

## A Fresh Revelation of Jesus

**What is Jesus really like?** He is preached in so many different ways but what is He really like? Can the true Jesus be veiled by layers of tradition and religion? Also, Jesus said that in the last days there would be impostors and false Christs. How can we know the real, authentic Jesus?

### **Text: Revelation 1:1-8**

The Book of Revelation starts with the revelation of Jesus. The book is a prophecy about the end of times but one of the greatest revelations of the book is that of Jesus Himself, from the first to the last chapter. He is central to everything that this book announces and, as the book shows, central to History itself – the beginning of it and the end.

Interestingly, John starts the Book of Revelation, ‘the Gospel of John’ and ‘1 John’ exactly the same way, revealing first of all Jesus:

**John 1:1,14** - *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup> He was in the beginning with God. <sup>3</sup> All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made.*

*<sup>14</sup> And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.*

**1 John 1:1**- *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life*

### **God wants us to have an accurate revelation of Jesus!**

**Verse 1a:** *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants*

- The word ‘revelation’ in Greek is the word *apokalupsis* which means ‘the unveiling’, ‘disclosure’, ‘when something hidden becomes visible’, ‘manifestation’
- ‘To Show’ in the Greek, *deiknuo*: ‘to expose to the eyes’ or ‘to give evidence’

God wants to expose to the eyes, to give evidence, to reveal the real Jesus to us.

- a) Because **Colossians 2:3** says that *in Jesus are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*
- b) Because **Revelation 19:10** says that *the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*
- c) Because although the events that will mark the end times will be dramatic, some truly catastrophic, when you possess a revelation of Him, then there is no more fear about the present or the future. We know what **Romans 8:38-39** says: *For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth,*

*nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### **I want to share 4 facts about the revelation of Jesus:**

#### **1. We find the most accurate description of Jesus in the Gospels and in the book of Revelation**

The Gospels reveal Jesus on earth, Revelation reveals Jesus in Heaven - as He stands today, at the right hand of the Father. In it, we find Jesus revealed in at least 28 different ways.

- as “the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth” **(1:5)**,
- as “the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End” **(1:8)**,
- as the one “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty” **(1:8)**,
- as the First and the Last **(1:11)**,
- as the Son of Man **(1:13)**,
- as the one who was dead, but now is alive forevermore **(1:18)**,
- as the Son of God **(2:18)**,
- as the one who is holy and true **(3:7)**,
- as “the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God” **(3:14)**,
- as the Lion of the tribe of Judah **(5:5)**,
- as the Lamb in heaven, with authority to open the title deed to the earth **(6:1ff.)**,
- as the Lamb on the throne **(7:17)**,
- as the Messiah who will reign forever **(11:15)**,
- as the Word of God **(19:13)**,
- as the majestic King of kings and Lord of lords, returning in glorious splendour to conquer His enemies **(19:11ff.)**,
- and as “the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star” **(22:16)**.

How important it is to have a revelation of the glorious Jesus! –The Gospels and Revelation give us an absolutely accurate picture of who Jesus really is. It is crucial to know the authentic Jesus and walk with Him and have a scriptural revelation of Him because the enemy will try to obscure the real Jesus and replace it with another Jesus.

**2 Corinthians 11:3-4** - *3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it!*

#### **2. We can encounter Him**

We can have a *scriptural* knowledge of Jesus but we can also know Him *experientially*. We can have our own encounter with Jesus. In fact, we should desire encounters with Him. Of course, we will never have the kind of revelation that will add another book to the Bible but we can experience and encounter Him, personally.

**1 John 1:1-** *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life*

**2 Corinthians 2:1** - *It is doubtless not profitable for me to boast. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord:*

Paul experienced a revelation of Jesus on the road to Damascus but then here he speaks of further '*revelations of the Lord*'.

**Galatians 1:11-12** - *<sup>11</sup> But I make known to you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. <sup>12</sup> For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

We can experience Jesus and see facets of Him we didn't know.

After the cross, two disciples walked along the road of Emmaus, in a moment of great despondency. Their faith had been challenged to the point that were giving up but on the same road, they had an encounter and a revelation of Jesus.

**Luke 24:31.** *Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight*

They had a personal revelation of the resurrected Jesus.

### **3. We can grow in that revelation**

We can grow in the knowledge of Jesus.

3 degrees of revelation:

- a) Old testament – **The veil (2 Corinthians 3:13-14** – *<sup>13</sup> unlike Moses, who put a veil over his face so that the children of Israel could not look steadily at the end of what was passing away. <sup>14</sup> But their minds were blinded. For until this day the same veil remains unlifted in the reading of the Old Testament, because the veil is taken away in Christ)*
- b) New Testament – **The mirror (16-18** - *<sup>16</sup> Nevertheless when one turns to the Lord, the veil is taken away. <sup>17</sup> Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. <sup>18</sup> But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.)*
- c) In heaven: **Face to face (1 Corinthians 3:12** - *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.)*

We will never know Him completely in one encounter. We need to know and pursue the knowledge of God (Hosea 6:3). We need to pursue Him and know Him more and more. There is more for us!

#### **4. Lastly, let us reveal Jesus to the world**

As we saw, 'revelation' means to unveil, to manifest, to make known, to disclose. We are called to make Him known, to reveal, demonstrate and manifest the real Jesus to the world!