REV. 1)

A. *Agreement*: Make declarations of agreement to Jesus about *who He is* (titles), *what He’s like* (attributes, appearance, apparel, etc.) and *what He feels, says or does* (emotions, words, actions). Identify the core truths in each of the *fifty-two aspects* of Jesus’ majesty (some overlap) and simply declare them back to Him with affection, gratitude and wonder. We receive the benefits of eternal life by “coming to Him” (Jn. 5:39-40).

Jn. 5:39 You search the scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of me. But you are not willing to come to me that you may have life.

1. “*You are...* the Faithful Witness, the Firstborn from the Dead, Ruler over the Kings,” etc.
2. “*You have...* eyes like a flame of fire, a sharp two-edged sword, the keys of Hell and Death,” etc.
3. “*You do...* hold the seven stars in Your right hand, dwell in the midst of the churches,” etc.

B. *Revelation*: Ask Holy Spirit for increased revelation of these specific aspects of Jesus’ majesty. Example, “Holy Spirit reveal Jesus to me as the Faithful Witness. Show me why His eyes are like fire,” etc. The Spirit loves to glorify and reveal Jesus’ majesty (Pr. 25:2; Jn. 14:26; 15:26; 16:13; 1 Cor. 2:9-12; Eph. 1:17-19).

Eph. 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, 18 the eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that you may know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe...

C. *Keep the Prophecy*: Make simple declarations of resolve to guard the truths revealed about Jesus by living in the light of them through loving faith and obedience, while asking God to empower us to faithfully express these aspects of Jesus’ majesty in our lives and ministries, whether resisting temptation, enduring persecution or simply overcoming the mundane seasons of routine life.

Rev. 22:7 Blessed is he who keeps [guards] the words of the prophecy of this book. (Rev. 1:3)

D. *Linger in God’s presence*: As you “come to Jesus” (Jn. 5:39-40), take time to *linger* in His presence, as you speak *slowly* and *softly* to Him, adding statements of love, praying in the spirit or being silent. It is very important not to rush. If you *slow down* in prayer and *say less*, you’ll experience *much more*.

E. *Pray-Reading & Journaling*: Take time to *journal your thoughts* as you create an *active dialogue* with Jesus through the Word. This helps capture the truths that the Holy Spirit gives us and to grow in our dialogue with God. The anointing of the Spirit provides a tailor-made teaching for us through the Word (1 Jn. 2:27).

F. *Enjoying God*: We approach Scripture as much more than an intellectual exercise. Informing the intellect is only the starting point, much like reading the menu at a 5-star restaurant. The point of *studying* the menu is to *enjoy* the dinner! Similarly, we study God’s Word to enjoy a relationship with the Man between the lines.

G. Like *mining for precious gems*, searching out and finding the deeper truths of God doesn’t happen accidentally or automatically, but is a real labor of love that is intentional, persistent and done in the secret place (Pr. 25:2). If we faithfully respond to Jesus according to the core truths given throughout the book of Revelation we can be confidently prepared for both the glory and crisis of the end time events soon to occur!

Pr. 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.
