Revealing Revelation – Beginning With the End in Mind

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We are going into part two of the series revealing the revealing of Revelation, beginning with the end in mind, beginning with the end in mind. God wants us to not forget that He is soon to return. And keeping our mind focused on that very thought will determine how we live daily. If we are mindful that the Lord is soon to return, it will cause us to make decisions that will give Him glory. Amen? Last week we talked about a few things. I shared with you a little bit about the revealed Word about the author who unveiled the word Jesus Christ. I shared with you a little bit about John for those who weren't here. You want to come to the Bible study. I don't want to go all over that information again, but you want to come to the Bible study. But John is the author. How many books did John write? Come on, y'all. Oh, somebody knows something. Amen. They've been listening. Amen. Somebody tell me one of those books. John. Revelation. Hey, you got him. Give yourselves a big hand. Amen. John is the author. He has written as the text has outlined about Jesus Christ. The whole book is about the revealing, the revealing, the unveiling, The uncovering of Jesus Christ and all that He began to do in Genesis and all that He will do in Revelation, even beyond that, into glory. It's all about Jesus Christ. He is the theme of the book. It is outlined, as I stated last week, in three sections. The Bible self-outlines Revelation, In chapter one, it is the things that John saw, speaking of the past. In chapter two and three, the things which are present. He says, I want you to look at the things which are. Speaking of John, in his present day, God was writing to John in real time. God was working through John in real time, and God was revealing and unveiling through John in real time. to the area in which he lived, in particular on the island of Patmos, John received the revelation. And then chapters 4 through 22, the things which shall be hereafter. That is the outline. And chapter 1, again, is looking at the past. And chapters 2 and 3, a focus on the church. The focus is specifically on the church. And As we look at the Scriptures, it is the church, the churches that John is writing to. There are seven of those churches, amen? And so John is writing in a letter, receiving it, revelation from the Lord to these seven churches. So the emphasis is on the church age. Once you get past chapter 3, at verse number 22, there's a major transition. Verse number 22 of chapter 3, you don't hear any more about the church. Chapter 4 begins to focus on all the things that are to come to pass. So in chapter 3, we find that the church will be raptured out at that last verse. beginning in chapter 4, is focusing on the second coming of Christ. Amen? And so we're going to look at that. We're going to try to get through chapter 1 and finish that today to pick up in chapter 2 for next week. Chapter 1, the past. Chapter 2, the present. Chapter 4 through 22, the things which shall be hereafter. All of us have a past that needs pardon. All of us have a past that needs to be pardoned. All of us have a present that needs perfecting. We have a present that needs perfecting. What is it in your past that God has forgiven? We ought to praise him. What is it in your past that you have not asked God to forgive you for or to pardon you for? You need to consider calling on his name. Amen. And like I say, if you are looking forward to the Lord's return, you say, Lord, what are the things that you're going to do in the days ahead that I can expect from you? so I can anticipate

your return and live in such a way that is mindful of it. Our future requires that we plan. All of us have a future that requires planning, a present that needs perfecting, and a past that needs pardoning, amen? John is going to help us with all three of them as we go through the book of Revelation. Let us begin today in chapter, I mean, verse number four. Verse number four. And it says, John, to the seven churches which are in Asia, Grace be unto you, and peace from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come. There is that theme again about the past, the present, and the future. And from the seven spirits which are before His throne. Which are before His throne. Let me go back to verse number three, because I want to lead into that. Blessed is he that readeth, and they that heareth the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein, for the time is at hand. So God, again, addresses the past, present, and the future. But if we're going to allow the Word of God to have an impact on our future, we must begin by reading the Word of God. Notice what it says here. Did you know that there is a blessing in reading the book of Revelation? It is the only book in the Bible that specifically says you will be blessed by reading it. Now, I don't know about you, but how many of you say I want to be blessed? Somehow, God has included and has stated to you that you, if you read it, notice what it says. Blessed is he that readeth. And they that hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written therein for the time is at hand. First he says, you'll be blessed if you read it. The verb in here, a read means to read out loud. It means to read out loud. If you will, it takes you back to Deuteronomy, if you will, and the