

## **Session 3 The Theme of the Book of Revelation (Rev. 1)**

*For additional study material pertaining to this session, see [mikebickle.org](http://mikebickle.org)*

### **I. INTRODUCTION (REV. 1:1-2)**

*We are on session three in our series on the book of Revelation. This is such an important session. Revelation 1 is really the theme of the whole book. It is all laid out here in Revelation 1. The theme is the majesty of Jesus and His return as The King to take over all the nations. We are going to look at the majesty of Jesus, and His taking over the nations is a very important part of expressing His majesty.*

- A. The book of Revelation is called the *revelation of Jesus* because it first reveals the majesty of His heart and leadership in His plan to transition history to the age to come.

***<sup>1</sup>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. He sent and signified it by His angel to...John. (Rev. 1:1)***

*The book of Revelation is called the revelation of Jesus because it reveals His majesty. It reveals His leadership. It reveals His plan to transition history to the age to come. Imagine that. There is a Jewish Man with a resurrected body at the right hand of the Father, and He has a plan to transition human history on the planet to the age to come. That is a really big idea. He has that plan. He is going to transition history. That is what the end-time plan is about—how He can very strategically transition the planet to the age to come, to the Millennial kingdom.*

*Let's read Revelation 1:1. "The revelation of Jesus"—now this is interesting—"which God gave to Him." God gave Jesus the revelation of Jesus. He said to Jesus, in effect, "You can tell them this much about You" because the revelation of Jesus is so glorious, it is actually under the Father's authority. He said, "You can tell them this much. I give You, I mandate and authorize You, to say this much."*

*Then God gave it to Jesus. The point of the Father saying to Jesus in essence, "Now share this with the angel and share it with Your servant. Show them the things which must shortly take place." So He sent, and He gave this revelation to an angel, and the angel gave it to John. Now, notice that God shows us these things to reveal the Man **behind** the things.*

- B. Second, it is a book about events that will take place in His end-time plan to purify the Church, bring in the harvest, and replace all the evil governments on earth. God's purpose in this book is first to *reveal the Man* behind the plan. Many only see the plan, and miss the Man.

*It is not just a book about the revelation of Jesus, but it is a book about events that take place in His end-time plan to purify the Church. In the book of Revelation, one of the premier subjects is the context in which the Church will be purified to bring in the harvest. Beloved, there is going to be a harvest of over a billion souls, I believe. I believe more than a billion.*

*He will not only purify the Church and bring in the harvest, He is also going to replace all the evil governments on the earth. Now there are different designations for "nations" but there are 232 nations and territories, governmental unities on a national-type level, on the earth. 190 nations at one level or 232 on another. In one day, all the kings of the earth are going to be killed. In one day, Revelation 19, all of them. All the governments of 190 nations or 232 are going to be replaced at one time by this Jewish Man who is fully God and fully Man. That is what the book of Revelation is about.*

*He is going to transition the earth to the age to come with all the glory of the supernatural realm coming to the earth. “The Church purified, the harvest brought in, all the governments changed out, what?!” The book of Revelation is probably the most politically incorrect document on the planet, seriously. There are so many things about this book that are politically incorrect to the humanistic mindset.*

*Well, God’s purpose in the book is first to reveal the Man behind the plan. It is not first the plan; first, it is the Man who is engineering the plan. That is what the book is about, mostly the Man. The story of the Man is told through the plan to purify the Church, bring in the harvest, and replace all the governments of the earth.*

- C. In Revelation 1-3, John reports a visionary experience, highlighting **30 specific descriptions** of Jesus’ majesty, ministry, and personality, along with 18 eternal rewards.
  - 1. We can identify these 30 descriptions from Jesus’ titles, names, appearance, actions, and clothing. For example, His garments show Him as a high priest. His eyes like fire reveal His passion, intensity, judgment, and full knowledge of every situation.
  - 2. There are 24 descriptions in Revelation 1 plus 18 in Revelation 2-3, totaling 42. Since 12 are used in both Revelation 1 and Revelation 2-3, there are 30 distinct descriptions.

*In Revelation 1-3, John has this visionary experience in these three chapters. Well, he does throughout the whole book! In these three chapters, he highlights thirty specific descriptions of Jesus, thirty. It is a treasure hunt to study these thirty descriptions of Jesus. They describe His majesty, His ministry, and His personality. I give you a little bit of detail on that. I have several documents on the website breaking down these descriptions. I mean, what a glorious treasure hunt into the majesty of this Man!*

- D. John gave only abbreviated statements of each description and reward. Each phrase is significant and is but a *hint* that we are to search out more by using the rest of the Bible to get a greater picture of what the Spirit is saying about Jesus. It is like a *menu*, highlighting what the Holy Spirit desires to “feed” the Church related to the glory of Jesus.

*John only gave abbreviated statements. For example, he said, “Jesus the faithful witness, Jesus the firstborn from the dead.” The briefest statement, but the whole Bible unfolds the implications to each one of these statements. Each phrase is but a hint, but it **is** a hint. It is enough if we open the Bible, talk to the Holy Spirit, and even study what other teachers throughout Church history have brought to the table by the teaching anointing. I tell you there is a feast that you cannot get enough of it. I challenge you to go on the treasure hunt of studying these thirty descriptions. I have had the time of my life over the years locking into these thirty saying, “It is amazing who this Man is!”*

- E. Each description and reward communicates a specific insight about Jesus that is necessary in equipping the Church to overcome compromise, endure persecution, and engage in partnership with Jesus in the great end-time drama.

