

Blessings From the Triune God (*Part 5*)

Revelation 1:4-8

Thought for the Day: All glory and dominion belong to Jesus Christ because of who He is and what He has done, is doing, and will do for His people.

I. The Prologue (1:1-3)

II. **The Salutation (1:4-8)**

A. **The Author (1:4a) – 4 John...**

B. **The Recipients (1:4b) – ...to the seven churches that are in Asia:**

C. **The Greeting (1:4c-5c) – Grace to you and peace...**

Blessing #1: The blessing of God's grace

Blessing #2: The blessing of God's peace

1. **From God the Father:** ...from him who is and who was and who is to come...

Blessing #3: The blessing of God's eternal presence

2. **From God the Holy Spirit:** ...and from the seven spirits who are before his throne...

Blessing #4: The blessing of the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives

3. **From God the Son: 5 and from Jesus Christ...**

Blessing #5: The blessing of a Savior who fully identifies with us in our humanity, yet without sin

Three titles from Psalm 89 (vss. 27, 37) that describe Christ's authority to rule over the earth as the promised King in the lineage of David:

a. **...the faithful witness...** (establishes His credibility)

Blessing #6: The blessing of Jesus coming to tell us the truth

b. **...the firstborn from the dead...** (establishes His superiority)

Blessing #7: The blessing of Jesus' victorious resurrection from the dead which guarantees our own future bodily resurrection

c. **...and the ruler of kings on earth...** (establishes His sovereignty)

Blessing #8: The blessing of Jesus' sovereign rule over all the earth and His coming literal Millennial kingdom

D. **The Dedication (1:5d-6)**

To him who loves us...

Blessing #9: The blessing of Jesus' unfailing love for us

...and has freed us from our sins by his blood...

Blessing #10: The blessing of cleansing and freedom from the penalty, power and presence of sin through Christ's sacrifice on the cross

6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father...

Blessing #11: The blessing of ruling with Christ and serving God forever

- Through faith in Jesus Christ, we are citizens of God's kingdom; we have been transferred from the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. (Colossians 1:12-14)
- As priests unto God, we have direct access into His presence, and we will have the privilege of serving Him forever! (1 Peter 2:9-10; Revelation 5:9-10)

...to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- "The book of Revelation... is intended to show us the ultimate objective of God in creating the world and mankind—that everything might praise and worship Him!" (*Hocking, Leader, p. 28*)

E. The Announcement (1:7-8)

7 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.

Blessing #12: The blessing of Christ's soon return to establish His kingdom on the earth

- Many commentators identify verse 7 as the theme of the book of Revelation.
- This is a reference to the Lord's Second Coming, further amplified in Revelation 19:11-21, when Christ returns to the earth at the end of the 7-year Tribulation.
- The Second Coming is not the same as the Rapture when Christ returns to "catch up" (rapture) His body, the Church, prior to the 7-year Tribulation. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:51ff)

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Blessing #13: The blessing of God's sovereign rule and eternal control over all things

- "Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, signifying the completeness of God. He is the Lord God, eternally existing, and all-powerful. 'Almighty' is used eight times in Revelation (1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6; 21:22) and includes the ideas of omnipotence and universal rulership." (*Ryrie, Revelation, p. 19*)
- Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end—and everything in between!
- "The word 'Almighty' is translated from... two Greek words... 'all' and 'to hold'... Putting this together, it means that Jesus Christ has everything in His hands—He has His hands on everything. There is no greater truth to know and believe than that Jesus has His hands on everything." (*Hitchcock, 101 Answers, pp. 69-70*)
- He holds all things together and is in control of all things!