Descriptions of Jesus in Revelation: Part 3

Zanesville, OH | January 6, 2019 | Sermon Notes

**Foundational Scripture:** Revelation 1:18; 5:6-12; 19:11-21

**Intro**:

* There are numerous instances in the scriptures where Jesus is given majestic descriptions both of His character and His appearance. We could look at instances in each book of the bible where that would be the case but perhaps none stand out more than the glorious descriptions of our Lord in the final book of the bible: **Revelation**. There are a variety of descriptions endowed to Him in this book that speak of His power, authority, glory and majesty. These descriptions include:

1. **The Living One** (Rev. 1:18; 2:8; 4:9; Rom. 6:9; 2 Cor. 13:4)
   1. As John sees the Son of Man, he falls down at His feet terrified and overwhelmed, but He admonishes John by saying He is the first and the last, and He is the **Living One**. Why is this relevant to the book and to us?
   2. Remember the events in this book are taking place during the rise and climax of the Roman empire and particularly during a time where emperor worship was prevalent and widespread (*Annals*, 4.36; 4.56).
   3. Several Roman emperors believed they were divine and thus demanded worship. Jesus’ assertion that He is the living One brings to mind the many OT references to the one true “living God” (Jos. 3:10; 1 Sam. 17:26; Psa. 42:2). The phrase is used and applied to Jesus in the NT thus confirming that He is the one true living God.
   4. The Christians faced with the decision of whether to serve Jesus or serve Caesar could here be assured that Caesar was no god at all just as it was proved Pharaoh was not god (Ex. 7-12).
   5. Throughout history, many have claimed divinity or divine status of some sort, but Jesus assures John, the 1st century Christians and us that no one can take the status that only He possesses. He is the one true living God and there will never be another like Him.
   6. The phrase also brings to mind the resurrection (See Rev. 1:5). Jesus’ deity, authority and sovereignty hangs on the fact that He was raised from the dead i.e. He conquered death and He has absolute power over it! No emperor or world leader ever had or will ever have that power.
2. **The Worthy Lamb** (Rev. 5:6-12; 17:14; Isa. 53:7; Jn. 1:29, 36)
   1. This description of Jesus does not contradict the powerful image of the Son of Man and His kingship. Much to the contrary, this solidifies it! Jesus is described as the Lamb worthy to break the seals of the scroll in Rev. 5.
   2. The image of the Lamb goes back to prophecy concerning the Messiah in Isaiah 53. John describes Jesus as the *“Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world”* (Jn. 1:29). The image of an innocent, humble animal being sacrificed for sin fits the OT sacrificial system but finds it ultimate fulfillment in Jesus who went to the cross for every single soul!
   3. Jesus is the worthy Lamb because He willingly gave Himself as a ransom for many (Isa. 53:10-12; Mk. 10:45). He is worthy because He brought both Jew and Gentile, man and woman, slave and master etc. to the table together where we can be untied in one mind, one faith, one baptism, through His blood!
   4. The Lamb is no small creature that is helpless or the trampling ground of someone else. The Lamb is extremely powerful and overcomes for the saints. He wages war against the enemies and God’s servants and comes out victorious (Rev. 17:12-14).
3. **The Rider on the White Horse** (Rev. 19:11-21)
   1. This is perhaps the most complete, majestic and powerful description of Jesus in Revelation. It is similar to the *“Son of Man”* in the sense of the awe-inspiring image we get of the Christ.
   2. The Rider Himself is worthy of praise and honor. He is worthy to receive power and victory! Why? He is faithful and true! He is a conquering King who wages war. The Romans were known for their powerful armies and their loyal soldiers; soldiers that would not hesitate to die for their commander or their friends. Jesus stands out because He died for His enemies (Rom. 5:7-8).
   3. His eyes are like a flame of fire and on His head are many diadems. His robe is dipped in blood and His name is the Word of God. Armies in heaven follow Him and out of His mouth comes a sword. These descriptions are similar to what is said about the *“Son of Man”* in 1:12-16.
   4. On His robe and thigh, He is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is victorious before the enemy can gather its tactics together for battle. There is no battle! No war! How powerful do you have to be to win a victory before a battle can even be fought? Jesus can effortlessly defeat the most powerful rulers and kings. He fights for us!