

Revelation 1: The Titles of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1:5–8 | Sunday, December 21 | Revelation Series

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OVERVIEW

Hal finishes the sentence he was on last time — the word always was face-to-face with God — and then takes the titles of Jesus one at a time. He is called the Word because words are how an invisible self becomes known; Hal's own words clothe his invisible self and carry it out to the class, and Jesus brings the invisible God into visible recognition. He is the firstborn from the dead, the first human raised from corruptible to incorruptible, the first fruit of a harvest we are part of. He is the ruler of the kings of the earth who won back at the cross the title deed Adam forfeited, and who has not yet asserted that authority. Then the Greek does the work: he loves us, present tense, constantly; he released us — freed from slavery — in the aorist, once and for all at the moment you believe. He has made us kings and priests. He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, especially those who pierced him. And he is the alpha and the omega, the Lord God, the almighty.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Colossians 1:15–17 — The image of the invisible God; he is before all things, and in him all things hold together

2 Corinthians 5:1–10 — To be absent from the body is to go instantly to be face-to-face with Jesus Christ

Ephesians 2:8–9 — By grace you have been saved through faith, not of works, lest any man should boast

Hebrews 12:1 — So great a cloud of witnesses — lay aside every hindrance and keep pressing on

Zechariah 12:10 — They will look on me whom they have pierced and mourn as one mourns for an only son

Isaiah 9:6–7 — A child born, a son given, whose name is called God almighty, who will reign on the throne of David

Revelation 19 — Where we come back with Christ — and, Hal says, we are the clouds

KEY TERMS

The Word — the title that says Jesus brings the invisible God into visible recognition, as words bring out an invisible self

The firstborn from the dead — the first human raised from this corruptible being into an incorruptible eternal one; the first fruit of a great harvest

The title deed to the earth — what God gave Adam, what Adam forfeited to Satan by following him, and what Jesus purchased back at the cross

Released — the word in verse 5, meaning freed from slavery, and in the aorist tense — once and for all at the point you believe

Kings and priests — what he has made us: a king rules over intelligent beings, a priest intercedes before God for another intelligent being

The alpha and the omega — the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet — he is the alphabet of God, the one who lets us know anything God wants us to know

El gibhor — the Hebrew in Isaiah's prophecy: the mighty God, God almighty — the name of a child to be born

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. Why is Jesus given the title "the Word"?

2. What does "the firstborn from the dead" mean, and why does it matter to us?

3. What mystery does Hal say Paul spoke of in First Corinthians?

4. What did Colossians 1:17 do to Hal when he was a new believer in the '50s?

5. What is the story behind "the ruler of the kings of the earth"?

6. Where did believers go when they died before the resurrection of Jesus, and what changed?

7. What do the two Greek tenses in "him who loves us and released us from our sins by his blood" tell us?

8. Walk through Hal's four questions about your sins.

9. What does Hal say it literally says he has made us, and what question does he leave with the class?

10. Why does Hal say "behold, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him" must be the Second Coming rather than the Rapture?

11. What does Hal suggest the clouds are?

12. What does Zechariah 12:10 add to “especially those who pierced him,” and what does Isaiah 9:6–7 establish about the child?

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. Hal says words are how an invisible self becomes known. What has Jesus made known about God that you would never have guessed on your own?

2. The one who holds every atom together is the one who died for you. What does that scale do to the size of the things you are carrying this week?

3. “How many of your sins were future when Jesus died for you?” Where does “once and for all” meet something you still feel unforgiven for?

4. Christ has bought back the title deed but has not yet asserted his authority. How should someone live in a world that is under old management for the moment?

5. A priest intercedes for another who needs help. Who are you interceding for right now?

6. Every eye will see him, especially those who pierced him — and they mourn, and Hal expects a wave of conversions. What does that say about people you have written off?

MEMORY VERSE

“I am the alpha and the omega, says the Lord God, who is, who was and who is to come, the almighty.”

— Revelation 1:8, as Hal reads it in this message