

**Pastor's Class #2: Revelation 1**  
**June 12, 2016**

Review and Backdrop

- a. The "revelation" or "apocalypse"
- b. Revelation of *what*? What exactly is being revealed?

Introduction

- a. Think more in terms of "person" versus "events"
- b. Clearest picture of Christ we see in all the Bible
- c. Why does John begin here?

*John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." (Revelation 1: 4-11 ESV)*

John's Prolegomena: Framing Out the Rest of the Letter

"the seven churches that are in Asia"

"the ruler of kings on earth"

*Priests in God's kingdom*

*"Seven spirits"*

*The claim of Christ's coming kingdom*

*"The Lord's Day"*

*"Write it in a book"*

*Jesus and the Word*

a. The Scriptures vs. Jesus

b. Red Letter Christianity

*"...I deeply reject the horrid distortion of God given to us in the Angry God motifs. I understand how this image of God can be justified. I understand we can use the Bible as our palette to paint a monstrous portrait of God; but when we're finished, if the image doesn't look like Jesus, we have got it wrong! It's a false and distorted portrait. Having seen the face of God in Jesus Christ, I cannot abide...Jonathan Edwards' Angry God.*

*George MacDonald is right, just as the Apostle John is right. No one has ever seen God until they see Jesus. Every other portrait of God — from whatever source — is subordinate to the revelation of God given to us in Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Word of God, the Logos of God, the Logic of God in the form of human flesh. Christians are to believe in the perfect, infallible, inerrant Word of God — and his name is Jesus. Jesus is the icon of the invisible God...Does the faceless white giant or the sadistic merciless monster look like Jesus? Of course not! So we are free to reject these libelous caricatures of God. We must reject them! And I have."*

- *Brian Zahnd: the founder and lead pastor of Word of Life Church*

*Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 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. The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 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. (Revelation 1:12-16 ESV)*

#### Framing the Issue: Cultural vs. Theological

- a. "I could never worship a 'God' like that"
- b. "Who do you say that I am?" – Matthew 16: 15

#### The Revelation of Jesus: Grasping for Metaphors

1. Jesus is Present
2. Jesus is Active
3. Jesus is Wisdom
4. Jesus is Penetrating
5. Jesus is Purity
6. Jesus is All-Pervasive
7. Jesus is the Authority
8. Jesus is Glorious

## Our Response to Who Jesus Is

*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, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. As for the mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands, the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (Revelation 1)*

- a. Undone and not to be trifled with
- b. "Do not be afraid"
- c. Transcendence and Immanence