*Each description and the eighteen eternal rewards are mentioned as well. Together they form a pretty exciting subject. The eighteen eternal rewards communicate specific insights that are necessary in equipping the Church. Meaning, the Father did not say, “Jesus, I am going to give You permission, I am going to give You a commission to reveal these things about Yourself because they are irrelevant.”*

*They are there to equip the Church. The book of Revelation is not a peripheral, second-rate document. Some people think, “Well, it is just the book of Revelation.”*

*I say, “Are you kidding? It is the revelation of Jesus. Are you kidding? It is not “just” the book of Revelation. It is necessary! The truths in this book about this Man are designed to equip the Church to overcome compromise, to endure persecution, and to engage in partnership with Jesus in His end-time drama.” Those are three very different things.*

*When I study these thirty descriptions, I get empowered to overcome compromise, I get energized to endure persecution, and I get equipped in order to be in partnership, engaged with Jesus, for what He is doing in my generation. If I happen to be here in the day, in the hour, when these things unfold, which I do not know if I will or will not, but whatever generation is, they will be able to participate in those things.*

*Again, I think we are in the early days of that generation. That is an opinion. That is not a prophecy. That is an opinion. It may not be immediately. It may be a generation or two down the road. It may be longer, or it may be shorter. I do not know. I know do this: things are escalating in a very dramatic way on a global level, things that are in the Bible according to His end-time plan. So we are alerted. We are on red-alert no matter what, even if it goes on longer than we think or it speeds up; we are on red-alert.*

- F. Revelation 1 is the most complete picture of Jesus in the Bible. It describes **who He is** (how He thinks and feels) and **what He does** in His end-time plan. If we read Revelation with the right perspective, it inspires us to adore Jesus and trust His leadership. Here we see what Jesus wants emphasized most about Himself to prepare His Church for the greatest release of His glory.

*Revelation 1 is the most complete picture of Jesus in the Bible in one chapter. There is more insight in these thirty descriptions—it describes who He is, how He thinks, how He feels, and what He does. If you read Revelation with the right perspective, you will adore Jesus more and more. I read the book of Revelation just to learn about Jesus.*

*I went to the Friday night prayer meeting for years, lots of years, in the 1990s, all through the 1990s. Twenty years before IHOP started, we had Friday night prayer meetings. For many years I went to the Friday night prayer meetings, and I do not know how many years I did it, but I read the book of Revelation every Friday night, not to understand the end-time plan—I did not even care about that, to be honest—I just wanted to know the Man. I just said, “Teach me about Jesus.” I was not even thinking about the events. I was thinking about the Man. I just decided for years to read it every Friday night, the whole book of Revelation, and I had a great time. I want you jealous. I want you to say, “Well, if he can, I can.” There you go, I got you! There you go. Go do it then.*

- G. Jesus gave us these insights into His heart and ministry to form the way we pray, prophesy, and serve Him in releasing His glory and warring against evil. With these insights, we will prophesy with a spirit of boldness, tenderness, and confidence, instead of harshness and fear.

*Jesus gave these insights into His heart to form the way that we pray, prophesy, and serve Him. He wants us to use these insights actually to form the way we prophesy. We will prophesy with a very different spirit; we will have a different tone, a different humility, a different boldness, everything by encountering these thirty truths about Him. It will change the way we serve, the way we preach, the way we pray. It will change the way we carry our hearts.*

- H. No aspect of God’s grace more powerfully transforms our emotions or satisfies us than when God the Spirit reveals God to our hearts.

*No aspect of the grace of God more powerfully transforms our hearts than when God the Spirit reveals God to our heart. When God the Holy Spirit reveals God the Son or God the Father. When God reveals God, nothing is more dynamic than that.*

- I. *Is your life goal to enter into the power and pleasure of being obsessed with Jesus' magnificence? I want to be obsessed with His magnificence.*

*Is your life goal—I just put this in here because I love the sentence—is your life goal to enter into the pleasure of being obsessed with the magnificence of Jesus? Is that one of your goals in life, to be obsessed with this Man, with His magnificence? If it is not your goal, you might say, “You know what? I have never thought about it.” Make it your goal. “I want to be obsessed with the magnificence of this Man.”*

- J. Paul gladly gave up everything as he saw the magnificence, or excellence, of Jesus! If we can see what Paul saw about Jesus, then we can live like he lived. Paul would have given up anything to position his heart to gain more insight into Jesus' magnificence and to feel the power of it.

***<sup>8</sup>I count all things loss for the excellence [magnificence] of the knowledge of Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:8)***

- K. The Spirit was given to us to be our escort into the deep things of God's heart. He knows more about Jesus than we can imagine. He will reveal as much of Jesus as we are hungry for. He gives to us based on our hunger for more. He will not force-feed us. I pray, “Holy Spirit, let me see what You see and feel what You feel about Jesus—teach me about Him.”

***<sup>13</sup>“The Spirit...will guide [escort] you...<sup>14</sup>for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.” (Jn. 16:13-14)***

***<sup>10</sup>The Spirit searches...the deep things of God...<sup>12</sup>We have received...the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things that have been freely given to us by God. (1 Cor. 2:10-12)***

*The Holy Spirit will guide us. Jesus said He would guide you. I like to use the words, “He will escort you.” So Jesus is saying in John 16: 13-14, “The Spirit will guide you. He will take the truths about Me, and He will take you by the hand, He will walk you right up that mountain on that treasure journey into who I am. He will escort you, if you want to go.”*

*In 1 Corinthians 2, Paul said that the Spirit would actually share some of the deep things of God. If you are hungry for them, the Holy Spirit will give you some of them. I want the deep things of His heart. I mean my spiritual capacity is not very deep, and God is really deep, but I want what I can take. I want more besides, and I want my capacity to expand.*

*I tell you, the Holy Spirit knows more about Jesus than we can image. He knows so much about Jesus, the Holy Spirit does, more than you and I can imagine. He will reveal as much as we are hungry for. It takes some of those chamber times, like the Song of Solomon. It is going to take time. I tell you, you will never go deep on the run.*

*You know a lot of folks just blow Jesus a kiss on the run. “I love You! See You next week, next month, and, hey, please anoint me in this next meeting, please. Catch You later. Love You Bro!” That is how a lot of people approach Jesus. “I love You, Man. I mean, You're the greatest. Please help me out. Talk to you next month.” “Anoint my song, anoint my sermon, make my book get famous, please. Give me more money, get me more friends, let that girl like me, please.”*

Somebody may say, “Well, boy, he knows some of us.” No, it is not that I know you—I **was** you. I was not born fifty-eight. I was eighteen once and twenty-two and all of those other ages. Anyway, I got the girl, I really did. Yeah, I would like to say, well, this is true, when I was at the University of Missouri, I was on the football team, and I prayed, “Lord, let me score touchdowns. Let me get good grades, and let me get the girl.” I did not score any touchdowns, I did not make good grades, but I did get the girl! I really did.