Jewish, or the Israel Shema, the Shema Israel, the Shema simply means the hearing, and they would read that or recite that as one of the cornerstone doctrines of the Jewish faith. And this is what it reads in. You go to Deuteronomy chapter 6 and verse number 4 through 9, it says, hear, O Israel, the Lord, our God is one Lord. There it is, the Lord, our God is one Lord. We don't worship three different Gods. We worship one God manifested in three persons. Amen. And so it's a monotheistic understanding of scripture that why we worship one God, the Lord our God, God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are one. Now you asked me to try to comprehend that and to break that down to you. know what? My pay grade is not that high. My intellect and understanding the depths of God in His Trinity, I don't have the capacity to fully unveil all of who He is to you. Nor does any other human on the face of this planet when it talks about the Trinity. All I know is this is what the Bible says. Amen. And I believe it. says, the Lord our God is one. You will be blessed if you read it. Then he says, in this blessing, it's a threefold. You'll be blessed if you hear it. It's a blessing to hear the Word of God, but then you'll be blessed also a third time if you obey what the Word of God says. So notice what it says here in Deuteronomy chapter 6, verse 4 through 9. It says, Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God is one, and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart. And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sitteth in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up, and thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thy eyes, and thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on the gate, speaking of, the word of God, the commandments of God. Notice what it says. We are to teach them to our children, amen? Because it's the word of God that God is revealing and unveiling to us

more and more about Jesus Christ. And so it says right here in verse number 8, and thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontless between thy eyes. But let's talk about that for a minute. It says that they were to do something. They were to bind them as a cord, if you will, around the hand to remind them of the commandments of God, of the Shema, of what you hear. The Jewish understanding of Scripture was not divorced from the hearing, or the reading, the hearing, the doing, and the reading of the text. In other words, when they would read the text, it was already imply that you're going to do what it said. Sometimes we read the Bible, but we don't necessarily infer that we're going to do what it says. We try to process whether we want to do what it says. It's not even an option for us. In other words, if you are a believer in Jesus Christ and you have heard the word of God, then you are to hear it, receive it, and believe it, and carry it out. And in doing so, you'll be blessed. But even if you didn't do it, God says it's a blessing for you just to hear it. Because the Holy Spirit is going to take what you hear and then begin to work on your heart so that you can be perfected in your present and forgiven of your past and give you a hope for your future. Amen? So this is what the Lord is going to do. But also I see something also that correlates here to the end time prophecy in Deuteronomy. Notice it says that they were to take and bind the word around their hand. And then to take the, if they had, what they had, they had a little book that they would wrap around their head and inside of there were the Ten Commandments and it was called a frontlet. And they would wear that to remind them, thou will keep him in perfect peace whose what? Mind is stayed on thee. And so they literally had the scriptures on their forehead. And they would walk around with that frontlet there. In the book of Revelation, it talks about the mark of the beast. There are two places where the mark of the beast, the text says, will be revealed. Who can tell me? Number one, on the hand and where else? On the forehead. Did y'all pick up what God just put down? He's letting you know that if you don't pick up the word of God on your hand, if you don't put the word of God in your mind for those who are going to go through that period of time, you may be tempted to accept the mark of the beast. But he says, I'd rather you have my word in your hand and my word in your mind, my word on your hand and my name in your forehead. The name is the word of God. the word of God. So God is teaching us something even here when he says in verse three that there is a blessing for just reading it. This verse, verse number three, this is a blessing There's a blessing attached to verse #3, but it marks the first of the seven Revelation Beatitudes. Did you know that there were Beatitudes in the book of Revelation? Not Matthew chapter 5 Beatitudes, but they're called the Revelation Beatitudes. It is the first of the seven. We'll look at that a little bit later on. So first, we want to read it. Second, you want to hear it. Then you want to believe it and obey it. Then he tells you why. He says, the time is short. The time is at hand. The time is short. So it's talking about Chronos here. The time of the season is drawing nigh. The Bible tells us to look up for our redemption, draweth nigh. The time is at hand where the Lord is soon to return, and we got to get our act right on. Amen? Because judgment begins at the house of God. Not that we will be judged for sin, but we will be judged for the works that we do that sin hindered us from doing. So we will receive rewards or the lack of rewards, but you will never be judged for sin because Jesus paid it all on Calvary for all of your sin, past, present, and future, past, present, and future. So what does that mean for us? If you can never be judged for sin, that means that we ought to be willing to

