Crossroads International Church Dr. Rick Griffith

27 Oct 2013 Intro to Series

NLT 40 Minutes

**The Incomparable Christ**

Title

***Revelation 1***

**Topic:** Christ

**Subject:** Why should we know that Jesus rules the world?

**Complement:** Jesus rules the world! So he can handle your puny problem.

**Purpose:** The listeners will see that because Jesus rules the world, he can handle their puny problems

**Meditation:** Christ as Incomparable

**Reading:** Rev. 1:7

**Song:** Worthy of Worship

# Introduction

### Interest: [Jesus Christ is the most controversial person ever to live.]

Rev 1

#### [Read Revelation 1 since it shows his sovereignty.]

Full Pic

#### The “One Nation Under God” painting portrays him as incomparable.

Close up

### Need: Do you know who he is?

#### People have varying ideas about Jesus.

USAF

##### Last Friday the USAF made “God” optional in their oath.

##### Alan Grayson compared the Tea Party to the KKK.

Grayson

##### Who is this? Muslims consider Christ as a prophet but have not depicted him in a movie until recently in 2008 in Iran. Ahmad Soleimani-Nia is an actor who was once a soldier in the Iranian army and then a welder for — ironically — his nation's Atomic Energy Agency. Of course, the movie suggests that Jesus wasn't crucified and never rose from the dead

Muslim

##### The image I cut my Christian teeth on in the 1970s and 80s is rougher. Some call him the “Surfer Jesus.”

Surfer

##### But then Jesus became wimpy, surrounded only with lambs and flowers and children and soft, effeminate features.

Wimp

##### So recently some sculptors collected samples of first-century Jewish facial bone structures to provide a composite "average" man for that time. This resulted in what some deem the “Caveman Jesus.”

Caveman

#### Do you know Jesus’ *full identity* in Revelation as the ultimate ruler of the world?

CoffeeKing

##### Who is Jesus to you? My favorite 3-in-1 coffee is Coffee King, interestingly depicted as “American flavour” (with British spelling!). Who that king is, well, is anyone’s guess. Since America was birthed in rebellion to the King of England and the US has never had a king, I wonder who this king is on the package!

• Close Up

##### But it does raise the issue of who really rules the world. The book of Revelation is quite clear on this question as it removes all doubt in showing that Christ is the Ultimate Victor and Sovereign over all creation.

• Triumph

### Subject: Why should we know that Jesus rules the world?

Subject

### Background: Today we begin our study of the last book of the Bible—what is it called?

Rev Title

#### It’s original audience were churches in Asia Minor—modern western Turkey.

Asia

#### Asian churches of John’s time suffered both external and internal threats.

Threats

### Preview: We will answer the question why should we know that Jesus rules the world by answering three other questions:

• Jesus?

• Worship

• Read?

Preview

#### Why read Revelation?

#### Why worship Jesus?

#### Why see Jesus clearly?

### Text: Revelation 1 answers these questions.

• Read?

(First, why read Revelation?)

MP

# I. Reading and obeying this Revelation of Christ’s sovereignty brings blessing (1:1-3).

[You have a guaranteed benefit from reading and heeding this prophecy of the incomparable Christ.]

## Christ’s sovereignty over future events transmitted to John shows the prophecy as inspired (1:1-2).

1-2

### Contrary to popular thought, Revelation does not primarily reveal the future. It reveals who Jesus Christ really is!

• Transmit

### This message has come to us from God to Jesus to an Angel to John to his first Readers and finally to us.

3

## The result of reading and obeying this prophecy is blessing from the God who sees these events as near (1:3).

Down

Up

(We often look down during difficulty. Why should we look up and worship Jesus?)

# II. We should worship the triune God because Christ will soon return (1:4-8).

MP

[When Jesus comes back, God will show that he was worthy of all honor.]

Trinity

## John worships the Trinity before seven churches in Asia to show them Christ’s authority over their lives (1:4-6).

5b-6

## John cites Christ's second coming as the focus of his prophecy so his readers will look for His coming (1:7).

7

### Here is one of the many allusions to the OT in Revelation—this one to Zechariah 12:10, which says that Israel will mourn over Christ and believe.