- L. The Spirit is raising up those who will proclaim the riches of Jesus. The most neglected subject in the kingdom of God is God Himself. We must not only teach on topics such as leadership, relationships, economic principles, ministry skills, how to be happier, etc., but on Jesus Himself.

<sup>8</sup>**To me...grace was given that I should preach...the unsearchable riches of Christ. (Eph. 3:8)**

*The Holy Spirit is raising up those who will proclaim the riches of Jesus. Paul said he was anointed to preach the riches of a Man. Do you have a vision to experience the riches and to make them known through song, through dance, through social media, through one-on-one discipling, through fellowshiping, through writing? Do you have a vision to make the riches of Jesus known to people?*

*The most neglected subject in the kingdom of God is God. It is true. We know God’s blessings, and we know all kinds of things about God. It is God Himself that is the most neglected subject in the kingdom, the being of God, the riches of the Person.*

- M. In Revelation 1, Jesus is seen as the *Son of Man* who leads the Church through history as *Prophet, Priest, and King*. These truths are to equip the church (Rev. 2-3) to be faithful to Him.

<sup>13</sup>**...One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet. (Rev. 1:13)**

*In Revelation 1, the premiere idea is Jesus seen as the Son of Man. That is a big subject, the Son of Man. Daniel the prophet was the first one to talk about the Messiah as the Son of Man. It is a big subject. Again, we have a little bit on the mikebickle.org website on this Jesus, the Son of Man. It is one of the premiere descriptions of the Messiah, and many subjects are connected to Jesus as the Son of Man.*

1. Jesus used the title *Son of Man* more than any other when speaking of Himself (85 references). When He spoke of Himself as the Son of Man, He was proclaiming the two most important truths about Himself, that He was both fully God and fully human. In using this title, Jesus was saying, “I am fully God, yet fully human. I am one of you.”

*Jesus used the title eighty-five times. He used the title **the Son of Man** more than any other title, more than Savior or Healer or anything. He used the Son of Man referring to Daniel’s vision in Daniel 7. In calling Himself the Son of Man, He was declaring, “I am both fully God and fully Man,” and that was a new idea. They knew the Messiah would be special, but the Son of Man from Daniel 7 is fully God and fully Man, if you think it all the way through. When He said, “I am that Man that Daniel saw,” they stopped and said, “Wait a second, that is a really big claim You are making right now!”*

2. As the *Son of Man* He stood before the throne of God to be commissioned by the Father (Ancient of Days) to rule all the nations on earth (Dan. 7:13-14).

<sup>13</sup>**“Behold, One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven...<sup>14</sup>Then to Him was given dominion...His dominion is an everlasting dominion. (Dan. 7:13-14)**

- N. In Revelation 1, Jesus' leadership in the Church is seen as the **righteous prophet, merciful priest, and sovereign king**. However, as the book unfolds, His leadership is openly revealed before all the nations at the end of the age in Revelation 19-22 as the **Bridegroom, King, and Judge**.
- O. In Revelation 19-22, the righteous prophet is seen in greater light as the **zealous judge**, the merciful priest as the **passionate Bridegroom**, and the **sovereign king** reigning on the throne.

## II. A SUMMARY OF THE THEME OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION (REV. 1:1-8)

*The summary of the theme of Revelation, particularly in verses 1-8, breaks down to about seven or eight or nine themes that all work together. Then the rest of Revelation 1 just unveils His majesty, because the theme is the majesty of Jesus and Him taking over all the nations of the earth as King of kings. Let's go through it a little bit slower, the revelation of Jesus, which God gave Him to show His servants the things that must take place.*

- A. The Father's commission to make known specific truths about Jesus (Rev. 1:1)

***<sup>1</sup>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John. (Rev. 1:1)***

- 1. ***Things***: Jesus revealed "things," or events, yet to come. The Father selected these events to emphasize; He revealed just a few of the events that will occur in the generation in which Jesus returns—the ones He considered especially strategic.

*Jesus revealed things, events. These events were very specially selected, strategically selected, by the Father. He is the One who identified these events. I do not know the number, but there are thousands and thousands of events, whether big or small or in-between, that could have been highlighted. The Father only picked a very small percent of the events that will occur in the generation the Lord returns, a very small percent.*

*I do not know the number, but there are multitudes of events, and the Father says, "I want you just to focus on these." So when you read the book of Revelation, you might think there are a lot of events, but the Father could say or the Spirit might whisper to us and say, "You think that is a lot? That is a really small percent of what the Father could have revealed."*

*So my point being, these events are very strategic. They are not peripheral, meaning secondary, on the side, not really important. They reveal Jesus, and they reveal the strategic events that God wanted the Church to know. That is why I take this book very seriously.*

*Now a lot of Bible teachers—I honor them, I really do honor their life in God and their teaching ministry, many guys I could think of—they think most of these events are just symbolic. I am really convinced they are really wrong about that, but they are godly men and women, and they teach many wonderful things. Reducing these events to just symbolism that does not really matter, to me is just such a tragic loss in terms of the revelation of the glory of this Man.*

*If you read a book or somebody comes along and says, "Well, they are all just symbolic; that is all poetry anyway, and nobody knows what any of it means," say in your heart, "No, this is my inheritance to know what these things mean and to understand them."*

2. **God gave to Jesus:** The Father “gave” revelation to Jesus, and mandated that He show His servants these events. Jesus commissioned His angel to show the events to John; thus we know that the Father wants His servants to be familiar with them. We are to talk about them and not ignore them. This is in itself a mandate to study the book of Revelation.