surrender and serve God in His grace. And we ought to be thankful to bless Him because He's blessed us. Amen, Romans chapter eight, it was a verse number one, it says, there is therefore now no condemnation what to them that are in Christ Jesus. The question is, are you in Christ Jesus? And if you are in Christ Jesus, meaning that you have read, you've heard, you believe, and now you obey, he said, guess what? There is no condemnation to you. because my Spirit, His Spirit, dwells within you. Amen. So I think that's pretty important for us to understand. What is the blessing? I believe that it has to correlate with a blessing of faith, which comes from hearing. For faith comes by hearing the Word of God. A blessing or the blessing of a changed life. When you hear the Word of God, when you read the Word of God, eventually the Holy Spirit takes that Word that you heard and begins to marinate it in your soul. And you begin to be convicted by it, even when you want to go away from the Word of God, the Holy Spirit convicts you, you wind up surrendering and submitting to the Word of God, and your life is changed. You're no longer the same. The things that you used to do, you no longer have a desire to do. The places you used to go, you don't even want to go no more. The things you used to take into your body, now you want that is sanctified and set apart to help you live so that this body can live as an instrument of praise to Jesus Christ. It changes everything about you. It's not just inspiration and motivation. It is being led by the Spirit who has power, even when you don't feel motivated. Good God Almighty. Lord, I can't do it, but if you do it through me, then I can do it, because then I'll be able to say, I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, because I have no motivation and inspiration within myself. Have you ever felt like that sometime? You know what you want to do? but your mind and your body won't do it. Paul struggled with that in Romans chapter 7. He said, for the things I want to do, those are things I don't do. Good God Almighty. And the things I don't do, those are things that I want to do. I find in a law that every time I want to do good, he says, evil is present with me. That's all of our problem. That's every one of our problem. Every time you want to do good, evil say, uh-uh, don't do it. And every time you don't want to do it, you're like, I don't want to do that. Go ahead and do it. Do it. And we get tired of that struggle. But here's the blessing. The blessing is that you're struggling. What that means is you haven't surrendered to what they're telling you to do, to what the flesh is telling you to do, even if you're struggling with it. In other words, you're wrestling with the man and you're trying to render the old man dead and the new man alive to Jesus Christ. So John is trying to help us to understand the past that was part in the present that continually needs perfecting and for us to plan for a better tomorrow, to prepare and plan for the Lord's return. What is the blessing? The blessing of a strength in life. Just in knowing the future, knowing it strengthens you from the standpoint of victory. When you already know that you won the fight, when you already know that the battle is the Lord's, you don't feel discouraged because you already know the outcome. We don't go into the fight defeated. Even when it looks bad, we know that it's good. Am I right about it? Even when we look like we're losing, we know the end of the story that we're winning. We've already won the battle. I'd rather lose and know that I've already won than to think I've already won than wind up losing. For he that loves his life will what? Lose it. But he that loses his life will what? Gain it. That means you won. Good God Almighty, write that down. Yes, The blessing, knowing that we have the victory and the end, and the blessing, if that ain't enough, the blessing of eternal life for everyone who believes in Jesus

Christ. Again, there is no other book in the Bible, or in the world for that matter, that has a blessing attached to it other than Revelation for just reading it. So, which one of you want the blessing? I said that chapter 3 was the first of seven Beatitudes. I'm going to list the seven Beatitudes to you. In Revelation chapter 1, we just read that one, you're blessed for reading it, blessed for hearing it, blessed for obeying it. And then in Revelation chapter 14 and verse number 13, it says, blessed are the dead who die in the Lord. From now on, yea, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor for their deeds will follow them. Notice what he says, you're going to be blessed because why? You have died in, where? The Lord. Notice I said, are you in the Lord? Are you in Christ? If you were to die outside of Christ, there's a curse waiting for you. But if you die in Christ, meaning that you died in faith, in believing, having been forgiven, having been