Zech 12

7

### However, John adds here that all the nations will mourn as well.

## John quotes God the Father as Lord of time to show His ability to fulfill all the following prophecies (1:8).

8

John

(Why see Jesus clearly? “Tradition says that it was Domitian who sent John to the Isle of Patmos, a Roman penal colony off the coast of Asia Minor. This being the location of John’s exile, perhaps it is not surprising that the word *sea* is found twenty-six times in his book” – Warren Wiersbe, Bible Exposition Commentary. So why see Jesus clearly?)

# III. Seeing Christ glorified shows He can solve your problems (1:9-20).

MP

[If you view Jesus for who he *really* is, you will see he’s bigger than your issues.]

## Christ commands the exiled John on Patmos to reveal Christ's sovereignty to the seven churches of Asia (1:9-11).

Patmos   
(7 slides)

9-11

### Patmos then was not the tourist spot that it is today [explain slides].

Lord’s day

### It’s debated whether “Lord’s day” means the vision came on a Sunday or if it lifted John into the future “day of the LORD” spoken of often by the OT prophets [explain slide].

Day of Lord

## John’s vision of the glorified Christ proves He can handle the Church's internal and external problems (1:12-16).

10

Lampstands

### John heard a voice and then turned to see the voice!

“I saw”

12-18

Meaning

### Here is the first of 45 times he “saw” things in Revelation.

### This is the most glorious picture of Christ in Scripture!

### The meanings of the depictions of Jesus are amazing. Quoting from Wiersbe…

#### “Christ’s *garments* are those of a Judge-King, One with honor and authority.

#### The *white hair* symbolizes His *eternality*, “the Ancient of Days” (Dan. 7:9, 13, 22).

#### His *eyes see all* (Rev. 19:12; Heb. 4:12), enabling Him to *judge righteously*.

#### His *feet of burning brass* also suggest *judgment*, since the brazen altar was the place where the fire consumed the sin offering. The Lord had come to judge the churches, and He would also judge the evil world system.

#### The *“sound of many waters”* (Rev. 1:15) makes me think of Niagara Falls! Perhaps two ideas are suggested here:

Falls

##### Christ gathers together all the “streams of revelation” and is *the Father’s “last Word” to man* (Heb. 1:1–3);

##### He *speaks with power and authority and must be heard*.

#### The *sword from His mouth* certainly represents the *living Word of God* (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17). He fights His enemies by using His Word (Rev. 2:16; 19:19–21)” (Wiersbe, *BE Commentary*).

Sword

### This actually alludes to other visions of Jesus in the OT [explain Poythress chart].

OT parallels

## [John records the threefold outline of the prophecy Christ's authority over the seven churches to prepare us for the rest of the book (1:17-20).]

### What would you do to see such an awesome vision like this? John is terrified at the presence of the glorified Christ but Jesus comforts him with His divine attributes (1:17-18).

17-18

### Christ then commands John to record the threefold, inspired outline of His prophecy.

#### Verse 19 previews the book’s outline.

19

#### The chart shows the vision which he had just seen (1:9-20), the present authority of Christ over the churches (Rev. 2–3), and the future events before, during, and after Christ's return (Rev. 4–22) to preview the book (1:19).

20

Book chart

### Christ then shows His authority over the churches when He reveals that the stars in His hand represent the seven churches and that the lampstands represent their witness for Christ in a spiritually dark world (1:20).

Jesus & Sun

# Conclusion

### Revealing the sovereignty of Jesus Christ helped convince the seven churches in Asia that Christ could conquer their internal compromise and external opposition (EI).

MI

EI

### Jesus rules the world! So he can handle your puny problem (MI).

### Now do you know the answers to the three questions I posed at the beginning? [Review]

### What’s your view of Jesus? John could look out from atop Patmos and see the Risen Christ, Ruler of the world. Is your Jesus bigger or smaller than your own issue—your job dilemma, family crisis, financial situation, or relational difficulty?