*God gave these to Jesus. In giving them to Jesus He was in essence mandating Him, saying, “Hey, show these.” He identified the strategic events, and He was saying, “I want My people to know these.” Thus the Father wants the servants of God to be familiar with these events. Are you familiar with the events of the book of Revelation that reveal the glory of the Man you love?*

*Now my point is not that you say, “Oh no! I have never read the book of Revelation in the last ten years.” I want to stir up your attention, your holy zeal and imagination. These events are meant to be understood, though not in all of their detail. We will not see the fullness of many of them until after we look back in history, after the Lord returns. We will say, “Oh man! Wow, it was bigger than I thought! There were more details than I thought.”*

*My point is, if God the Father said, “Jesus, here are the events I strategically picked, and I want You to show Your servants, and I want them written down, and I want My people to be familiar with them,” then we are to talk about them. We are not to ignore them. The very fact that the Father gave these events to Jesus to reveal to His servants is a mandate to study the book of Revelation. It is a mandate to study the book. If you love the Man, study the book about Him.*

*Now it is not the only book; it is the whole Bible, Genesis to Revelation. I love the four Gospels; they are my favorites. I love the Bible; that is my favorite. I love Revelation. I love Acts; that is my favorite too. The Psalms are my favorite, and the Prophets—oh, I love the Prophets! Anyway, my point is that we do not have to pick and choose. We want the whole feast. The very fact that God gave these to Jesus is a mandate for us to understand them; that is my point.*

- B. Scripture promises a blessing for anyone who reads or hears this prophecy (Rev. 1:3). This blessing is within reach of all, but it is one of the most neglected blessings in the Church today.

**<sup>3</sup>Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy. (Rev. 1:3)**

*Revelation 1:3 says, “Blessed is the one who reads and hears.” This is the only book in the Bible where God actually promises a blessing. I mean there is obviously a blessing if we read the Bible. Joshua 1, there is a blessing if we meditate on the Scripture.*

*But this book has a blessing in a unique way. The Holy Spirit said some unique things about the book. He said that if you read it, you will be blessed, and if you change it, you will be cursed forever. Like, “Do not change the book of Revelation.” I mean, what other book of the Bible is there an identified blessing if you read it and an identified curse if you change it? Wow, that is intense! Like, Lord, what is this book to You?*

*There is a reason people throughout church history have written it off as unimportant and unable to understand. There is a blessing that is within the reach of every believer. It is within the reach of every single one of you in this room. Do not buy into the lie that this book is too confusing for you. It means what it says, it says what it means, and it is meant to be taken at face value except where it indicates it is symbolic. It indicates that a number of times, but the passage makes it clear it is symbolic there. It means what it says and says what it means.*

*Someone says, “Well, what you think the 144,000 mean?”*

*I say, “It means 144,000.”*

*“What do you think the angel that blew the trumpet means?”*

*“It is an angel who blows a trumpet, really it is.”*

*One of the most neglected blessings in the Church today is the blessing on this book, to read it. Notice it says, to him who reads and to those who hear. Now “to hear” does not mean to play a CD at night and hear it all night long, although I think that is a great idea if you want to do that. I know people who do that. I think that is amazing. I have never done it, but I think that is great they do it. But this means more than hear it on a CD.*

*You know the number one teaching of Jesus in the Bible? This might be surprising, but the teaching that Jesus gave more than any other teaching, He said this, “To him that has ears, let him hear.” He says it in the Gospel, and He says it a number of times in the book of Revelation. That is the number one repeated teaching of Jesus. He that has ears let him hear.*

*What is being said here is those who read the book and those who hear—in other words, those who lean into it and seek for living understanding. It is not talking about just hearing it on a CD; it is talking about more than that. The person who is leaning into it, who says, “Holy Spirit, none of us are going to fully understand it, but I want a spirit of living understanding about this book.” John said that you are blessed if you have a growing hearing, a growing understanding of this book.*

- C. This information was given to John to give to the churches (Rev. 1:4). John was commanded twelve times to write this prophecy for the benefit of the Church (Rev. 1:11, 19; 2:1, 8, 12, 18; 3:1, 4, 14; 14:13; 19:9; 21:5). This was to be taught in the churches. It can be understood by all.

***<sup>4</sup>John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: grace to you and peace from Him... (Rev. 1:4)***

*This information was given to John to give to the churches. And twelve times John was commanded to write it. God wants the Church to know it and read it; it is not secondary. This was to be taught in the churches because it can be understood.*

*Now note, look what it says in verse 4, “John to the churches” because it is for the Church. You know most of the Church through history were poor and illiterate peasants? Most of the Church through history—I am talking about 2,000 years—were not PhDs, they were not wealthy, they were not highly educated. The majority through history were just the poor of the earth, most of them illiterate, I am talking about 2,000 years of church history. Not all of them by any means, but a large number. I do not know the number, of course. My point is this book was for them to read and to be blessed if they read it, if they were in that journey of understanding it, even a little bit. My point is that it is within reach.*

- D. ***Grace and peace:*** Using the truths in the book of Revelation, God will impart peace to overcome fear and grace to resist compromise. Fear and compromise are two temptations in the book.

*Now notice he says, “grace and peace to you from Him.” The truths in this book will impart peace to overcome fear. One of a number of things that will be happening in the generation the Lord returns, although this has been true for 2,000 years, is that grace will be imparted to people to overcome fear when they study the Jesus of this book. Again in some ways studying Jesus in any book of the Bible will release grace and peace to your heart.*

*John is talking about in context to the events that happen in this book in the generation in which Jesus returns. The fear will be so intense! Luke 21:26 says that men will faint for fear. People will have heart attacks because*

of fear. John tells us here that there will be peace. The truths related about Jesus in this book will actually give us peace, and this book does not make us fearful. People think, “Well, if you read the book, you will be fearful.” I say that it is the opposite. Do not let the devil steal this out of your heart! You will have fear if you **do not** read the book, **not if you do**. Thinking it will cause fear is exactly the opposite of what the Bible says.

We will have grace to resist compromise as well. Fear and compromise are two of the primary issues that this book describes in the generation the Lord returns. People will be tempted with compromise and yielding to fear. He says, “Grace and peace.” You read this book and that will be given to you.

### III. THE FATHER IS COMING TO THE EARTH (REV. 1:4)

- A. A key to living with confidence is to see the Father’s involvement and commitment to the earth. The phrase “[He] who is and who was and who is to come” depicts God’s relationship to the earth, though it includes far more than that. The Father is coming to the earth.

<sup>4</sup>...*peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come.* (Rev. 1:4)

<sup>3</sup>*The tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them [on the earth].* (Rev. 21:3)

Now notice these three descriptions of the Father. He is described as the God who is, the God who was, and the God who is to come. Now this phrase, **who is, who was, and is to come** is depicting God’s relationship to the earth. When it says He is to come, it does not mean He is going to come to heaven. He is in heaven. There are only three realms. There is the heavenly realm where God’s throne is, there is the demonic realm, and there is the earthly realm. When it says, He who is to come, it is talking specifically about the Father coming to the earth.

