

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Revelation 1:9,12-18.**
- B. Thank-yous and introductory comments.
- C. This series of gospel meetings is not designed to answer every question about the book of Revelation. It is designed to give an introduction to the book so that one may accurately study it further.
- D. We are to never give up (as Xians) because in the end, we win!
(Story of Winston Churchill.)

I. THE PERSECUTION, TRIBULATION AND PERSEVERANCE ARE ALL IN X.

- A. Jesus has told us that will shall have to endure persecution for His name sake. But we are to count it as joy (Mt. 5:10-12).
- B. Paul told Timothy that to live in a godly way means persecution (2Tim. 3:12).
- C. John, begins the book of Revelation, by saying there is persecution for those in X (1:9). John writes, because he is a fellow-partaker in the tribulation and in X.
- D. To begin this great book, John reveals to us, as has been revealed to him--a resurrected X. John gives comfort, strength, and encouragement by showing how great a X we really have.
- E. By the reassurance that Jesus lives, rules, and mediates we can have comfort to know that no matter what happens, we win!

II. THE VICTORIOUS, RESURRECTED CHRIST!

- A. John sees Jesus w/12 different attributes, illustrating the superiority of our Lord.
- B. Although the text does not specifically name Jesus, He is the only one who can fit all of the descriptions mentioned in this text.
- C. The 12 attributes of X:
 - 1. 1:14a, *head and hair white like wool, like snow*;
This suggests eternal life, justice, purity, and wisdom (Dan. 7:9).
"I kept looking Until thrones were set up, And the Ancient of Days took His seat; His vesture was like white snow, And the hair of His head like pure wool. His throne was ablaze with flames, Its wheels were a burning fire.
 - 2. 1:14b, *eyes as a flame of fire*;
These are eyes that miss nothing, see everything (Jn. 2:24,25).
But Jesus, on His part, was not entrusting Himself to them, for He knew all men, and because He did not need anyone to bear witness concerning man for He Himself knew what was in man.
 - 3. 1:15a, *feet unto burnished brass*;
The power to trample, destructive power (Mic. 4:13).
"Arise and thresh, daughter of Zion, For your horn I will make iron And your hoofs I will make bronze, That you may pulverize many peoples, That you may devote to the LORD their unjust gain And their wealth to the Lord of all the earth.
 - 4. 1:15b, *voice like the sound of many waters*;
Powerful (like a waterfall), authoritative, thunderous (Mt. 7:29).
for He was teaching them as one having authority, and not as their scribes.
 - 5. 1:16a, *in His right hand He held seven stars*;
The angels of the seven churches, literally holds the heavens (1:20; Col. 1:16,17).

(1:20) "As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

(Col. 1:16,17) For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities-- all things have been created by Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

6. 1:16b, *out of His mouth a two-edged sword*;
This refers to Jesus' words, in a judgmental sense (Heb. 4:12; Jn. 12:48).
(Heb. 4:12) For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.
(Jn. 12:48) "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day.
7. 1:16c, *His face was like the sun shining in its strength*;
Shows the power, and excellency of Jesus, more than any other (2Cor. 3:7,8).
But if the ministry of death, in letters engraved on stones, came with glory, so that the sons of Israel could not look intently at the face of Moses because of the glory of his face, fading as it was, how shall the ministry of the Spirit fail to be even more with glory?
8. 1:17a, *"I fell down at His feet as a dead man"*;
Jesus is to be worshiped, His glory is so great (Mt. 17:6).
And when the disciples heard this, they fell on their faces and were much afraid.
9. 1:17b, *fear not*;
Jesus gives comfort and peace different from the world (Jn. 14:27; Phil. 4:7).
(Jn. 14:27) "Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives, do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful.
(Phil. 4:7) And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, shall guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.
10. 1:17c, *I am the first and the last*;
The beginning and end of creation, revelation and hope (1:8; Mt. 28:20).
(1:8) "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."
(Mt. 28:20) "...teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."
11. 1:18a, *I am the living one, and I was dead, I am alive forevermore*;
Jesus is alive never to die, building on the resurrection (Jo. 11:25,26).
Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"
12. 1:18b, *I have the keys to death and Hades*;
Do not fear, has power in this world and the next (Mt. 16:18; Rev. 2:10).
(Mt. 16:18) "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build My church; and the gates of Hades shall not overpower it.
(Rev. 2:10b) Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. We can have the assurance of victory because Jesus was victorious over Satan in His resurrection.
- B. Jesus is conqueror of all due to this great description of His power.
- C. Come no matter what, if we shall remain in Jesus, faithful to the end we can have the victory that overcomes the world.
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.