MPs

Problem?

### On that particular issue that you are thinking of, there is a spiritual warfare over that issue going on in the heavenly realm! But the main contention of the whole Revelation is that God discloses through John the sovereignty of Jesus Christ in His ultimate future triumph to encourage believers to persevere despite internal compromise and external opposition.

Black

Sum Up

### Will you trust that Christ is stronger and bigger?

### Prayer

# Preliminary Questions

**Verses Questions**

# Context: What did the author record just prior to this passage?

# Purpose: Why is this passage in the Bible?

# Background: What historical context helps us understand this passage?

# Questions

# Tentative Subject/Complement Statements

# *Exegetical Idea*: The way to conquer internal compromise and external opposition is to trust in the sovereignty of Jesus Christ.

# Possible Illustrations

### Text

# Possible Applications

### Text

**Synthesis**

**Sovereignty of Christ in future victory**

**1 Sovereignty in person**

1:1-3 Subject

1:4-8 Worship of Trinity

1:9-20 Glorified Christ

**Outline**

**Summary Statement for the Book**

**God discloses through John the *sovereignty of Jesus Christ* in His ultimate future triumph to encourage believers to *persevere despite internal compromise and external opposition.***

# (Ch. 1) God discloses through John the sovereignty of Jesus Christ as the subject of His prophecy to encourage the church with Christ's ability to handle internal compromise and external opposition.

## (1:1-3) John's prologue shows the divinely given prophecy unveils Jesus Christ’s sovereignty and encourages applying it by promising blessing upon those who obey it.

### (1:1-2) Christ’s sovereignty through future events that will rapidly take place is transmitted from the Father to Jesus to an angel (possibly Gabriel) to John to other believers to establish the prophecy’s inspiration.

### (1:3) People who read, hear, and obey this prophecy are promised a special blessing from God since from His perspective these events are near.

## (1:4-8) John addresses seven churches in Asia and worships the triune God, especially Christ as the soon-to-come sovereign Ruler, to exhort his readers to watch for His return.

### (1:4-6) John addresses seven churches in Asia as his original readers and worships Christ as Ruler of the world and Redemptive Resurrected Revealer of the prophecy to remind them of His sovereign authority over their lives.

### (1:7) John cites Christ's second coming in fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10 as the main feature of his following prophecy and as a exhortation to look for His coming.

### (1:8) John quotes God the Father who is Lord of time to demonstrate His ability to bring all the promises of the prophecy to pass.

## (1:9-20) John relates his Patmos vision of the glorified Jesus Christ to substantiate Christ's ability to handle the Church's internal and external problems and to reveal the threefold outline of the book.

### (1:9-11) Christ commands the exiled John on Patmos to prophesy to the seven churches of Asia to reveal Christ's sovereignty.

### (1:12-16) John relates his vision of the glorified Jesus Christ to substantiate Christ's ability to handle the Church's internal and external problems.

### (1:17-20) In response to the vision John is comforted, instructed to record the outline of the prophecy, and shown Christ's authority over the seven churches as an introduction to the letters to these churches.

#### (1:17-18) John is terrified at the presence of the glorified Christ but Jesus comforts him with His divine attributes.

#### (1:19) Christ commands John to record the threefold inspired outline of His prophecy: the vision which he had just seen (1:9-20), the present authority of Christ over the churches (Rev. 2–3), and the future events before, during, and after Christ's return (Rev. 4–22).

#### (1:20) Christ shows His authority over the churches when He reveals that the stars in His hand represent the seven churches and that the lampstands represent their witness for Christ in a spiritually dark world.

**The Incomparable Christ**

***Revelation 1***

**Exegetical Outline (Steps 2-3)**

# *Exegetical Idea*: The reason God reveals the sovereignty of Jesus Christ is to convince the seven churches in Asia that Christ can conquer their internal compromise and external opposition.

# I. The result of reading and heeding this divinely given prophecy that unveils Jesus Christ’s sovereignty is blessing (1:1-3).