I have talked to people over the years and have asked, “What do you think, where is the Father going to go?”

They answer, “I do not know. It is just kind of poetry, I think.”

“No, no! He is coming to the earth. You know Jesus is going to return whenever He does, then there is a 1,000-year reign, and then at the end of the 1,000 years the Father comes to the earth. Jesus is coming to prepare the nations for the Father to come.”

Did you know the Father is coming to the earth? People have this idea we are going to die and go to heaven, and we do die and go to heaven. That is, between the first and second coming of Jesus, believers die and go to heaven. At the second coming, heaven is coming to earth, and the New Jerusalem is coming down. Heaven is coming down. So the earthly and the heavenly realm will actually be joined together. After a 1,000-year reign Jesus when prepared the nations, the Father will actually have His throne on this earth. I mean that is just like, “What? Where is that in the Bible?”

“Oh, I am glad you asked. I mean one of His main titles is **the God who is to come**. He is not talking about coming to hell where the demonic realm is. He is not talking about coming to heaven; He is already there. He is coming to **earth**.”

This description is not limited to His relationship to the earth, but that is the focus in the book of Revelation. Now notice Revelation 21:3. We all know the verse, “Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them.” That verse is not talking about God dwelling with people in heaven; He already is. That verse is about God dwelling with people on the earth.

One theory says that He comes to the new heaven and new earth, as this one will be annihilated. There are two different theories, which I will not go into right now, annihilation or renovation, and there are a lot of verses to

back up each of them. Some scholars say this earth will be annihilated after the millennial kingdom. It is burned, and it is thrown away and a new one made. Others say this earth will be renovated, made completely new. I believe it is renovation, not annihilation, I believe it is actually this rock, this 8,000-mile diameter rock. The Father is coming to this one. There are a lot who have that position. Some take the other position. There are good arguments for both of them. I believe He is actually coming to this planet.

When God said in Genesis 1, “It is good,” He meant it is good. The devil did not defeat God in His plan for the earth. I believe the earth is going to be completely made new, the heavens and earth. I believe it will be this very earth, and the Father will come to it. The full dimension of the heavenly realm, the supernatural realm of heaven, and the full physical, material realm of the earth will come together. You will have a physical, material resurrected body with all the properties of the supernatural living on the earth, really eating real physical food.

You will have an elbow; you will have bones. Jesus after the resurrection said, “Look, do I not have flesh and bones?” Now it is supernatural flesh. When I hug you in the age to come, I will not just like pass through you—whoops-whew, let’s try it again, whoa! and you go right through—no, you will have a physical, material body. The Father’s throne is coming to the earth.

The reason I am making a big point about that is not only because it is mentioned a number of times, but also so we can live with confidence. When you know that what you are doing—I am talking about the little things, the giving to someone a cup of cold water, the obedience and humility in secret, everything we are doing in obedience—that the smallest, unknown thing has continuity with this great purpose of the Father coming to earth. When I take a step back, I think it is amazing where we are going on the earth. I am a part of it, and you are a part of it. Beloved, it is amazing.

- B. The Father is committed to the earth. This is our hope. Our life focus and confidence is that He is coming to the earth and that what we are doing contributes to that in a small yet real way.

*Oh, the life focus and confidence that we can live in when we know the Father is coming to the earth. What we are doing in this age, though in the smallest way, still contributes to that big, big picture. We all have a part to play, all the believers through history. It is a fantastic reality.*

- C. **Who was:** The Father has been deeply involved with the earth from before its foundations in Genesis 1. He has worked out His plans from the beginning and has been involved all along the way. He has been deeply involved, in the present tense, throughout every hour of human history.

*He is not only the God who is to come, He is the God who was. When the scripture talks about God who was, it is speaking about how He was deeply involved in the earth **before** its foundations. So the God who was is not just an abstract. He actually was. What does that mean? I do not know, He just was. It is talking about His relationship to the earth. He was deeply involved with the earth from its foundations. He has been working out a plan from the very beginning. He is the God who was.*

*He is not saying, “Oh, yeah, I have to come up with something for the earth. Yeah, let Me think...a lot of people down there...if they are going to get in a mess...let Me think, just give Me a minute. I will come up with something.” No, He is the God who was deeply involved with the earth and the whole setting up according to His order with a plan in place.*

- D. **Who is:** The Father is currently involved in human history. History is on course; it is not aimless. It is on a purposeful trajectory, moving steadily to fulfill God’s ultimate purposes.

*He is the God who is. He is in the present tense, currently involved in human history and in your life. He is the God who is now actively involved, He is the God who had plans back then. He was deeply involved back then, He is now, and He is coming to the earth. The plan is remarkable, and the book of Revelation is about Jesus coming to prepare the way for the Father to come.*

*The Father has had plans in the past, present, and future that are all intact. We are a part of something really big. Some guy says, “Well, it is just not worth it anymore.”*

*I counter, “That is a lie straight from hell! It is worth it.”*

*“There is this despair in the nations on many believers. It is not worth it.”*

*I say, “Who are you listening to? Are you going to be rich and famous and a great this and that? Probably not in this age, but does the Father see and does it matter to Him? Yes, He does, and it does. Therefore it is worth it. It does not mean that everybody will appreciate you or that you will have some big, big thing happen that others will recognize in this age. That is not what ‘worth it’ means. ‘Worth it’ means, does it matter to God and does it have continuity with what He is doing? Yes, it is worth it. It is a lie to say otherwise.”*

*I heard some preacher say this once, and I have said it to different folks who are really struggling with suicide. I say, “Let me tell you something about suicide. You pull the trigger, and within five seconds you will be fully conscious forever. You are not going into oblivion. You will be as conscious as you are now, in seconds.”*

*They respond, “Oh, I just thought I would just kind of... and it would all go away.”*

*“Oh no, you will be really awake a second or two later or sooner.”*

*When people hear that they say, “Huh. Well, I was just thinking I would go into kind of a celestial nap for a while, and kind of get rested up, and then take another shot at it later.” No, it does not work that way.*

