

The Beauty of God in the Person of Jesus Christ

(Rev. 1)

A. Introduction

1. The book of Revelation is called the revelation of Jesus Christ because it reveals the majesty of His heart and leadership in His plan to transition the earth to the Age-to-come. God's purpose in this book is first to reveal the Man behind the plan (Rev. 1:1).
2. Revelation 1:9–20 answers the *fundamental question for the End Time Church*: Who is Jesus at His Second Coming?
 - a. The most important issue to the early Apostles was concerning the truth about Jesus. The same issue will be emphasised by the Holy Spirit to the End-Time apostles and prophets.
 - b. The question for the End-Time leaders is: Who do they say Jesus is? Jesus has called His people to partnership with Him through prayer that binds and looses in agreement with His Word. Thus, the most important question in this hour of history is WHO JESUS IS. (Matt 16:13–19)
3. Revelation 1 and Revelation 19 give the most complete picture of Jesus in the Bible. They describe who He is and what He does in context to His End-Time plan.

B. Seeing the Beauty of Jesus through His Face

1. Paul spoke of the glory or beauty of God being seen in the face or the person of Jesus (2 Cor. 4:6). This is an aspect that is beyond Jesus as a mere Man, but a resurrected and fully glorified Son of Man.
2. In Revelation 1:9–20, Jesus came to John and He revealed very specific descriptions of WHO HE IS pertaining to His personality, His heart, and His ministry.
 - a. Revelation 1 – 3 gives us 30 distinct descriptions of Jesus. It gives us the most complete picture of Jesus in the entire Bible. It reveals His glory in a way not yet previously revealed in Scripture.
 - b. The 30 distinct aspects of Jesus in Revelation 1 – 3 can be seen in 24 descriptions in Revelation 1, and 18 descriptions in Revelation 1 – 3, totalling 42. However, since 12 are used in both Revelation 1 and Revelation 2 – 3, (thus 24), there are 30 distinct descriptions. This passage gives us the clearest picture of Him in Scripture.
 - c. There are nearly 120 descriptions of Jesus in the book of Revelation.

3. Everything about Jesus' appearance, apparel, and actions are very intentional with the purpose of communicating a message to His people. We must not read this passage of Scripture casually or superficially.
4. In Revelation 1, Jesus Christ is fully unveiled and fully revealed in His glory and beauty as the Son of Man. Even Apostle John who was the best friend of Jesus (i.e. beloved of Christ), had never seen this dimension of Jesus in his walk with Jesus for 3½ years on earth, because the fullness of Jesus' glory and beauty had been veiled until then (Isa. 53:2; Phil. 2:7–8). John was totally awestruck, overwhelmed, and dropped dead as a result of encountering the risen Jesus (Rev. 1:17).

C. The Revelation of Jesus as the Son of Man (Rev. 1:9–20)

1. In Revelation 1:9–20, Jesus is seen as Son of Man who will prepare and lead the End-Time Church (Rev 1:13).
2. The name "Son of Man" is the most emphasised name of Jesus in the New Testament. It appears 85 times in the New Testament. (Matt. 8:20, 9:6, 10:23, 11:19, 12:8,32,40, 13:37,41, 16:13,27–28, 17:9,12,22, 18:11, 19:28, 20:18,28, 24:27,30,37,39,44, 25:13,31, 26:2,24,45,64; Mark 2:10,28, 8:31,38, 9:9,12,31, 10:33,45, 13:26,34, 14:21,41; Lk. 5:24, 6:5,22, 7:34, 9:22,26,44,56,58, 11:30, 12:8,10,40, 17:22,24,26,30, 16:8,31, 19:10, 21:27,36, 22:22,48,69, 24:7; Jn. 1:51, 3:13–14, 5:27, 6:27,53,62, 8:28, 12:23,34, 13:31; Acts 7:56; Rev. 1:13, 14:14)
3. Jesus is the only One who uses this title to describe Himself. A few exceptions were Stephen in Acts 7:56 and John in Revelation 1:13 and 14:14.
4. When Jesus spoke of Himself as the Son of Man, He was proclaiming four important truths about Himself:
 - a. His deity and humanity
He alone is the God-man. He is fully God and fully man. This speaks of His eternal glory as God. This also speaks about His messianic office as Man. Jesus also spoke of His pre-incarnate glory and existence before He came to earth as a babe. He was seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven (Jn. 17:5).
 - b. Jesus is using this title to teach about His Second Coming and His Messianic role.
At the very end of His ministry, Jesus used this title when privately teaching His disciples about His Second Coming to fulfil the prophecy of Daniel 7:13–14. He will come on a supernatural cloud as He is being commissioned in heaven to rule all nations of the earth by the Father (Matt. 24:30, 25:31).
 - c. This title points to Jesus as the "ideal" man to redeem and to lead the human race forever.
It is God's eternal plan that man have dominion on the earth. Jesus is the One who filled all that God intended man to be. Jesus is the ideal who had to become human to redeem and to lead the human race forever (Acts 7:55–56).

