Christ the King Revelation 1:4-8
November 21, 2021 727*-216-370/217-341
*CW-S – "There Is a Higher Throne"

Look – The Sight Is Glorious!
I. Look – our divine King!
II. Look – our Savior King!
III. Look – our returning King!

Dear Christian friends,

MORE THAN a few years ago – **just before** my senior year in college – two classmates and I **took a trip** out west. We drove to my parents in El Paso, TX, and spent several days there. Then we went on to **Flagstaff**, AZ. The sister of one of my classmates **was teaching** there and that gave us another CHEAP PLACE to stay. **From Flagstaff** we went to the Grand Canyon. WHAT A SIGHT! **Words** can't really describe it. **Cameras** – pictures – **postcards** – can't really capture it. The Grand Canyon is SO BIG – so AWESOME – so BEAUTIFUL! You really have to see it **to believe** it.

We see many stunning sights **as we go** through life. Your new-born child or grandchild. A golden sunset over a **calm lake**. A gentle snowfall at night with those **big, fluffy flakes**.

John saw some STRANGE and UNIQUE sights **in this book** of Revelation. **Some sights** terrified him – **others** were so precious and **comforting**. John here sees a sight that SETS THE TONE for this whole book. ***"Look, He is coming with clouds!"*** Yes, LOOK – THE SIGHT IS GLORIOUS! Look and **see** 1)our divine King, 2)our Savior King, 3)our returning King.

**I. Our divine King.**

Today's readings SHOW us Christ our King. Daniel saw ***"one like a son of man"*** – a human being – yet He ***"coming in the clouds of heaven."*** In the **gospel reading** Pilate couldn't figure out WHAT TO SEE in Jesus. The **Jewish leaders** had accused Jesus of being a King threatening Caesar's rule. But Jesus sure didn't look like any king. ***"Are You the King of the Jews?"*** Pilate asked Jesus. A few hours later – as Jesus **hung from** His cross – the sign above Him read, ***"Jesus of Nazareth, the KING of the Jews."*** **Hanging** there Jesus looked more like a PATHETIC LOSER. But LOOK what we see here! **What** a GLORIOUS SIGHT! Jesus is our DIVINE King!

Revelation is a letter sent ***"to the seven churches in the (Roman) province of Asia"*** – what we now call western Turkey. John began this letter, ***"Grace to you and peace from Him who is, who was, and who is coming, and from the seven spirits that are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ."***

There is only one real, **true** God – yet **that one** God has revealed Himself to be THREE SEPARATE and **distinct** Persons – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We see that here. God the Father is the One ***"who is, who was, and who is coming."*** God is eternal – He ALWAYS IS – He has no beginning or end. God is above and beyond time.

God the Holy Spirit is ***"the seven spirits that are before His throne."*** The number seven in the Bible often pictures COMPLETENESS. The Holy Spirit comes to us **bringing** ALL of God's blessings in Jesus.

***"And from Jesus Christ"*** who says, ***"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the one who is, and who was, and who is coming, the Almighty."*** Our altar paraments picture that. We have an Alpha and Omega – the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet – our "A" and "Z." Christ our King is our ETERNAL – ALMIGHTY – Lord God!

History shows us **kingdoms** RISING and falling – coming and going. Kings grow old – **die** – are OVERTHROWN. But Christ our King is ABOVE ALL that! In our fast-changing – TOPSY/TURVY – who knows what will **come next** world – our King is our ETERNAL – UNCHANGING – ALMIGHTY God. What a GLORIOUS SIGHT! What a comforting sight for **sore eyes**!

**II. Our Savior King.**

John wants us **to take** a GOOD LOOK at Christ our King. WHAT A GLORIOUS SIGHT – what joy and comfort! ***"Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead."*** Jesus is our SAVIOR King.

Jesus is ***"the faithful witness."*** Jesus tells us THE TRUTH **about God**. John wrote in his gospel, ***"No one has ever seen God, but God the only Son, …has made Him known to us."*** Jesus NEVER lies or **misleads** us. We can CONFIDENTLY TRUST everything Jesus tells us. When Jesus talks to us about GOD'S PLANS for us – **when** Jesus makes those FANTASTIC, COMFORTING promises – He's not exaggerating or making EMPTY promises.

Christ our King is ***"the firstborn from the dead."*** Jesus died **not as** a LOSER or a MISUNDERSTOOD MARTYR but as our GRACIOUS SAVIOR. The **Jewish leaders** had to trump up charges against Jesus because Jesus had lived a **life perfect** in every way. Pilate told them, ***"I find no fault in this man."*** God the Father put His own STAMP OF APPROVAL on Jesus' life – ***"with You I am well pleased."*** Jesus lived that life IN OUR PLACE – as our Substitute under God's law.