saved, having been changed by the Spirit of God, regenerated, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb, you put your word in there. Amen. If you have accepted Jesus Christ, guess what? The Bible says you're blessed because why? You are in Christ and Christ is in you. But if you are not in Christ, that means that you are in the flesh and you are outside and you will be judged with the world. Because judgment is coming. Jesus is coming back. So it says, here, I want you to understand something. You're going to be blessed because you're going to cease from your own works. We already understand that as we live and serve the Lord today. Every time we come to church, everything that we do in the church, we don't want to just serve in our own effort. We want the Holy Spirit to use us so that, why? In the end, we can say we have ceased from our own labor. It's Christ that labors in me. It's Christ in you that worketh. according to his good pleasure. Amen. So then it says, the third one, the third revelation beatitude, he says, behold, I come like a thief. Blessed is he who stays awake, who stays awake, it didn't mean to say be woke, but it says stays awake, and keeps his clothes with him so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed. In other words, this is the individual I remember when I was in the military, and my wife, she may remember that, We had a whole lot of folks call y'all by all of the veterans in here. Just wave, just say hello, amen. So we got quite a few veterans in here. I don't know what they did in all the other services, but guess what? In the Navy, Sometime when we would get up in the morning, the commander would come in sometime early and would wake us up. And one of the things that we would do is we would cheat to get prepared for the next day. Oh, we made sure that we were ready for the next day. So many of us, we made our bed. We would make our bed before we go to bed. We wouldn't sleep in the bed. We would sleep under the bed. Anybody ever did that before? You got a witness right there, right there. So we would sleep under the bed. We wouldn't sleep in the bed because why? When the commander came in the morning, we didn't have to have him hollering and fussing at us about making the bed. Amen? So that was already done. And while everybody else is trying to figure out what clothes they're going to wear, we already got our clothes. So we slept in our clothes and we slept with our bed already made. And this is what John is saying. Listen, blessed are those who are clothed so when the Lord comes back, you're not going to be found naked. when the commander comes in for the holy inspection, you're not going to be in one of the, oh, where my shoes and where my, and running around. And the Lord said, we got to go. Come on, part tall. We running around trying to find our shirt and our pants, and then you got to try to get the wrinkles out. No, we were fresh pressed the day before. That's what the context of

this is in this particular verse. So he says, Guess what? You're not going to be shamefully exposed. Then the 4th beatitude of revelation. Then the angel said to me, write, blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the lamb. And he added, these are true words of God. This is the true word of God. Notice it says, blessed are those who are invited. Guess what? You have been invited. Are you blessed? You're blessed. Amen. Then the fifth one, it says, Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death have no power over them. You know, you've heard it and I say it again. If you're born twice, you may die once and you're going to be resurrected and you're going to go up to meet the Lord in the air. And then they got the second resurrection where that resurrection is where you're going to have all the wicked and they're going to be raised from the dead and then judged and then thrown into the lake of fire. So that's why it says blessed are they who have part in the first resurrection. Amen. The second death have no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him, how long? A thousand years. That's the millennial reign of Christ. You hear that term, the millennial reign, reigning with Jesus Christ. You say, well, what will we be doing when Jesus comes back on the second time he comes back? We'll be ruling and reigning with Christ. That's what we're going to be. We're going to be helping the Lord to rule and to reign the governments around the world. Good God, Almighty. Amen. Are you ready for that? We will be immortals living amongst those who are mortal. Wow. That's something. Because what, we will have everlasting life when Jesus comes back in the millennial reign and the saints that come with him in the millennial reign, we're going to be there living forever, immortals amongst mortals. We will see people die 1000 years and we'll be still living. How old are you? 600 and… Age has no bearing on us. Why? Because we have eternal life, never to die again. This is not the end, y'all. Yes. Then the 6th one, behold, I am coming. He said, listen, behold, get ready, be looking out, wipe your glasses off, Behold, take a good look at, stare, put it under a microscope, make sure you understand it, look at it, look at it again. He says, I want you to understand, I'm coming back. Like Arnold Schwarzenegger, I'll be back. You say that in the movie, that was this famous line, I'll be back. Jesus says, I'll be back, I will