- d. Jesus uses this title to speak of Himself as the only Man with authority to judge man.

In the book of Daniel, the Son of Man is the king and judge of the nations (Matt. 10:23, 13:41, 16:27,28, 17:9, 24:27,30,37,39,44).

5. The Alpha and the Omega (Rev. 1:8)

- a. This means that He is Deity with absolute completeness in wisdom and love. The Greek alphabet starts with “alpha” and ended with “omega”. The common phrase “Alpha and Omega” means the first and last letters including all the letters in between to indicate completeness.

- b. This title sets forth Jesus as the sovereign Lord over everything that takes place in the entire course of history.

i. Jesus has established an eternal plan for us in which nothing is missing. His Bride has all the elements necessary for eternal love, joy, peace, and fascination without sin, yet retaining free will.

ii. In the Age-to-come, He has determined that His government will be right, human dynamics will be right, and eternal rewards will be rightly given in varying measures according to love. Yet there will be no jealousy but only gratitude in God’s partnership with people forever.

- c. Because of His wise leadership, we will live forever with awestruck, affectionate gratitude.

6. The First and the Last (Rev. 1:11, 17)

- a. Jesus is man. He is first in prominence and authority, and He is the first to be raised from the dead. (Col. 1:15,18; Rev. 5:12).

- b. He was the first man to conquer all the enemies of the human race, including death. He possesses total power over death itself (1 Cor. 15:24–28).

- c. The “First and the Last” is the title Jesus used most in the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:11,17, 2:8, 22:13).

- d. He associated this title with His physical suffering, death, and resurrection to encourage believers not to fear martyrdom. Jesus suffered a cruel death, so He understands all our suffering.

7. The Great High Priest (Rev. 1:13)

- a. Jesus is seen as our High Priest. He is clothed in priestly robes with a golden breastplate, standing in the midst of seven lampstands (representing seven churches; v20). Jesus was girded about His chest with a golden band, just as Israel’s high priest wore a robe girded with a breastplate (Ex. 28:4; Lev. 16:4).

- b. Jesus is our sympathetic High Priest who understands us (Heb. 4:15). Revealing Himself as our High Priest is a declaration of His love and our sure salvation. Jesus

shows Himself as our High Priest who made a way for His people to be purified so as to have confidence to access the presence of God (Heb 4:14, 10:19–22).

- c. He is the High Priest whom the Lord spoke to David about, as confirmed in Hebrews (Ps. 110:4). Jesus is a Priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek (Heb. 5:6,10, 6:20). The author of Hebrews quoted Psalm 110:4 five times to show the superiority of Jesus' priesthood which operates outside of and is superior to Aaron's priesthood.
8. Jesus' *Head and Hair* (Rev. 1:14)
- a. Jesus' head and hair are white as wool and snow, indicating the Father's glory. God's white garments and hair speak of His eternal existence, purity, and wisdom (Dan. 7:9).
 - b. Jesus possessed and shared the same eternal characteristics, qualities and nature of the Father.
9. *Eyes like a Flame of Fire* (Rev. 1:14)
- a. His eyes like fire speak of His burning desire of love and His perfect knowledge that penetrates all things just as fire penetrates metal. His eyes have fire in them because His heart is filled with the fire of desire for His people. His eyes are burning because His heart is burning. He feels love for us and imparts love to us as He sees everything about our life.
 - b. God is love and is a consuming fire of desire. God connected His fire to His jealous love. His jealousy means that He will give all and require all because of His love (Deut. 4:24).
 - c. Fire involves light and heat. Jesus' light enlightens our spiritual eyes and causes us to see differently. Jesus warms or tenderises our heart and causes us to feel differently. Jesus' eyes of fire see everything about our lives, in the way that fire penetrates flammable objects.
10. *Feet like fine brass* (Rev. 1:15)
- a. This speaks of His zeal to intervene to alter circumstances and increase the fear of the Lord in our lives (Rev. 2:18–23). Brass is a symbol of judgement against sin.
 - b. Jesus will "step in" and "step on" circumstances to alter or crush the circumstances which empower His people to continue in sin.
 - c. As a redemptive judgement, He cuts off sinful options and frustrates circumstances to make it more difficult to persist in sin.
11. *Voice as the sound of many waters* (Rev. 1:15)
- a. Jesus' voice is full of majesty, splendour and power. It is fascinating and captivating, yet it comes with authority that causes us to tremble (Ps. 29).

