

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Part Four: Jesus the Speaking King

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Introduction

Jesus is the Speaking King who speaks through His Holy, Inerrant and Infallible Word so that His people might grow in the grace and knowledge of the LORD. Today's study is from Revelation 1:9-18, entitled **Jesus the Speaking** King. This will be a two-part study of how Christ speaks to His people.

You will remember that in the Old Testament God fed His people with manna and water so that they would be filled and their thirst would be quenched. The purpose of this provision was so that His people would be sustained, strengthened and fit to finish their pilgrimage to the Promised Land. Jesus is the Manna and the Water who feeds us and quenches our thirst through His Word. He is the Speaking King who reminds us that if we are to live a holy life before the face of God we need to know that it must be by every word that proceeds from His mouth. If we are to grow in Christ-likeness, it will not be by might, nor by power, but by God's Spirit and Word working in and through us! Today, the Speaking King gives to His people His Word so that we might be sustained, strengthened and fit to finish our pilgrimage to the New Heaven and the New Earth.

Revelation 1:9-18: I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches, to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white like wool, as white as snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.

Comforting Words

When I was young and would get scared and afraid as I grew up and realized the world around me was not always a safe and kind place, I would rely upon listening to the comforting words of my mother as she encouraged me that "everything would be alright". One time in school I experienced trouble with a bully (I still remember his name: Mark Dunahoo- - Wow, I hope he's doing well!), and for almost a year I dreaded going to school on the bus, because he would hit me on the back of the head, call me names, and laugh at my less than fashionable Sears Best sneakers.

When I would get home, I wanted to talk to mom. I wanted her to know I was troubled. Then she would speak, and her words would comfort me and remind me that everything would fine. She would say to me that life holds these troubles, but I was not to fear, but I was to face my troubles courageously. Thank God for mom's words of encouragement to me!

But thank God for Jesus' words of encouragement to us all in His Word. As we studied in the previous lessons, John, as well as the churches to whom he was writing, was experiencing pain, trouble, and the difficulties that come from living in this scary and sometimes fearful world because of the Evil One. This passage in Revelation 1:9-18 was (and is) an encouragement from Jesus to His

reminds us again and again that we need his help and his grace. The people of God are diverse, but there is one thing about us all that is important for us to remember: *We so easily forget God's grace and goodness in our lives!* Thus, God graciously stoops in our weaknesses and inadequacies to speak to us at least weekly through the Word by the Speaking King.

But do we have ears to hear what the Speaking King is saying? When I would go back to school after hearing the reassuring and comforting words of my mom, once I got back on the bus, out of her sight and presence, I would practically forget everything she said to me. Listening to the Speaking King as well as reminding ourselves of his promises, goodness and strength, will help us in our struggles against the world, flesh and the devil. In Revelation chapters 2-3, the Speaking King speaks to the different congregations as their King and Lord. He corrects, rebukes, and encourages them. For every congregation to whom he speaks, he says "For those who have ears, let them hear what the Spirit says (present tense) to the churches.

We should be reminded of this as well. Once we leave the sermon, our morning or evening devotions, how soon we forget and how easy it is for us to forget all of what Jesus the Speaking King has said, and is saying to us! If we are to understand more of the depth of His love for us; if we are to understand His grace and the tight grip by which he holds us all; If we are to realize more each day that we are indeed the children of God, then we need to meditate up His Words. In John 15, Jesus told his disciples, if my words abide in you and you abide in me, you will bear much fruit. He promises that we will bear much fruit -- eternal and holy fruit- -that will never be taken away, but will continue to produce a harvest of righteousness.

Remember that Jesus is the Resurrected and Living King, He is the Coming Judge and King, and He is the Speaking King! May God remind you today of what he has said to you. May you be reminded of all he has done for you in Christ and what he has told you he has prepared for those who believe. May you meditate and ponder in your heart of hearts the depths of His grace and the magnificence of his glorious love for those He loves! In our next study we will take a look at how Jesus as the Speaking King speaks with a double-edged sword.

For Further Reading

Herman Bavinck- **The Last Things: Hope for this World and the Next.** Edited by John Bolt.

Translated by John Vriend. Published by Baker Books, 1996

G. K. Beale- **The Book of Revelation**, New International Greek Testament Commentary, Eerdmans, 1999

G. C. Berkhouwer- **The Return of Christ.** Studies in Dogmatics Series. Published by Eerdmans, 1972

Dennis Johnson- **Triumph of the Lamb: A Commentary on Revelation**, P&R, 2001

Vern S. Poythress- **The Returning King: A Guide to the Book of Revelation**, P&R, 2000

Soli Deo Gloria!

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Next study: Jesus the Speaking King, Pt. 2