*We are a part of something magnificent, even though it is small and hard. Our lot in this age, our assignment, though it is not celebrated by others, is not noticed by others, and we feel like a failure, the Lord says, “Keep reaching, keep pressing in, keep seeking to obey Me. It matters to Me. The whole thing will make sense when you see it.” The book of Revelation really points that out.*

#### **IV. THE HOLY SPIRIT IS BEFORE THE FATHER (REV. 1:4)**

A. The Holy Spirit is described in His great diversity, position of honor, and posture of humility.

<sup>4</sup>*...peace from Him...and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne. (Rev. 1:4)*

*The Holy Spirit is described as the One before the throne. The seven spirits before the throne. Wow, what a statement! This describes the Holy Spirit and His great diversity, His great position of honor, and His posture of humility. He is the Spirit who is before the throne. There is honor, humility, and diversity in that phrase before the throne.*

B. **Seven Spirits:** The one Holy Spirit is described as the seven Spirits to emphasize His great diversity in function and ability (Isa. 11:2; Rev. 3:1; 4:5; 5:6; cf. Zech. 3:9; 4:10).

<sup>2</sup>*The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. (Isa. 11:2)*

*It is one Holy Spirit, but He is described as “the seven spirits” to emphasize His diversity in function and His diversity in His abilities, which is really similar to function. He has so many functions and so many abilities.*

The term, the seven spirits, is a reference to Isaiah 11, where God the Holy Spirit's function is given in seven different capacities. Counting the first one, "the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, the Messiah, Jesus the Son of David," that is number one and is the anointing of the Spirit. Then there are six more descriptions after that.

- C. ***Before the throne***: The Holy Spirit is "before" the throne, speaking of His position of supreme honor and power as God, and of His posture of serving the Father's plan with humility.

*When it says, "He is before the throne," this denotes His position of supreme honor. He is God. He is before the throne. I mean you cannot just go before the throne. That is an amazing statement of supreme honor, and **that** is the One living in you, who will teach you. If you will talk with Him, He will teach you many things. He is the One who lives before the throne. Wow! Holy Spirit, I want to be more respectful, and I want to cherish You more and respect You more, since that is who You are, and You dwell inside of me.*

*This also depicts His posture of humility. He is before the Father as a servant, at His every beck and call to go do the will of God in a way that draws attention to the Father and the Son. So He is there in that servant attitude before the throne.*

## V. THREE FOUNDATIONAL TITLES OF JESUS (REV. 1:5)

- A. John highlighted three primary truths about Jesus (v. 5) and elaborated on them (v. 10-20). This description of Jesus is foundational to understanding and responding to God's plan in Revelation.

***<sup>5</sup>...from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. (Rev. 1:5)***

*John highlighted which I consider to be the three primary truths about Jesus that are elaborated in the remainder of Revelation 1. There are three truths that are highlighted more the other ones, and they are the foundation for the other truths. The other truths are seen through this grid.*

*Number one is the first description of Jesus in the book of Revelation. He is called the faithful witness. What a statement! It is like the Father is saying to the Son, "When You show Yourself to John, emphasize Yourself as the faithful witness. Make that first." There are many implications to this because we are called to be faithful witnesses as well.*

*Number two, He is the firstborn from the dead. Number three, He is the ruler of the kings of the earth. The truths in verse 10-20 elaborate on these three. These are the three foundational truths in the book of Revelation through which I believe we understand Jesus. These are three big themes that you see throughout the book.*

- B. ***Faithful witness***: Jesus told the truth about God, man, Israel, culture, the end times, etc. Jesus embodied truth in His life and courageously spoke truth out of loyal love to His Father. This is Jesus' first title in the book, and imitating Him in this is one of our more important challenges.
1. Jesus was the faithful witness in His earthly ministry (Rev. 1:5; 3:7, 14; 19:11). He revealed the truth and took a stand for it, regardless of the cost. It resulted in His death.
  2. Jesus did not hold back the negative (rebukes or declarations of judgment) or exaggerate the positive (affirmations or promises). He spoke without regard for criticism or loss.

*He is a faithful witness. Jesus told the truth about God. I tell you the cultural wars that are happening right now, things are really heating up in the cultural wars. Even good men and women of God are now backing away and getting shy in telling the truth about God, “Well, it is the same God in every religion leading to the same place.” No, it is not! The God of Israel, the God of the Lord Jesus is not the same god of Islam and Hinduism and Buddhism. He is not! That is a complete lie.*

*Jesus told the truth about God, and He told the truth about man. He told truths that are negative; He told truths that are positive. We do not want to hear the truth about man. Jesus told the truth about culture. He told the truth about Israel. Israel did not like what He said about Israel on one side, and the Gentiles—the Arabs and all the others—do not like what He said about Israel on the other side. Most people, Jew or Gentile, believer or unbeliever, do not like what Jesus says about Israel. He tells the truth though. I want to line up with the truth.*

*He tells the truth about the end times. The enemy does not want us telling the truth about the end times. He just wants us to think, “I do not get all of that... That is not what I am really... It is all going to pan out anyway...” The Bible tells us the truth, many themes about the end times. Jesus said, “I will tell the truth.” They killed Him because He told the truth.*

*They did not kill Him because He did miracles. They killed Him because His miracles drew attention to what He was teaching. It was what He said that got Him killed. I believe that being a faithful witness is the most challenging part of the book that we are mandated to imitate: to be faithful witnesses. I mean the day is coming, well, the day is already here, but it is going to get really uncomfortable in the days ahead to tell the truth about culture, about sexuality, about homosexuality, about marriage, about hell, about the one way of salvation, about the nations. It is going to be really costly to tell the truth, but He requires that we do.*

- C. ***Firstborn among the dead***: Jesus is preeminent in authority over the supernatural realm as its human heir. He occupies the first place of authority and honor as the firstborn of creation. This does not mean He was the first one created, but rather that He is first in *cause and authority*. Power over creation “begins” with Him. He is the first man with a resurrected body, and is in the position of the firstborn son as the unique heir of God. He is the *firstborn* from the dead and the *firstfruits* of those who have died (1 Cor. 15:23).