- b. His “*voice, as of a trumpet*” gathers people, warns of judgement, and announces His return (Rev. 1:10,15). As the Faithful Witness, He trumpets God’s warnings of judgement (Rev. 1:5, 3:14).
- c. His voice is powerful and creative (as in Genesis 1) and is able to direct the armies of heaven.

12. Holding the Seven Stars in His Right Hand (Rev. 1:16)

- a. This speaks of His promise to anoint, direct, and protect them. He is tender towards us, even when we feel inadequate. Jesus holds and helps His leaders to do what He entrusts to them.
- b. The stars speak of the leaders of the churches, who were responsible to make known the message John received from Jesus. The stars signify those who faithfully speak the truth (Dan. 12:3).
- c. Jesus holds the stars or leaders in His right hand as He supports, directs, delivers and anoints them. The right hand is the hand of kindness that protects when attacked (Ps. 17:7), and is also the hand of delight (Ps. 16:11), blessing (Ps. 18:35), power (Ps. 20:6), and honour (Heb. 1:3).
- d. “Hold” is a statement of love, intimacy and tenderness. Jesus is making a statement of His commitment to us and how He treasures us. He will surely guide, protect and deliver us (Col 1:17; Isa. 40:12).

13. Walks in the midst (Rev. 1:20)

- a. His walking in the midst of the lampstands, or Churches, assures us of His deep involvement. He walks with us and is aware of our needs, frailty, and pressures.
- b. “Walk” is a statement of His desire to have an intimate partnership with us (Gen. 3:8, 6:9; Deut. 23:14).

14. Sharp two-edged sword coming out of His mouth (Rev. 1:16)

- a. This refers to the releasing of the Holy Spirit and judgement. The breath of Jesus’ mouth is another way of expressing the power of His words (Rev. 1:16).
- b. This speaks of His zeal to intervene against sin in the Church (Rev. 2:16) and against those who oppress the Church (Rev. 19:15).
- c. We are to use the Word like a sword to resist temptation like Jesus did (Matt. 4:4). If we do not use it against temptations, then Jesus will use it against our sinful agendas. If we seek to obey, His Word is a sword that liberates us. If we disobey, it will be a sword that troubles us.
- d. The sword strikes the heart of immoral believers in the Church (Rev. 2:16) and the lives of wicked leaders in the nations (Rev. 19:15).

15. Countenance like the sun (Rev. 1:16)

- a. His countenance exhilarates His Church and is a weapon against His enemies since it is impossible to look directly into the sun (Rev. 1:16).
- b. Jesus is full of light as He is the Light of the world (Jn. 8:12).

16. He who lives and was dead and behold, I am alive (Rev. 1:18)

He has come back to life. He has power over death and gives eternal life.

17. Keys of the kingdom (Rev. 1:18)

- a. Jesus is the ultimate King in David's lineage who has authority over all God's promises given to David and all the nations in the Millennial Kingdom. Jesus opens up the door to positions in the eternal Kingdom.
- b. Jesus has the authority to choose and determine who receives which positions of authority in the Age-to-Come with the key of David. Jesus has authority over the nations now (Matt. 28:19).
- c. Jesus has the keys of the kingdom and keys over death and Hades (i.e. demonic realms) (Matt. 16:19; Rev. 1:18).
- d. Jesus has the ability to release or shut off all resources to the Kingdom of God.