Then Jesus died on Calvary's cross. Died because ***"He loves us."*** Died to ***"set us free from our sins."*** The SINLESS Jesus took the blame for the sins of the whole world and was punished in our place. **With His innocent death** on the cross Jesus PERSONALLY paid the price to ***"set us free"*** from all our sin and **guilt** – from spending eternity in hell with the devil. Trusting in Jesus we have God's FULL and FREE forgiveness of **all** our sins. SUCH IS the love of **Christ our King**!

Christ our King is THE CONQUEROR of death and the grave – ***"the firstborn from the dead."*** Jesus rose triumphant from the dead on Easter morning and He shares His victory with us. Later in this chapter Jesus says, ***"I was dead, and behold I am alive forever and ever. And I hold the keys of death and hell."*** With Christ as our King we have God's promise of ETERNAL LIFE in heaven when we die AND God's promise of **the resurrection** of our dead bodies in glory on the Last Day. As we deal with **life and death** WHAT A GLORIOUS SIGHT is Christ our King!

In Jesus we have ***"grace and peace."*** In grace – **totally undeserved** love – Jesus DID EVERYTHING to save us. God doesn't OWE us anything. He doesn't owe us a GOOD LIFE – good HEALTH – His LOVE – or a Savior. **Take** an honest look at HOW YOU'VE TREATED God and His Word. Honestly compare **your life** with God's unchanging commandments – STARTING with the **very first** – God ALWAYS coming first in your life – AHEAD of everything/one else. Is your attitude honestly, "**Lord**, WHATEVER YOU WANT – that's EXACTLY **what I want**?" OR is your attitude more, "**Lord,** THIS IS HOW we're going to do things!"? GRACE is the only way to explain ***"God so loving the world that He gave (us) His only begotten Son."***

Because of God's **grace in Jesus** we now have ***"peace."*** The ***"peace"*** that God really does love us – God **really** has forgiven us – we **really** will live forever with Jesus in heaven. That peace IS A FACT **no matter what** we might be FEELING or going through. IF we don't feel that peace – if we doubt it – then we should check ourselves. Have we taken our eyes OFF of Jesus? When we get all worried and **worked up** about things we need to STEP BACK and look again at this GLORIOUS SIGHT of **Christ our King**. Focused on Jesus John doesn't WHINE but exclaims, ***"To Him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood …to Him be glory and power forever and ever."***

John was now an old man in his **90s**. He had been an EYE and EAR WITNESS of Jesus. John had BEEN THERE when Jesus had raised Jairus' daughter from the dead – when Jesus was transfigured in glory and talked with Moses and Elijah. John had stood at Jesus' cross that first Good Friday. John had personally checked out Jesus' empty grave and had seen and talked with our **risen** Savior. John had watched Jesus ascend into heaven. John had heard the angel say, ***"This same Jesus …will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."*** John had heard Jesus' promise, ***"In My Father's house are many mansions. I go and prepare a place for you. I will come again and take you to be with Me."*** NOW John was being persecuted for his Christian faith. He's in exile on the **little island** of Patmos off the coast of Turkey. NOW God shows John – **and us!** – THIS GLORIOUS SIGHT. Look and see…

**III. Our returning King.**

***"Look He is coming with the clouds"*** – JUST AS Daniel had seen in the OT reading and **just as** Jesus said He would come. In Matthew 24 Jesus says, ***"They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory."*** Jesus ***"coming with the clouds"*** emphasizes the MAJESTY and GRANDEUR of Jesus' **second coming**. What a GLORIOUS SIGHT that will be! **No one** will be able to deny that **Jesus is** our GLORIOUS GOD and KING.

When Christ our King returns it **will be** JUDGMENT DAY. **Nobody** will be able to avoid it. **All the dead** will be raised back to life. All people of **all time** will be gathered before our King. ***"Every eye will see Him, including those who pierced Him. All the nations of the earth will mourn because of Him."***

Imagine being in THAT GROUP! The fear – the terror. Those who cried, ***"Away with Him!"*** – who said, "I DON'T BELIEVE Him" – "I don't want to BE BOTHERED by Him" – those who wouldn't let Jesus BE KING of their **hearts** and **lives** – they will indeed ***"mourn."*** They will see how wrong they were but it will BE TOO LATE. They will hear those DEVASTATING words, ***"Depart from Me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels."***

THANK God that the **Holy Spirit** has led us to repent of our sins and to trust in Jesus as our **Savior King**. We too will see Jesus ***"coming"*** IN GLORY – ***"coming"*** to TAKE US HOME to heaven! We will hear that PRICELESS invitation, ***"Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you."***

What a GLORIOUS SIGHT **that day** will be! WHAT COMFORT for us right now! The **devil** and **world** are constantly tempting us to GIVE UP on Jesus – to TURN AWAY from our **King**. It's easy to GET DOWN on life. We see the bills – our **problems** – the news, etc. We also need to see THIS GLORIOUS SIGHT - CHRIST OUR KING – our **divine** – **Savior** – **returning** King! Amen.

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