

EBC Study in Revelation

Lesson 5 Revelation 1:4-6 -- Part 2

As you read through Revelation and begin this study, ask God to open your heart. As the Psalmist prayed: "Open my eyes, that I may behold Wonderful things from Thy law" (Psalm 119:18).

Assignment: **Read through Revelation chapter 1** and attempt to answer the following discussion questions from the text alone.

Questions:

1. *REVIEW:* How do verses 1-3 help you understand what revelation is about?
2. *REVIEW:* Who is John writing to? Looking at the 'from...'s in 1:4-5, who is John writing on behalf of? From your last lesson explain.
3. From previous lessons what does the name "Jesus" the title "Christ" mean and represent?
4. List the titles given Jesus Christ in 1:5a.
5. How do the following verses relate to the title "the faithful witness" given to Jesus Christ in 1:5?
 - a. Deut. 7:9, Psalm 36:5, 1Thes. 5:24, 2Tim. 2:13, Heb. 10:23.
 - b. Rev. 19:11-13, 3:14
 - c. John 8:17-18, John 18:37
 - d. Hebrews 6:16-18, Titus 1:2
6. Thinking of your last answer and the context of Revelation why do you think Jesus was given the title in 1:5, "the faithful witness"?

Lexical Note: The term **First-born** used in Rev 1:5 comes from the Greek word prototokos. Protos refers to first, and tikto speaks of bearing or bringing forth. Please Note: Although prototokos can mean firstborn chronologically (cf. Luke 2:7), it primarily refers **to position** or rank. For example, Esau was born first, yet Jacob was considered the first born and received the inheritance. Also, Israel was considered firstborn in Exodus 4:22 & Jeremiah 31:9 even though it was not the first of nations. Speaking of David and prophetically of the Messiah, Psalm 89:27 clearly relays this meaning: God says, "I also shall make him My first-born, The highest of the kings of the earth." It is clear that first born can mean highest in rank. Concerning Christ, we see He is the "first-born of all creation" (Col 1:15). Now does this mean He was created as the JW's would say? - OVER -

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Absolutely not! If we read the next verse we see an explanation "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" (Col 1:16). The point being, because He is the Creator of all (1:16), He is preeminent in position (the first-born) over all creation (1:15).

7. How does 1Cor. 15:11-23 help in your understanding concerning the title given Jesus in Revelation 1:5, "the firstborn from the dead?"

8. Thinking of the lexical note above and the fact that Jesus was not the first chronologically to be raised from the dead, what do you think John inspired by the Holy Spirit means by the phrase describing Jesus as "the first-born from the dead" in Revelation 1:5?

9. From the following passages make observations concerning Jesus, whom Revelation 1:5 declares is "the ruler of the kings of the earth".
 - a. Rev. 17:14

 - b. Rev. 19:16

 - c. 1Tim. 6:12-16

 - d. Psalm 2

10. How does Psalm 2:7-8 relate to this second and third titles given to Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:5 (Hint: Acts 13:33 clarifies Psalm 2:7.)

11. Who is the "Him" described in the end of Rev. 1:5 through 6?

12. How is Jesus described in relationship to us in Rev 1:5b-6? Make three brief observations. *Note: We will look at 1:5b-6 in more depth in the next lesson.*

13. When you think of the Lord Jesus Christ, do you ascribe the three attributes in 1:5a to Him and do you ascribe the three actions in 1:5b-6 to Him? How would this change your attitude towards some of the circumstances you're going through?