

- Revelation is summing up the meaning of history through pictures!

Meeting Jesus Today

Revelation 1

Today we start a new series on the first three chapters of the Book of Revelation. Chapters 2 and 3 contain seven letters to seven churches through Asia Minor. But chapter 1 sets it all up, with John seeing Christ Himself.

What would it be like to see Jesus today?

- What would He look like? What would He say?

Introduction to our new series: “Dear Church: The Seven Letters to the Seven Churches”

- Today we read the chapter that sets up the seven letters

[1:1-3] Prologue to the Book of Revelation

[1:4-8] Greeting to the Seven Churches

- These were real churches in Asia (=Asia Minor, modern day Turkey)
- One observation: Christ’s suffering and subsequent glory described three times in this passage (1:5a, 1:5b-1:6, 1:7)
 - From the end of the last sermon series: Jesus taught us that He must suffer and then enter his glory (Luke 24:45-47)

[1:9-18] The Vision of the Glorified Jesus

- John was in the spirit on “The Lord’s Day” (the first day of the week, Sunday, the day Jesus rose from the dead)
- Note what Christ looks like... and John’s reaction... and Christ’s reaction to John

Jesus today: Alive, not dead. Glorified, not suffering humiliation.

Next week: The first letter!

Questions for Reflection and Application:

1. Christ suffered and then entered His glory. Can you find this alluded to three times in 1:5a, 1:5b-1:6, and 1:7? Why is it important that Christ went through these two very different stages?
2. Have you considered what it would be like to visibly meet Jesus today? How have you imagined this?
3. Pastor Mark said Revelation 1 should be especially important in helping us answer this question the best we can. Why? What’s special about this passage? Why is John’s reaction instructive for us, as well as Christ’s reaction to John?