

THE REVELATION OF JESUS

August 5, 2012
Wawasee Community Bible Church
Milford, Indiana
Pastor Josh Weiland

WEEK 2: JESUS AS HE REALLY IS

REVELATION 1:4-20

Greeting (v. 4-8)

Jesus As He Really Is (v. 9-20)

KEY TO SYMBOLS IN REVELATION

SEVEN – The number 7 is often used throughout Scripture as a symbol of completeness and/or perfection. We see the number seven used 55 times in Revelation.

1:4, 1:11, 1:20 – **seven churches** This refers to seven actual churches in John's day, but is also believed by many to refer to the entire (universal, *complete*) Church throughout the ages.

1:4 – **seven spirits** The seven spirits before the throne of God are best understood to represent the Holy Spirit, who is fully and completely God. This seven-fold characterization of the Holy Spirit is also found in Old Testament passages like Isaiah 11:2 and Zechariah 4:2-10. (cf. 3:1, 4:5, 5:6)

1:12, 1:20 – **seven golden lampstands** Jesus states in v. 20 that these represent to the seven churches. (cf. Matthew 5:14, Philippians 2:15-16)

1:16, 1:20, 2:1, 3:1 – **seven stars** Jesus says in v. 20 that these represent the "angels of the seven churches". This could mean literal angels or it could mean messengers in the churches themselves (pastors, elders, etc.)

1:10 HOMEWORK

Read Revelation 1:1-20

In verse 3, what does John mean, "the time is near"? (You might also compare Matt. 24:36-39; 2 Peter 3:3-4)

How does John describe the future return of Jesus Christ in this passage?

Jesus' first coming was very quiet and humble. Not many at the time even knew of his arrival on Earth. Who will witness Jesus' second coming?

How will unbelievers respond to Jesus' second coming? (See also Zechariah 12:10)

How does John describe Jesus? Compare with Isaiah 6:1-8

When John sees Jesus as he really is, what is his response? Compare this with Isaiah 45:23; Romans 14:11; and Philippians 2:5-11. Also see Gen. 17:3; Num. 16:22; Isa. 6:1-8; Eze. 1:28; Acts 9:4.

What is Jesus' response to John?

Jesus is fully God and Lord of all creation, ruling and reigning in power. Yet for those who know him, he is at the same time our friend. We should keep both roles in mind as we worship him. What is the danger of only seeing Jesus as the Almighty powerful ruler? What is the danger of seeing him merely as our friend?