***<sup>15</sup>He is...the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup>By Him all things were created...<sup>18</sup>He...is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (Col. 1:15-18)***

*The first theme, He tells the truth. Well, He more than tells the truth—He is the truth! The next of the three major themes that are highlighted: He is preeminent in authority over the supernatural realm; He is the firstborn from the dead. That means He has more authority in the realm of the spirit than any other man. He is the firstborn; the firstborn does not mean He is the first one born. It means He has the position of preeminence. That is what firstborn means, first in authority.*

*He has more authority in the realm of the spirit than anyone else under the Father. That is, as a Man, He has authority over all the angels, over all the demons, over all the humans. One Man, Jesus, has all the authority; He is the firstborn from the dead.*

- D. ***Ruler of the kings of the earth***: Jesus is preeminent in authority over the earthly realm of government. The theme of the book of Revelation is that Jesus is returning to earth to rule all the nations as King of all kings (Rev. 1:5, 7; 11:15; 15:3; 19:16; 21:24). In the Millennium, all the kings of the earth will be saved and worship Him (Ps. 72:11; 102:15; 138:4; 148:11; Isa. 62:2).

***<sup>11</sup>All kings shall fall down before Him; all nations shall serve Him. (Ps. 72:11)***

*He is the ruler over the kings of the earth. He is not only preeminent in authority in the supernatural realm, but He is preeminent in authority in the earthly realm as well. One Man has the preeminent authority in both realms, and it is the Man who is the faithful witness, the Man who tells the truth even when it costs Him everything to tell the truth.*

## **VI. JESUS, LOVED US AND MADE US KINGS AND PRIESTS (REV. 1:5-6)**

- A. Jesus uses His position of honor as heir in the realm of the spirit and ruler of the earth to express love to us by qualifying us to draw close to God and by exalting us to rule with Him.

***<sup>5</sup>To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup>and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father... (Rev. 1:5-6)***

*The Man who has total authority in the realm of the spirit, the firstborn of the dead, the Man with all the authority over the kings of the earth in the earthly realm, He used His position of honor as the number one Man in the realm of the spirit, the number one Man in the realm of the earth, to express His love for us.*

*I mean, what would He do if He had all the authority, all the power, all the wisdom? He would die so that He could bring you close to Him as kings and priests forever. That is what He would do if He had all the power and all the authority. That is what He did. He used it for love to qualify us, and to draw us close to God, That is the idea. He gave His life so that we could draw close to God as priests, then He exalted us to rule with Him as kings. He drew us near. We are going to be closer to God the Father and to the Son than the angels are. Jesus gave His life so we would be priests. We can come right near to God as His family forever. We cross a line the angels do not cross. The angels do not step over the line to become family, the sons of God, the Bride of Christ, as priests whom He exalts to rule with Him.*

- B. We see a threefold description of His high priestly ministry for us. He loved us—desired us as His Bride. He washed us—cleansed us. He qualified us—to relate closely to God as priests. He exalted us by including us as kings in His reign.
- C. Jesus will govern the earth in partnership with resurrected saints (Rev. 2:26-27; 3:21; 5:10; 20:4-6; 22:5; cf. Mt. 19:28; 20:21-23; 25:23; Lk. 19:17-19; 22:29-30; Rom. 8:17; 1 Cor. 6:2-3).

***<sup>4</sup>I saw thrones, and they sat on them...and reigned with Christ for a thousand years...<sup>6</sup>They shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years. (Rev. 20:4-6)***

## **VII. JESUS IS COMING TO THE EARTH (REV. 1:7-8)**

- A. The primary theme and storyline in the book of Revelation is Jesus coming to the earth on the clouds to be received as king. His kingship will be announced and asserted over every nation as His royal procession in the sky is seen by every eye (Mt. 24:30; Rev. 1:7). Jesus will come to the earth to create the context for the Father to come (Rev. 1:4, 8; 21:3).

***<sup>7</sup>Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. (Rev. 1:7)***

***<sup>30</sup>“And then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” (Mt. 24:30)***

*The primary theme and the storyline of the book of Revelation is that Jesus is coming to earth on clouds. Look at this. This is one of my favorite verses. Of course I have a hundred favorite verses! You know that is how it works. Every eye will see Him, all the tribes of the earth will mourn. This is remarkable: every eye will see Him. His Kingship will be announced and asserted over every tribe and tongue and nation on the earth. I believe there will be a royal procession of Jesus, with all the angels, flaming fire, the glory of the Father, all the saints. He is at the front. Think of billions of angels, several billion saints, all those freshly resurrected bodies all behind Him. It says, in flaming fire, the glory of the Father, and He is going across the earth. Every single eye will see Him.*

*I have had a guy say, “Well, that must be on TV.”*

*I replied, “Really? If you have Genesis 1 on your resumé, do you need TV for the earth to see you? Really? I don’t think so.”*

*Someone says, “What does it mean, every eye will see Him?”*

*It means, **every eye** will see Him. I do not know how long it will take. I do not know, but the people in the Northern hemisphere, the Southern hemisphere, in the east and the west, every tribe, every island, every human will see Him. It is going to take more than three minutes for that to happen. I do not know how, but He is coming as a King in a procession to announce and assert His royal claim over every tribe and tongue of the earth. Wow!*

*We will be resurrected and raptured in mid-air, and we will be with Him. He is going to wave over New Zealand a little bit. You might say, “Hey, I never saw that island before. How are you guys doing down there?” No, it does not really work that way.*

*All the tribes will see him, all of them. They will mourn when they see Him because the saints have been raptured, resurrected mid-air, and with Him in the air. All the other folks on the earth, they are mourning when they say, “Oh no, we chose the wrong team.” Seriously, this is not a joke.*

- B. All unbelievers in all the nations will see Him. Mourning describes either their repentance unto salvation (Zech. 12:10) or remorse over their coming judgment (Rev. 1:7; 16:9, 11, 21).