come back. To get you in John chapter what, 14, he tells us that, I think it's around, so we're in verse number three, he says, In my Father's house are many mansions. I go to prepare a place for you, and if I go and prepare a place for you, he says, I'm going to come again and receive you unto myself, that where I am, there you may be also. Now, I wanted to give you a preference here, I mean, an understanding here, that when Jesus says that, this is not talking about the second coming. This is talking about the rapture of the church. So when we get rapture, Jesus is not going to touch the ground at all. He's going to step out on the cloud and we're going to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air. And the Bible says, and so shall we ever be with the Lord, whether in the air or back down here in the millennial reign, so shall we ever be with the Lord. Amen. And so then when he comes back after we even celebrated, had a good time and walked on streets of gold and checked out your new mansion, hey, he said, we're going to go back down there, we're going to straighten out the world. We're going to bring this tribulation and the great tribulation to an end, and we're going to reign for 1000 years. I'm going to allow y'all to help me as kings and priests. Good God Almighty. Then #7. Go back to six. He says, behold, I am coming. Blessed is he, what? That keeps the word of this prophecy. So it is stated

twice in verse number three of chapter one, and then it's stated again in chapter 22 in verse number 7. Then #7, the seven beatitude of Revelation. Blessed are those who wash their robes that they may have a right to the what? Tree of life, and may go through the gates into the city. Oh, don't you want to go? Oh, don't you want to go? If you have been washed, your robe has been washed. Speaking of your life, your spiritual robe, your life has been made clean. He says you're going to have a right to the tree of life. Don't you go over there to that tree, dirty. Matter of fact, you won't even get to it. You won't even be around it. He said, you'll have a right to the tree of life, which has 12 different kinds of fruit on it. And it is symbolic of us living forever. Oh, that's good news, saints. He said, you're going to have a right to the tree of life, and then you're going to enter into the gates of the city. Just entering, can you just imagine entering into the gate of heaven? What would it feel like knowing that you are there? That you made it? You don't have a question mark in your mind. But now you see the streets of gold. You see the pearly gates on each side, north-south, east, and west, there are three gates, 12 gates representing the 12 tribes of Israel. You are going through those gates. And the Bible says that every gate is a pearl. Now, I can say to myself, What kind of oyster did he get? What kind of oyster did he get those pearls from? But we'll be able to walk into... The holy city, New Jerusalem, heaven itself, walking on streets of gold, where the Bible says it's like transparent glass, not like the gold that hues, but at the hint of the shade of gold that we see. No, the gold is so pure that we'll be walking on pure, transparent gold. We can look through it. It's that holy. Remember God told Moses, he says, take your shoes off, for where you are is holy ground. Good God Almighty. We'll be walking on holy ground. Some folk are trying to dig dirt to get it. Listen, we walking on it. We just walking on it all over the place. Dancing on it, having a good time. Woo! The throne of God, the angels are there worshiping the Lord. And we'll be worshiping with the angels, but then you get to see your loved ones. Oh, I like how Mahalia Jackson said, I'm going to move on up a little higher. Tell all my friends and loved ones, oh, she says she's going to thank him for how he taught her. Thank him for how he brought her. Woo! Thank him for how he kept me. Thank him because he never left me. Going to move on up, she said, a little bit higher. Talk to Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. All right, y'all done. We're going to move on up a little bit higher. We're going to talk to the Old Testament prophets, the minor prophets, the major prophets. I'm going to talk to David a little bit, fellowship with him and Moses. I'm going to sit down with Abraham and all the 12 tribes that represent Israel. I'm going to move on up a little higher, and then I'm going to have a good conversation with Adam. And I'm going to say, Adam, Why did you mess up? Why did you eat that fruit? You know you could have told Eve not to eat it, and we would have been all right. No, Adam, Eve, why did you trick your husband? Why did you talk to that old devil, that old serpent? You know you should have been talking to no animal anyway. You should have thought something was wrong with that when the animal started talking to you. I don't know what you're going to say to Adam and Eve. But guess what? If it wasn't them, it would have been you. For the Bible says all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God. It was just a matter of time. God made a remedy for it, though. So those are the seven Beatitudes, if you will, of Revelation. Point number three, John gave a word to the churches in dedication to the Word who is Jesus Christ. Note that God is completing a perfect work through a perfect Savior. God is completing a perfect work through a perfect Savior.

