

WHEN GOD SPEAKS FROM HEAVEN Revelation 1:1-8

I. Receive the Blessing for the True Disciple (1-3).

A. The blessing comes from God's prophetic revelation from Jesus (1-2).

- Revelation/*apokalupsis*-This is the only time the word appears in the entire book. It refers to something formerly hidden but now unveiled.
- *Jesus Christ*-He is revealed in the book as He is. Twenty-eight times in Revelation Jesus is referred to as "the Lamb."
- God>Jesus Christ>angel>John>His slaves/servants.
Galatians 3:19: What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; **and it was appointed through angels by the hand of a mediator.**
- *Angel*-messenger; mentioned 67 times in Revelation which is more than any other book of the Bible. This accounts for ¼ of the references in the Bible.

B. The blessing comes in the church's public reading of God's Word (3a).

- *Blessed*-Revelation begins and ends with a blessing; there are seven blessings/beatitudes in it (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).
- *Prophecy*-the word appears seven times in Revelation (1:3; 11:6; 19:10; 22:7, 10, 18, 19).

C. The blessing comes with our personal response of obedience (3b).

- *Read, hear, keep*-present tense participles, on-going action.
- *time is near*-"time" is the Greek word *Kairos*, which refers to seasons, epochs, or eras. This means the return of Christ is imminent.

II. Welcome the Greeting from the Triune God (4-6).

A. The Father is perfect in His person (4a).

- *Seven*-number of completion. The number appears 54 times in Revelation.
- *Him who is and who was and who is to come*-This title appears only in Revelation (4:8; 11:17; 16:15).
Exodus 3:14: And God said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Isaiah 41:4: Who has performed and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? **'I, the Lord, am the first; and with the last I am He.'**

B. The Spirit is perfect in His presence (4b).

- *from the seven Spirits who are before His throne*
Isaiah 11:2: The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him,
The Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
The Spirit of counsel and might,
The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

Zechariah 4:2-6: And he said to me, “What do you see?” So I said, “I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps. Two olive trees are by it, one at the right of the bowl and the other at its left.” So I answered and spoke to the angel who talked with me saying, “What are these, my lord?” Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” And I said, “No, my lord.” So he answered and said to me: “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: **‘Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,’ Says the Lord of hosts.**”

John never uses the phrase “Holy Spirit” in his letter, only the word “Spirit.”

C. **The Son is perfect in His provision (5-6).**

1. **In His revelation (5a).**

John 14:9: Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? **He who has seen Me has seen the Father;** so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”

Jesus is our perfect Prophet in that He is a faithful witness.

2. **In His resurrection (5b).**

- *firstborn of the dead*-Messianic and Davidic overtones. He is the first of a new order, the pledge of our resurrection.
Psalm 89:27: Also **I will make him** [Messiah] **My firstborn**, the highest of the kings of the earth.

Colossians 1:15: He is the image of the invisible God, the **firstborn over all creation.**

Christ is our perfect priest; He has conquered sin by His victory over death.

3. **In His rule (5c).**

- *The ruler of the kings of the earth*-reoccurring theme in Revelation (11:15; 17:15; 19:16).

Jesus is our perfect King because he rules over all other kings.

4. **In His redemption (5d).**

Ephesians 1:7

5. **In His reign (6).**

Exodus 19:5-6: “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And **you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**’ These are the words which you shall speak to the children of Israel.”

III. **Look for the Coming of the Triumphant Lord (7-8).**

A. **His coming will be seen (7a).**

- *Behold*-Look! A call to pay attention that is found 25 times in Revelation.

Daniel 7:13: “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

- *Clouds*-a theological symbol for the presence of God.

Exodus 16:10: Now it came to pass, as Aaron spoke to the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and behold, **the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud.**

Acts 1:9: Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and **a cloud received Him out of their sight.**

B. **His coming will bring sorrow (7b).**

Zechariah 12:10: And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; **then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son,** and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

C. **His coming will be in strength (8).**

One of the only two times God speaks directly in the book of Revelation. The second and last time is in 21:5-6.

- *I am the Alpha and Omega.* This speaks of God’s immutability.
- *The One who is, who was, and who is coming.*
- *Almighty*-the idea of supremacy. John uses the term *pantokrator* in contrast to the term *autokrator* (one’s own master, absolute ruler) that was used by Roman emperors. This claim that appears 10 times in the New Testament with nine of those in the book of Revelation (1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22; 2 Corinthians 6:18)