

A MESSAGE FROM THE KING

What Believers are Given

TEXT: Rev. 1:4-8

INTRODUCTION: This morning in Lifechange Groups you began a study of the marvelous, mysterious Book of Revelation. Is it not ironic that a book entitled Revelation would be the book of the Bible that most people would say they understand the least?

I can tell you the reason for that. While the understanding of every book of the Bible is enhanced by reading the other books, the Book of Revelation is impossible to comprehend without having read and to a degree understanding all of the rest of Scripture.

That is the reason Revelation is the last book of the Bible. It builds on all the rest. Revelation tells of real events that are coming, but those events are often described in imagery and symbol. Usually that imagery refers back to other passages in the Bible.

That is why it is good to study the Book of Revelation in Lifechange Groups. You benefit by the knowledge of the Bible others have. Your teacher is someone who knows much about the Bible. If you are not attending Lifechange Groups, this is a great time to begin. If you are attending, this is a great time to purpose in your heart to be more faithful in your attendance and serious about your study of God's Word.

To build upon the teaching of this intriguing portion of God's Word in our classes, I will be preaching from the same passage studied each particular week. Now, I am reading the lessons, so I will not be just repeating what you have already studied. But I will build upon the foundation laid so that we may discover even more of the wonderful blessings God has for us in this book.

This morning our classes began in Revelation chapter 1, and I am taking verses 4-8 as my text.

Revelation 1:4–8 4 John, to the seven churches which 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, 5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

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

This morning I want to ask three questions that are answered in this majestic introduction to the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

- **WHAT ARE BELIEVERS GIVEN?**
- **BY WHOM ARE THESE THINGS GIVEN?**
- **HOW CAN WE KNOW WE WILL GET THEM?**

I. **WHAT ARE BELIEVERS GIVEN?**

Revelation 1:4 John, to the seven churches which 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,

WHAT ARE BELIEVERS GIVEN? **Grace and Peace**

Some of you are saying, "Oh I've heard this kind of religious talk before. Grace and peace, OK, so what?"

If that is what just went through your mind, let me tell you, you don't understand either of these words as the Bible uses them.

A. **Grace**

- **God's unmerited favor**
- **God's undeserved blessing**

This means that we who are in Christ get more than we deserve.

We don't have to earn it all.

We don't have to be worthy of it all.

We don't have to be good enough to deserve it.

This is what Christ did for us on the cross.

- **He paid the debt we owed because of our sin.**
- **He purchased eternal life we could never purchase.**
- **He washes the white board where all our sins are listed.**
- **He brings us into the family room of God's home all cleaned up and with fresh new clothes to be a part of the Father's family.**

That is Grace!

B. Peace

- **An end to war**
With whom?
- **An end to war with God**
- **A settled contentment**
Often times – in spite of the circumstances.

II. BY WHOM ARE THESE THINGS GIVEN?

Revelation 1:4–5a 4 ...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, 5 and from Jesus Christ, ...

from Him who is and who was and who is to come – **God the Father**

from the seven Spirits who are before His throne – **God the Holy Spirit**

Seven Spirits can best be understood as seven-fold Spirit. Seven is the number of completion. The Seven-fold Spirit is the Holy Spirit in all His fullness.

from Jesus Christ – **God the Son**

The One True and Living God is a Triune God.

One God in three persons

Father, Son, Spirit

Each person of the Godhead fully God

Each person of the Godhead has a part in giving believers grace and peace!

III. HOW CAN WE KNOW WE WILL GET THEM?

Because of Who Jesus Is!

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Jesus Christ

the faithful witness – the Logos, the Word, perfect image of the Father

the firstborn from the dead – first one resurrected, because of His resurrection, we will be also

the ruler over the kings of the earth – He can veto any head of state

Him who loved us – the One who rules the universe loves us! That is why He gives us grace and peace.

washed us from our sins in His own blood – this is how He gives us grace and peace

made us kings and priests to His God and Father - a future consequence of what Jesus has done for us

to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever – this is the One to be glorified forever, the One who will rule and reign forever

He is coming with clouds – Coming again!

every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him – even those who mock and sneer, even those who make themselves to be enemies of Christ and of the cross

all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him – because those who do not trust Him will be found without excuse

the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End – everything starts and finishes with Christ

who is and who was and who is to come – Who is Himself God, the fullness of deity, Who lives from eternity past through eternity still to come.

the Almighty – the One for who nothing is impossible, God Most High,

CONCLUSION:

To all who have trusted Jesus as Lord and Savior, He has given Grace and Peace.

If you have not yet received this grace and peace you can, if you will trust Christ today.