## The reason that Christ’s sovereignty through future events that will rapidly take place is transmitted from the Father to Jesus to an angel (possibly Gabriel) to John to other believers is to establish the prophecy’s inspiration (1:1-2).

## The result for people who read, hear, and obey this prophecy is a special blessing from the God whose perspective sees these events as near (1:3).

# II. The reason the seven churches in Asia should worship the triune God (especially Christ as the soon-to-come sovereign Ruler) is because of His soon return (1:4-8).

## John addresses seven churches in Asia as his original readers and worships Christ as Ruler of the world and Redemptive Resurrected Revealer of the prophecy to remind them of His sovereign authority over their lives (1:4-6).

## John cites Christ's second coming in fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10 as the main feature of his prophecy to exhort the readers to look for His coming (1:7).

## John quotes God the Father who is Lord of time to demonstrate His ability to bring all the promises of the prophecy to pass (1:8).

# III. The reason John relates his Patmos vision of the glorified Jesus Christ is to show Christ's ability to handle the Church's internal and external problems and to reveal the threefold outline of the book (1:9-20).

## Christ commands the exiled John on Patmos to reveal Christ's sovereignty to the seven churches of Asia (1:9-11).

## John relates his vision of the glorified Jesus Christ to substantiate Christ's ability to handle the Church's internal and external problems (1:12-16).

## In response to the vision John is comforted, instructed to record the outline of the prophecy, and shown Christ's authority over the seven churches as an introduction to the letters to these churches (1:17-20).

### John is terrified at the presence of the glorified Christ but Jesus comforts him with His divine attributes (1:17-18).

### Christ commands John to record the threefold inspired outline of His prophecy: the vision which he had just seen (1:9-20), the present authority of Christ over the churches (Rev. 2–3), and the future events before, during, and after Christ's return (Rev. 4–22) to preview the book (1:19).

### Christ shows His authority over the churches when He reveals that the stars in His hand represent the seven churches and that the lampstands represent their witness for Christ in a spiritually dark world (1:20).

**Purpose or Desired Listener Response (Step 4)**

The listeners will seek that because Jesus rules the world, he can handle their puny problems.

**Homiletical Outline** (Cyclical inductive form)

# Introduction

### Interest: Jesus Christ is the most controversial person ever to live.

### Need: Do you know who he is?

### Subject: Why should we know that Jesus rules the world?

### Background: The Asian churches of John’s time suffered both external and internal threats.

### Preview: We will answer the question why should we know that Jesus rules the world by answering three other questions:

#### Why read Revelation?

#### Why worship Jesus?

#### Why see Jesus clearly?

### Text: Revelation 1 answers these questions.

# I. Reading and obeying this Revelation of Jesus Christ’s sovereignty brings blessing (1:1-3).

## Christ’s sovereignty over future events transmitted to John shows the prophecy as inspired (1:1-2).

## The result of reading and obeying this prophecy is blessing from the God who sees these events as near (1:3).

# II. We should worship the triune God because Christ will soon return (1:4-8).

## John worships the Trinity before seven churches in Asia to show them Christ’s authority over their lives (1:4-6).

## John cites Christ's second coming as the focus of his prophecy so his readers will look for His coming (1:7).

## John quotes God the Father as Lord of time to show His ability to fulfill all the following prophecies (1:8).

# III. Seeing Christ glorified shows He can solve your problems (1:9-20).

## Christ commands the exiled John on Patmos to reveal Christ's sovereignty to the seven churches of Asia (1:9-11).

## John’s vision of the glorified Christ proves He can handle the Church's internal and external problems (1:12-16).

## John records the threefold outline of the prophecy Christ's authority over the seven churches to prepare us for the rest of the book (1:17-20).

# Conclusion

### Revealing the sovereignty of Jesus Christ helped convince the seven churches in Asia that Christ could conquer their internal compromise and external opposition (EI).