Look what it says as we go back to verse #4. We'll look at what Jesus did and will do. and said, John, to the seven churches which are in Asia, speaking of Asia Minor, grace be unto you and peace from him which is, which was, and which is to come, and from the seven spirits which are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth, unto him that loved us, watch this, he loved us, washed us, from our own sins in his blood, amen? And then it says he did something else. He made us. So what did Jesus do? First, he loved us. Second, he washed us. And then he made us. How did he love us? He loved us so much that the Bible says that he pre-planned. He pre-ordained to go to the cross on your behalf because in his foreknowledge, he already knew that Adam, Eve, and all the people born after them would sin. So you were pre-planned to be saved. Now, that's God's prerogative. He loved us so much that He still made us. Still created Adam and Eve. He loved us so much that He wanted to demonstrate the magnitude of His love even when we were dead in sin and trespasses. He loved us. And love could not be understood without the full a ramification of God's redemptive plan to save someone that is unlovable. All of us were unlovable, but he loved us anyway. Isn't that beautiful? I know we got some people, you say, man, it's hard to love them. I'm struggling just to like them, but he loved us anyhow. Amen. So I want to say that. unto him. He said he loved us. What did Jesus do? What did he do? He loved us. But then to demonstrate the depth of his love, it says he washed us from our sins in his own blood. Wow. He washed us from our sin in his own blood. You know, one illustration that I learned from is working in a hospital. Actually, I've worked as a chaplain for many years, and every now and then I would be called to the operating room to, a patient would ask for prayer before they would go in. And even sometime going into the operating room, like say if it was a challenge and they would want prayer, but going into the operating room, there's a process for it. The first thing they do in order to go into the operating room, which is rendered a sterile or supposed to be a sterile environment, In other words, it should be free from viruses, germs, and bacteria. Am I right about it? And so what they would do prior to your surgery, how many of you ever had surgery before? Wow. So you know what I'm talking about. Let's break it down. What they would tell you, they would have to prep you. Amen. They would prep you. And in prepping you, they would come and cleanse the area that was affected. With us, the area that was affected was our hearts. In other words, our sinful hearts and our souls needed to be prepped for eternal life. So spiritually speaking, or in the natural speaking, what they would do, taking that patient to the operating room, they would say, we're going to use three different solutions. One, they sometimes use, called hibiclens. Another solution they might use is iodine. Or another cleansing solution that they might use is called betadine. Amen? So you've heard of those? Betadine, iodine, or a Hibiclens solution. And sometime when you're getting prepped for surgery, they'll send you home with the Hibiclens and tell you to take a shower before you go into the operating room because they don't want you going in and defiling. Or going in catching a virus or an infection. So, heaven is like God's operating room. Jesus being the great physician. And in order for you to go into heaven, you must be rendered free from any viruses, bacteria, or germs. Be free from the virus of Satan, the bacteria of the world, and the germs of your own sin that spread. Germs spread. And so you need a cleansing solution in order for you to be prepped for heaven. So what Jesus, our great physician, did, he says, I'm going to

prep you from heaven. I'm going to show you how much I love you. And then I'm going to use a cleansing agent called my blood to cleanse you from your sin so that the virus of Satan and the world's bacteria that affects you and the germs of your own sin can be rendered inoperable, can be rendered sterile. Heaven is a sterile environment. There's no sin in heaven. There's no death in heaven. There's no sadness or sickness in heaven. Why? Because of the blood. The blood had power to cleanse. The blood had power to strengthen. The blood had power to resurrect and give eternal life. Are you cleansed? Oh, by the blood of Jesus Christ. And if you have asked the Lord to save you, have been prepped for heaven. You can walk in. Why? Because the great physician did his work on your