



# A Vision of Christ

Revelation 1:1-8 Acts 1:6-11 Matthew 24:36-44

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This verse is helpful in understanding the time frame of the **End Times**, or the **Last Days**.

As the disciples were looking on, Jesus was lifted up, and a cloud took Him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as He went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? **This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.** ACTS 1:9-11

This verse teaches us that just as Jesus left earth in the Ascension, so too He will return on the Last Day. The time between Jesus' Ascension and when He returns on the Last Day is called the **End Times**, or the **Last Days**. We are living our lives in these *Last Days*; these *End Times* have been about 2,000 years or so, so far. Only the Father in Heaven knows when the End will come, but the Bible is clear: Jesus will return, and He will return *soon*.

"Behold! He is coming with the clouds, and **every eye will see him**, even those who pierced him; and all peoples on earth will mourn because of him." So shall it be! Amen REVELATION 1:7

Jesus' return on the Last Day will be in great glory and with all the holy angels. It will be sudden and unexpected; it will be visible and global; history will end, and Judgment Day will occur. As Jesus said, on the Last Day, the unbelievers will be "taken away" like prisoners and condemned; the believers will be "left behind" and forgiven<sup>1</sup>. The Book of Revelation itself ends with Jesus Himself warning us **4x** that He will return; that He is coming soon! Jesus' very last words to His Church are "**Yes, I am coming soon! Amen!**" REVELATION 22:7, 10, 12, 20

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<sup>1</sup> Note how the "Left Behind" false teachers (books, movies, etc.) have it **BACKWARDS!**

**UNTIL HE RETURNS, AND THE LAST DAY ARRIVES,** God has given us the inspired and inerrant book of **Revelation** to help us live in these *End Times*.

The word “**Revelation**” is the Greek word “**apocalypse**”, and it means “**to reveal a mystery**.” The Book of Revelation is God “*revealing the mystery of the End Times to us.*” The Book of Revelation helps us **understand** the world around us; it shapes our **world view** as we live in these End Times. Revelation **reveals** spiritual truths to us about events that we see and hear about in the news.

**In the Book of Revelation, God reveals the truth of the world around us, so that you can live bold and faithful lives of faith – without fear -- in these last days.**

Chapter one of Revelation sets the tone of the entire book. Jesus is described with 27 different titles, names, and descriptions. (I printed them for you on the sermon worksheet.) We are to be absolutely assured that the Lord Jesus, who has risen from the dead and ascended in Heaven, is in full control of all things, and He is working all things for the good of His Church; His People. So, no matter what happens in these End Times; no matter how corrupt and evil the world gets; no matter what you hear in the news or see on TV; no matter what you may have to go through in your life,

## **27 Titles, Names, and Descriptions of Christ**

*In Revelation 1 alone!*

Inspired the Apocalypse  
The Faithful Witness  
The firstborn from the dead  
Ruler of the kings of the earth  
Loves us  
Freed us from sin by His blood  
Made us a Kingdom and Priests  
Visibly returning soon in glory  
Alpha and Omega  
Lord  
God  
Who is, was, and is to come  
The Almighty  
Walks among the Lampstands  
Son of Man  
High Priest  
Eternal  
Omniscient  
Holy  
Powerful  
Shepherd of shepherds  
Powerful Word  
Divine Glory  
I AM  
First and Last  
The Living One  
Holds keys of Hades and Death

*The assertion of Christ's  
**power and authority**  
as the divine Son of God  
becomes the foundation for the  
assurance presented in  
Revelation.*

**CHRIST IS IN CONTROL!**

He has the power and the authority over all things, and He is making all things work for the good of His People! That is our comfort, and our assurance, as we live our lives in these End Times.

Here is an example of how Christ is described in Revelation chapter one. Here are six descriptions of Him and His work for us:

From Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father — To Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. REVELATION 1:5-6

Jesus is the Faithful Witness: literally it says He is the *faithful martyr*; This is a reference to His death on the cross. Jesus is the One who *loves* you so much that He gave His life for you on the cross, setting you free from your sins and the punishment they deserve. God's love is most clearly seen on the cross, where Jesus was *martyred* for you and your salvation.

Jesus is also called the Firstborn From The Dead: this is a reference to Christ's resurrection from the dead on the third day! He is victorious over sin, guilt, death, and the devil. Jesus' resurrection victory means that you have been set free from your sins – you are set free from guilt, from judgment, from condemnation, and from death itself. Jesus' resurrection victory means you will live forever with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus is the Ruler Of The Kings Of The Earth. This is a reference to His ascension, where Jesus sits at the right hand of God the Father and rules all things for the benefit of His Church. He has created a Kingdom that we live in, and we are like priests who have direct access to God and can boldly approach Him in order to find grace and help in our time of need. Later in Revelation, *Hallelujahs* will be sung to Jesus as the King of Kings and Lord of lords!

**This is the God we worship!**  
**This is Who you put your trust in!**

The promise to you is that no matter what might happen in your life, no matter how corrupt and evil the world will get, the Lord Jesus Christ remains in control of all things. **His death, resurrection, and ascension assure you of His power and authority over all things.** And, He uses His power and authority to make all things work for good in your life, keeping you strong in faith through His Word and Sacraments, sending you the Holy Spirit so you remain faithful throughout your life, and working in and through you to bear witness to Him in your daily life.

Remember the promise in the Gospel of Matthew?

*Lo, I am with you always... even until the end of the age!*

Revelation chapter one is expanding on what that means! The crucified, risen and ascended Lord Jesus is with you always, using His mighty power for your good, even as you live in these corrupt and evil End Times!

The Book of Revelation begins with a strong witness to the majesty and power of the Lord Jesus Christ. Twenty-seven different titles, names, and descriptions in one chapter to strengthen your faith and assure you of His love, care, and protection over you.

*The overwhelming assertion of Christ's  
power and authority as the  
crucified, risen and ascended Lord  
is the foundation for our assurance in these end times.*

No wonder you are blessed when you study and learn the Book of Revelation:

<b>Blessed</b> is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and <b>blessed</b> are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. REVELATION 1:3
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Amen!