

Thematic Study: Christ in Revelation

Rev. 1.1: Revelation of Jesus Christ. The book reveals Him.

Process of the Study

- Books and commentaries not so helpful (initially) for *thematic* studies.
- **Jim Allen/DRU:** Christ and His *Character* (1); Christ and the *Churches* (2-3); Christ and the *Cosmos* (4-18); Christ and His *Conquest* (19-20); Christ and His *City* (21-22).
- Scan read the chapters and note every occurrence of a name/title of Christ.
- Re-read and add descriptions/characteristics. Create any additional notes.

Possibilities of the Study

- Most obvious study is to consider the various names/titles.
 - » Which titles are most prominent? Where do they occur most? What do they mean?
 - » **Lamb** (x28), majority in Rev. 5-7 and 21-22. Why these particular chapters? Heaven & eternity?
 - » **Lord Jesus** (x1) & **Lord Jesus Christ** (x1) in Rev. 22. His Lordship has been demonstrated to all.
- Other studies could be:
 - » The **actions** of Christ. He is *standing* at the door and knocking (3.20); *walking* in the midst of the seven golden lampstands (2.1); *sitting* on a white horse (19.11) etc.
 - » The **features** of Christ. *Head* (has many crowns, 19.12); *eyes* (as a flame of fire, 2.18); *feet* (like unto fine brass, 1.15), *mouth* (with a sharp sword, 1.16).
 - » The **clothing** of Christ. Speaks of character and conduct. Clothed with: a *garment* down to the *foot* (1.13); a *golden girdle* (1.13); *vesture* dipped in *blood* (19.13).
 - » The **coming** of Christ. Compare/contrast the first and second comings of Christ.
First coming = *King of the Jews* (Matt. 2.2); **second** coming = *King of kings* (19.16).
 - » **Priest** (1-3), **King** (20), **Prophet** (13) – *contrast* to the false prophet.
- Compare these studies with other Scriptures. *What is Christ wearing in the gospels? How do his actions compare in the Servant Songs (Isaiah)?*

Perplexity of the Study Rev. 10.1-6

- The **Mighty Angel**. Christ or not? Sometimes commentators disagree. Weigh the arguments!
- There are *three* mighty angels in Revelation (5.2; 10.1; 18.21).

For	Against
The description of v.1 is very similar to that of the Lord Jesus in Rev. 1.	'Another (of the same kind) mighty angel' (v.1). Refers to 5.2. The angel in 10.1 is therefore <i>not</i> unique.
He is <i>clothed with a cloud</i> (v.1) which could be the Shekinah glory. This is associated with the presence of deity.	The angel <i>swears</i> by the one who made heaven and earth, i.e. Christ (v.6). Is He swearing by Himself?
The Lord Jesus is revealed as the <i>Angel of the Lord</i> in the OT so why not here?	The Lord Jesus is never seen as an angel in the NT. <i>When Christ took manhood this type of revelation was no longer necessary. After the incarnation every appearance of Christ is as man. The symbols of Lion and Lamb relate to His offices and have no bearing on the matter.</i>
This angel stands with his right foot on the sea and left foot on the earth (v.2). This suggests power and authority over the whole earth.	This is the mid-point of the tribulation and the angel is seen standing upon the earth. Christ does not return to earth until the end of the tribulation!

Particular Focus of the Study

- The **Lamb**. 'Little lamb' (*arnion*) in Rev. Elsewhere it is *amnos*, *sacrificial lamb* (John 1.29).
- Who is worthy? None found. Weep not! The Lion has prevailed. I beheld, and lo, a **Lamb** as...!
- Little Lamb (humility) & Calvary is the **reason** He is worthy to take the book (title deed of earth).
- » **HH Snell**: *In The Revelation, THE LAMB is the centre around which all else is clustered, the foundation on which everything lasting is built, the nail on which all hangs, the object to which all points, and the spring from which all blessing proceeds... Hence, we cannot go far in the study of The Revelation, without seeing THE LAMB like direction-posts along the road, to remind us that He who did by Himself purge our sins is now highly exalted, and that to Him every knee must bow, and every tongue confess.*

- The **Amen** (3.14). A title used of God in Isa. 65.16, the *God of truth* (amen).
- » Amen = what is *dependable, certain, true, fixed*. Translated as 'verily' in the gospels.
- » When we say *amen* it means 'let it be so'. When God says *amen* = 'it **shall** be so'.
- » **2 Cor. 1.20**: *All the promises of God in Him are yea, and in Him, amen.*
- » Christ is the certain guarantee of every promise of God. Not one purpose can fail in Him.

- The **Beginning** of the Creation of God (3.14). Does this mean the Lord Jesus is created?
- » 'beginning' = *source or origin*. The Lord Jesus is the *beginner* or *cause* of creation.
- » Far from being created; He is the Creator – of the *old* creation and the *new*.
- » **2 Cor. 5:17** *So if anyone be in Christ, there is a new creation; the old things have passed away; behold all things have become new. Do we have the stamp of new creation about us?*

- **Alpha and Omega** (1.8, 11; 21.6; 22.13). **Rev. 22.13**: *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning (arche) and the end (telos), the first (protos) and the last (eschatos).*
- » Alpha and omega = *first and last* letters of the Greek alphabet. Figure of speech = 'a whole'.
- » **26** letters (24 in Greek) can *communicate* all known wisdom and knowledge.
- » Christ is the sum total of divine revelation and truth. God speaks through Him.
- 'beginning and ending' – Christ is the 'first cause' (beginning) and 'destiny' (ending) of all things.
- » The Creator and *object* of creation. **Col. 1.16**: *All things were created by him, and for him.*
- 'first and last' – chief and first in *position* (rank), first and last in *time*. He was *before* creation and will remain *after* it. He is **eternal**. **Col. 1.17**: *He is before all things, and by him all things consist.*
- What could we want or desire besides Him? He must have the first rank in our lives.

- **Bright and Morning Star** (22.16). **Rev. 22.16**: *I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.*
- » 'bright' = *lampros*, brilliant, shining, glistening star, cf. 'gorgeous' (*lampros*) robe (Luke 24.22).
- » 'morning star' = relating to the dawn. *Used of Venus when appearing in the east before sunrise.*
- » **Allen**: *The morning star anticipates and heralds the dawning of day (millennium).*
- » Christ is displayed in His character as the **Sun** of Righteousness (Mal. 4.2) in the millennium.
- » Morning Star = Christ coming at the **rapture**. **Rev. 2.28**: *I will give him the morning star.*
- The B&M Star is the anticipation of every believer. He is coming! What's done for Him will last.