*There will be two groups of people on the earth after the saints are raptured, and they will all mourn. Mourning describes either their repentance or their remorse. There are the unsaved survivors of the Great Tribulation who resisted the Antichrist. They did not say yes to Jesus or to the Antichrist. I call them the resisters. They resisted the Antichrist, and they resisted salvation. When they see Jesus, they will mourn unto salvation. They can be saved. The door of salvation is not closed to them. They will mourn with repentance unto salvation. Those that took the mark of the beast, they will mourn with remorse because their judgment is sure and it is right then.*

*Jesus is a Man with a resurrected body coming to rule over the earth, He is going to land in Jerusalem, set up His throne, put His throne there forever, and the nations will go on another 1,000 years. Of the unsaved survivors of the Great Tribulation, a number of them will get saved. Those that took the mark of the beast will be judged and executed. They will all mourn. One group will be remorseful; the other group will be repentant.*

## **VIII. JESUS, THE SON OF MAN: LIVING FASCINATED (REV. 1:9-20)**

- A. John was not focused on his limitations and tribulations; he was awestruck. The Body of Christ is so familiar with “the God that we hardly know” that we are tempted to stay focused on our lonely “prison island” instead of turning to hear the voice of the Man who alone can fascinate us.

<sup>9</sup>I, John...was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God...<sup>12</sup>I turned to see the voice that spoke...and having turned I saw...<sup>13</sup>One like the Son of Man. (Rev. 1:9-13)

B. Jesus revealed His majesty as the Son of Man who is Prophet, Priest, and King (Rev. 1:13-17).

<sup>14</sup>His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

<sup>15</sup>His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters...<sup>16</sup>out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. <sup>17</sup>When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. (Rev. 1:14-17)

Jesus was revealed in His majesty as the Son of Man. Here He is revealed as the Son of Man, laid out with all of these details. He is the Faithful Witness, the firstborn of the dead, with all the authority in the realm of the spirit, faithful, the ruler of the kings of the earth, all the authority over the governments of the earth. He is the Son of Man. He is Prophet, Priest, and King.

C. **Jesus' eyes:** His "eyes like fire" speak of His burning desire of love, His intensity, and His knowledge that penetrate all things as fire penetrates metal. They speak of His ability to see everything, to feel love for us, to impart love to us, and to destroy all that hinders love.

<sup>14</sup>...His eyes like a flame of fire. (Rev. 1:14)

Again, we have quite a bit of material on the website on these different facets of Jesus' beauty. Tonight my goal is just to stir up hunger in you for Revelation 1, to really go after Revelation 1. To say, "I am going to really learn this chapter in as much as I can learn it, you know, in our imperfect understanding."

His eyes speak of His burning desire of love. He has eyes of fire; they speak of His love, His burning desire. They speak of His intensity. They also speak of His judgment, but they speak of His burning desire for love as well. He has eyes of fire when He looks at His people. He loves them as the God of fire.

D. **Jesus' voice:** He speaks to gather His people, warn of judgment, and announce His return.

<sup>10</sup>A loud voice, as of a trumpet...<sup>15</sup>His voice as the sound of many waters. (Rev. 1:10, 15)

E. **Jesus' hair:** Jesus' head and hair are white as wool and snow, indicating the Father's glory. God's white garments and hair speak of His eternal existence, purity, and wisdom (Dan. 7:9).

<sup>14</sup>His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow. (Rev. 1:14)

His white hair indicates the Father's glory. It is the same description as the Father from Daniel 7. He is like His Father was when Daniel saw Jesus as the Son of Man next to His Father.

F. **Jesus' garments:** Jesus is seen as our High Priest, being clothed in priestly robes. Jesus, the glorious Son of Man, is also the sympathetic, tender High Priest who understands us (Heb. 4:15).

<sup>13</sup>...clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded...with a golden band. (Rev. 1:13)

G. **Jesus' right hand:** Jesus holding the seven stars (His leaders) speaks of His promise to anoint, direct, and protect them. He is tender towards us even when we feel inadequate.

<sup>16</sup>In His right hand seven stars...<sup>20</sup>The seven stars are the angels [messengers]... (Rev. 1:16, 20)

H. **Jesus' feet and sword:** As King He puts all things under His feet and uses His sword to remove all resistance to His rule (Rev. 19:15-16). His Word is compared to a sword (Eph. 6:17).

<sup>15</sup>*His feet were like fine brass...<sup>16</sup>Out of His mouth went a two-edged sword... (Rev. 1:15-16)*

I. **Jesus' countenance:** Jesus' glorious radiance exhilarates the saints and destroys His enemies.

<sup>16</sup>*His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. (Rev. 1:16)*

J. **A-R-K:** We apply the truths about Jesus in Revelation 1 to our lives in three ways:

*I have this little acronym ARK, A-R-K, and again there is a bit more on the website about it. I like to apply the truths about Jesus and these thirty descriptions of Him. I use these three responses.*

1. **Agreement:** Make *declarations of agreement* to Jesus as the faithful witness. Pray, "Jesus, You are the faithful witness. You took a stand with courage and love. I believe You."

*First, A for agreement: here I like just to say these descriptions. I like to declare them to Jesus, like "You are the Faithful Witness." Say it with gratitude and affection. "I love You as the Faithful Witness. I love that about You." I like to tell Him what the Bible says is true about Him.*

*How many times have you thanked Jesus that He is the firstborn from the dead? If you have never done it—I am not saying every time you do it that you will have the most dramatic experience—but when I thank Him and agree with Him for who He is, I feel the Spirit, not every time, but a lot of times. It is wonderful to talk to Jesus with the Holy Spirit, and you talk together. It is a beautiful thing. It is a great way to live. It is a great way to spend your Friday evenings.*

2. **Revelation:** "Reveal Yourself to me and show me Your glory as the faithful witness."

*Then R for revelation: I just do not thank Him that He is the Faithful Witness with affection and gratitude. I ask Him, "Let me understand You as the Faithful Witness. Give me revelation."*

3. **Keep the prophecy:** Respond in faith and obedience to the specific truth of Jesus as the faithful witness. Pray, "I will stand for truth regardless what it costs me. Help me."

<sup>7</sup>*Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book. (Rev. 22:7)*

*Then K for keep: how am I supposed to respond in my life to keep the truth, to imitate what the truth of the Faithful Witness might mean to me. The scripture says, "If you keep the prophecy." I want to apply it. I want to keep this prophecy in my life. I want to respond in my life with obedience to all thirty of these descriptions.*

*I tell you, you do that simple little exercise—agree with Him, thank Him for who He is, ask for more insight, and then apply it in a very simple little way. Every one of these truths has an application in your attitude or actions—and this chapter will come alive for you. You will just go over it and over it. You will never exhaust it, ever, even in a million years from now.*

*Amen and amen.*