

A Letter to the Ages (Part 1 of Message #2)

Revelation 1: 4-8

I remember as a child looking in the mailbox with great anticipation for something that had been sent to me. I rarely received mail, but when I did, I couldn't wait to see who had sent it and what was inside. It was special because it had been sent to me!

We ought to look at our text tonight with that same anticipation and enthusiasm. We have opened a letter, sent by God, to our mailbox. We have received a very special letter and I pray we will carefully read each line and let it speak to our hearts. This is the same letter that has been sent through the ages. Let's consider: [A Letter to the Ages](#).

I. A Special People (4a) – [John to the seven churches which are in Asia](#): The Revelation is a letter, just as Paul's epistles were letters, sent to a specific people. We find that John was writing to the 7 churches in Asia. These were literal church bodies that were meeting together when John wrote Revelation. They are mentioned by name in [v.11](#). We will deal with them individually later. So, the Revelation was written to real people with real problems about real events.

- Now, we must understand that these 7 churches weren't the only churches believing in Christ at this time. Though it was written to 7 specific churches, Revelation has application to every church that ever existed, including Pilgrim.
- The number 7 speaks of perfection and completeness. Thus when the Bible speaks of 7 churches, it speaks of the church in its fullness, all believers. The Revelation wasn't addressed to us, but it was written for our benefit.
- Much could be said about God's number of 7. At Jericho 7 priests carrying 7 trumpets marched around for 7 days. On the 7th day they marched 7 times. Jesus spoke 7 statements on the cross. The number 7 is mentioned 49 times, (7x7), in this book alone. Let it suffice to say that the number 7 refers to God's perfection and completeness. Revelation was written to benefit all believers!

II. A Sovereign Power (4b-5a) – [Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth](#). John began his salutation to the churches with the hope of grace and peace. He desired them to rest in God during a time of great persecution. This grace and peace comes "from" (3 times in [vv.4-5](#)) God involving the Holy Trinity.

A. God the Father (4b) – *from him which is, and which was, and which is to come*; This speaks of Jehovah God, the Self-existent One. He who is and was and is to come! He existed in eternity past; He now exists; He will continue to remain for all of eternity. His existence is based on Himself alone. What a source of grace and peace.

B. God the Spirit (4c) – *and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne*; Here we see the number 7 again. This isn't referring to 7 separate spirits, but the Holy Spirit, the perfect, complete Spirit of God. He is the agent by which the grace and peace of God dwells within our hearts.

- The Holy Spirit that abides in us is sufficient for our every need. What peace we have through the Spirit of God.

C. God the Son (5a) – *And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth*. Now John moves his attention to the 3rd source of grace and peace, Jesus Christ. He is the One that provided the way for us.

1. His Reliability – Jesus is the *faithful witness*. He came to reveal God to man. Jesus came that we might know God.

- “Jesus is the only Person in history Who has the right to bear the title of Jehovah’s Witness”, Bro. Alan Carr. We might bear witness of God the Father, but we can never be a true representation. Jesus came as God in the flesh. He alone is that Witness!

2. His Resurrection – Jesus is the *First begotten of the dead*. The phrase “*first begotten*” comes from the Greek word *protokos*, from which we get our word prototype. Jesus wasn't the 1st to be resurrected, but He was the 1st to rise, never to die again. Of all those who were resurrected prior to Jesus, they died again, but not our Lord. He is alive forevermore!

- He is our prototype; He was the 1st, but praise God, He won't be the last! Just as He lives, so will all that trusted in His name and believed on Him.

3. His Royalty – Jesus is the *prince of the kings of the earth*. There's nobody like Jesus. He is King of kings and Lord of lords. He possesses all power, Lord of all!

- One day all the kings, conquerors, presidents, financial giants, and all men great and small will confess that Jesus is Lord. That sounds like to me that He has the authority to extend grace and peace, Amen!

I. A Special People (4a)

II. A Sovereign Power (4b-5a)

III. A Special Praise (5b-6) – **Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.** I believe as John thought of who Christ is, he thought of all He had done for him. He may have thought of that day by the shore when Jesus called him to follow Him. John's life was never the same. As he thought of Jesus it brought praise to his heart. Notice what Jesus has done to deserve our praise.

A. His Compassion (5b) – **Unto him that loved us.** John was mindful of the love of Jesus. His was no ordinary love. Jesus loved us more than anyone ever could. He proved that love on the cross for our sin.

- His love didn't end there, but continues to this very day. His love is extended to the lowest sinner in order to redeem his sin-sick soul. Do you realize that every soul that went to hell, rejecting Christ, went to hell loved of Him? What love, even for those who deny Him!

B. His Cleansing (5c) – **and washed us from our sins in his own blood.** All are born in sin, separated from God. No matter how we try to clean up our lives or turn over a new leaf, that sin remains. Jesus' blood is the only way to find cleansing for a heart full of sin.

- What can wash away my sin, nothing but the blood of Jesus? What can make me whole again, nothing but the blood of Jesus? Thank God, I have been washed in the blood and freed from the bondage of sin.

C. His Confirmation (6) – **And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.** Our forgiveness is enough to praise God for throughout eternity. Jesus provided a way to escape the judgment of God and torments of hell, but that isn't all.

- Jesus not only pardoned us, He promoted us! Every born again believer holds a sanctified position in Christ. The saved are somebody tonight. The world may reject us, but God has a place for us!

Has God's letter spoken to you tonight? Are you a part of His special people? Do you know the grace and peace He gives? Is there a song of praise on your heart? If not, there can be. All you need to do is come.