heart and your soul. Yes. So he says, I want you to understand what he did and what he will do. What he loved us and then he washed us from our sin in his own blood. And then he says, wash this. If washing us wasn't enough and if loving us wasn't enough, then he said he made us. Notice what he said. He made us kings and priests unto God and his Father. That's why I say in the millennium reign, we'll be helping the Lord to rule as kings and priests, as mediators to those who are born during the millennium reign who don't know Christ. We'll be like priests mediating the kingdom of God. All thy kingdom come, thy will be done, what? On earth as it is in heaven. And so God says, I'm going to bring about the fulfillment of that. And I'm going to allow you as saints to be a part of that as kings and priests so that which you are in heaven will be manifest down here on earth. Yes, because of the blood. What did Jesus do? He loved us. He washed us. He made us. And then he tells us, what will he do? Verse number seven. Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him. This is speaking of the second coming of Jesus Christ. And they also which pierce him, and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Shall wail because of him. When we are raptured, all of the world is not going to know it. All of the world is not going to see it. They're going to be wondering, where do the Christians go? Where do the church folk go? We're going to be caught up in a moment in the twinkling of an eye. Amen. It's going to happen like that. But when Jesus comes back to touch the earth, and he comes back, the whole world is going to see him, his appearance. And those that are in Israel that did not want Jesus to be the Savior of the world, they're going to have sorrow, implicating that they too were in the piercing of His own side because why? They believe not. You say, well, I wasn't at the foot of the cross and I didn't pierce him. Yes, they who pierced him, they're dead now, but every one of us pierced the side of Jesus. Every one of us are guilty of crucifying Jesus because of sin. Therefore, we too are guilty. We might as well have taken the Spirit, pierced him in his side, and drove the nails through his hand because of the wickedness that was in us. He had to go to the cross on our behalf. So He says everybody's going to see Him. They're going to see Him. They're going to have sorrow. What will He do? And it says, And they which also pierced Him and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, amen. That amen means what it says. It says, I agree with what God says. So whenever you say amen, you're telling the saints of God and those around you, this is what thus saith the Lord, and I'm in obedience to it. I've heard it, I've read it, I've heard it, I believe it, I'm walking in obedience to it. So not everybody can say amen. Because after sometime we will, you will hear the word of God, but you haven't been convinced that God meant what he said. So you can't say amen to the word of God. Be cautious, be careful. Because if you can't say amen to God, you're automatically saying

amen to Satan. Yeah, I didn't pick up what I put down. If you can't say amen to God, you're already saying amen to yourself. And at that moment, you've made yourself God. Because your thoughts are greater than his thoughts. It's amazing how I hear people say, well, I don't believe the Bible says that. Well, who made you the authority of what the Bible says? And by the fact, where did you get your study? Where'd you get your learning from? You just thought of it all on your own. Did you go and study the Masoretic text? Have you looked at the Septuagint? Have you gone through the Septuagint and all the Old Testament, the Torah? Have you gone to study that in depth so that you can come to a conclusion based on the evidence of scripture and how God has worked through time? Nah, I just don't feel that that's what it says. Amen. That's the wisdom of the world, not of God. Are y'all picking up what I'm putting down? So he says I want you to see what he did. He says right here in verse number eight, he says, I am alpha And what? Omega, the beginning and the end, saith the Lord, which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty God. Notice, Landrum asked a good question Tuesday night. He said, I noticed that it said, which is, before it said, which was. Is there a reason for that? Yes, because the Lord said, I am the one that is. In other words, John was writing to a people who were being persecuted and their lives were being lost under the rule of Emperor Domitian. John was placed on the