### Jesus rules the world! So he can handle your puny problem (MI).

### Main Points

### What’s your view of Jesus?

### Prayer

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**Rick Griffith**

27 October 2013

**The Incomparable Christ**

***Revelation 1***

# Introduction

### Jesus Christ is the most controversial person ever to live.

### Do you know who he is?

### Why should we know that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the world?

### The Asian churches of John’s time suffered both external and internal threats.

### We will answer the question why should we know that Jesus rules the world by answering three other questions:

#### Why read Revelation?

#### Why worship Jesus?

#### Why see Jesus clearly?

# I. Reading and obeying this Revelation of Christ’s sovereignty brings \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_(1:1-3).

## Christ’s sovereignty over future events transmitted to John shows the prophecy as inspired (1:1-2).

## The result of reading and obeying this prophecy is blessing from the God who sees these events as near (1:3).

# II. We should worship the triune God because Christ will soon \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (1:4-8).

## John worships the Trinity before seven churches in Asia to show them Christ’s authority over their lives (1:4-6).

## John cites Christ's second coming as the focus of his prophecy so his readers will look for His coming (1:7).

## John quotes God the Father as Lord of time to show His ability to fulfill all the following prophecies (1:8).

# III. Seeing Christ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ shows He can solve your problems (1:9-20).

## Christ commands the exiled John on Patmos to reveal Christ's sovereignty to the seven churches of Asia (1:9-11).

## John’s vision of the glorified Christ proves He can handle the Church's internal and external problems (1:12-16).

## John records the threefold outline of the prophecy Christ's authority over the seven churches to prepare us for the rest of the book (1:17-20).

# Conclusion

### Revealing the sovereignty of Jesus Christ helped convince the seven churches in Asia that Christ could conquer their internal compromise and external opposition.

### Jesus rules the world! So he can handle your puny problem (Main Idea).

### What’s your view of Jesus?

# Study Questions

1. Read Revelation 1 aloud. How does this prophecy bless readers (1:3)?

No other book reveals the *person of Christ* better than the book of Revelation

We get blessed by *listening* to what it writes

We get blessed by *obeying* what it writes

We get blessed by *staying alert* to watch for Christ’s return

We should imitate the *patient endurance* that John modeled for us (1:9)

1. How do the parallel passages help us better see who Christ really is in 1:12-16 (left column adapted from Warren Wiersbe, *Bible Exposition Commentary*)?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Description** | **Meaning** |
| Christ’s *garments* are those of a Judge-King, One with honor and authority (Dan. 7:9; 10:4-6) | Judges in most nations wear a robe; many pastors also wear robes, if only while serving the Lord’s supper; the gold sash over white robe (Dan. 7:9) indicates his kingly authority |
| The *white hair* symbolizes His *eternality*, “the Ancient of Days” (Dan. 7:9, 13, 22) | Christ is ascribed the same honor as the Ancient of Days since he is God who will rule forever (Dan. 7:14) |
| His *eyes see all* (Rev. 19:12; Heb. 4:12), enabling Him to *judge righteously* | No one else can judge correctly except Christ since no other judge is all knowing—a cause for fear to the wicked and comfort to the righteous |
| His *feet of burning brass* also suggest *judgment*, since the brazen altar was the place where the fire consumed the sin offering. The Lord had come to judge the churches, and He would also judge the evil world system. | We do not judge Jesus but he judges us!  He is our kinsman-redeemer whose role is to avenge |
| The *“sound of many waters”* (Rev. 1:15) means Christ gathers together all the “streams of revelation” and is *the Father’s “last Word” to man* (Heb. 1:1-3) and He *speaks with power and authority and must be heard.* | “The Son radiates God’s own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command” (Heb. 1:3)  One does not debate whether to listen to the water at Niagara Falls! |
| The *sword from His mouth* certainly represents the *living Word of God* (Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17). He fights His enemies by using His Word (Rev. 2:16; 19:19-21). | A sword is a good depiction of God’s Word as it makes immediate judgments; it also both creates (Gen. 1:3) and destroys (Rev. 19:19-21) |

1. What aspect of Christ do you better understand from reading 1:17-18? How does this make a difference in your life?

I will not judge Christ’s decisions he made in my life about work and ministry—instead, He will judge mine!