

The Year of the Revelation

~ What John Heard ~

After seeing Jesus in all His glory, falling at the feet of Jesus as though dead, and feeling the touch of Jesus, John hears Jesus speak.

I. His First Words - A Familiar Theme

“Do not be afraid.”

Luke 1:30, Luke 2:10, Luke 5:10, Luke 8:50; Luke 12:32

Fear is something that grips the heart of each of us. There may be different causes but we all battle fear!
A peaceful heart is a gift from the Son of God.

II. Jesus describes Himself -

A. “I am the first and the last” -

He is eternal God. (The same as the Alpha and Omega.)
Can only be said of God!

(1) He is first - All that exists and was created is by Him who is first.

John 1:3 - “All things came into being by Him; and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.”

Colossians 1:16 - “For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created by Him and for Him.”

(2) He is last - When all the kings of the earth sleep in the dust of the ground, their power has passed away. He shall live, abide, and reign forever and ever!

* In Him there is no end. *

B. “The Living One” - Importance of His previous description of Jesus “who is” as compared to who was and who is to come.

(1) “I was dead” - The reality of the sacrificial death of Jesus! An amazing statement that the Son of God died for the atonement of sin! No one could take it except that God’s purpose was accomplished in His death.

(2) “Behold, I am alive forevermore” - Death will never touch Him again. The Resurrected Son of God can never taste death again. What a wonderful word, “forevermore.” Neither will any person who receives life from Jesus ever taste of the second death but rather will experience life forevermore!

C. “I have the keys of death and Hades” - Through the sacrificial death and victorious resurrection, Jesus takes away the keys of death and Hades. He is now in charge!

Hebrews 2:14: “that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.”

*Death no longer reigns over our lives -

Romans 5:12-14 - “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned...Nevertheless death reigned from Adam until Moses...”

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Romans 5:17-21 - "For if by the transgression of the one, death reigned through the one...so then as through the one man's disobedience, the many were made sinners. . .that, as sin reigned in death..."

The Rest of the Story

"Those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ...even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."
Romans 5:17-21

I Corinthians 15:54f - "Death is swallowed up in victory...but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 15:26—"The last enemy that will be abolished is death."

Keys - Symbols of authority, control, power, privilege

After the resurrection, Jesus proclaimed "all authority has been given unto Me, in heaven and on earth."

Matthew 28:18

An angel, at the end of the Tribulation, will receive the keys from Jesus to open and close the abyss!

Revelation 20:1

* The Keys of Hades - The Place of the Dead

Hades had two dwelling places for the dead - a place called Paradise for the righteous dead, and a place called "Gehenna" for the unrighteous dead.

Jesus described this place in His story of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16:19-31.

Two distinct places after death - a place of reward and a place of torment!

Jesus is ruler over the unseen world. Whether souls are doomed and in torment or are glorified and in paradise, He is King over all!

He is adored in Heaven and feared in Hell!

III. His Instructions - (The Outline of the Letter)

"Write therefore the things which:

A. "You have seen" - Chapter 1

B. "The things which are" - Chapter 2 and 3

C. "The things which shall take place after these things" - Chapter 4 - 22