Isle of Patmos for preaching the Word of God. He was persecuted for being able to preach the Word of God. And because he didn't take back or bow down to Domitian to accept him as God, he was placed on the Isle of Patmos. Sometimes, saints, listen, you may be persecuted for believing what thus saith the Lord and applying it to your life. This is what happens, this is what happened to John. So he says, I want you to, God, Jesus, he is the alpha and the omega, beginning and the end. He is the God who ministers to us right where we are. God was working through John in real time, in a real situation, even in his suffering. That's why John says, he's the one that is. Jesus says, I am the one that is. I'm your right now God. How many of us need a right now God? Lord, I need you to be is right now. Not was. I need the Lord right now. So he is the God who is. But then he says he was the one who was. When there was no beginning, God was there. He was God from the beginning. And John opens up the Gospel of John by stating that in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Why? He was there in the beginning when there was not a beginning to have. So, he says, I want you to know something. I am the one who is, I'm the God who was, and guess what? I am the one who is soon to return. I'm the one who is soon to return. So what did John say and what did he hear? Verse number 9, I, John, who also am your brother and companion in tribulation, here it is, just notice what he says. He says, to the God who is, He is right now helping you to connect the dots that we are in this together. I am your brother. I am your companion in tribulation. John is saying, I too am being persecuted. He's getting ready to write these things to the seven churches of Asia Minor. He's writing there. He says, I'm being persecuted and we are companions in this suffering together. And, he says, in the kingdom and the patience of Jesus Christ. In other words, John was saying, I am patiently waiting for the kingdom of God and his righteousness to rule so that that which is in heaven will be made manifest down here on earth and God is revealing something to me, unveiling something to me so that I can reveal it to you that you're not alone. So he says, He says, I was in the aisle that is called Patmos. Why? For the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. Sometime you're going to

be persecuted because of your testimony. Don't think because you love the Lord and you got a good testimony. The enemy is always trying to destroy your testimony. He doesn't want anything good said about you. Let's just get that out the door. So what will Satan do? He will constantly accuse you before God. Because the Bible says Satan is an accuser of what? The brethren. John was being accused of not bowing down to Domitian. And everybody said, amen. Don't bow down to any false god. He said, for thou shalt have no other god before me. Yes? So what did John say and what did he hear? He heard The Word of God, he preached the Word of God, and he delivered it for the testimony of Jesus Christ. In verse number 10, he says, I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. What day is the Lord's Day? Sunday. So when did John get this revelation? He got it Sunday morning. I'm assuming Sunday morning, maybe Sunday night, but he was on Sunday. It was on the Lord's Day that he received this revelation. So most likely, John was worshiping when God stepped in to reveal to him Jesus Christ. He said, I was in the spirit and I heard behind me a great voice as of a trumpet. What does God sound like? He says, it sounds like a trumpet. Verse number 11, saying, I am Alpha and Omega. We can hear that more and more, over and over, right? I am Alpha and Omega. I am the one from the beginning to the end. It says, and I am the first and the last. And what thou seest, write in the book and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia, unto Ephesus, unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. He says, I am Alpha, and omega. I want to connect the dots between the beginning and the end. I want to connect the dots. I'm gonna close with this illustration. How many of y'all remember being in elementary school? And while you were in elementary school, they would sometimes play a game when you would line up. I used to play this game myself. We would all get in line, and the teacher would start a game called the telephone game. Y'all remember that? Or the whisper game. You may remember it. Come on, bro. Come on, help me out, help me out. He know what I'm talking about. Step on up. We're going to close out with this one.