

Following Jesus
"He's coming back!"
Revelation 1:1-8

I. Message – Jesus is coming back as...

a. **Authentic Ruler**

i. The ruler of Heavenly truth

1. 1:5...Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness,
2. "faithful witness" is an interesting name for Jesus
3. Really speaks of Him as the ruler of Heavenly truth
4. John 18:37

ii. **The Ruler over death**

1. 5...and the first begotten of the dead,
2. "First begotten" is protokos, implying priority and leadership.
3. He is the leader of all who will rise from the dead through Him to everlasting life.
 - a. He is the First to receive an immortal resurrection body
 - b. 1 Corinthians 15:55-57

iii. **The authentic Ruler of earth**

1. 5...and the prince of the kings of the earth.
2. He who once came to be born in a barn and to die on a cross is coming back to reign- coming in pomp and power, with banners flying and with the heaven's armies at His back

b. **Affectionate Redeemer**

i. Lover of humanity

1. 5...Unto him that loved (loves) us,
2. Love is what set Him apart
3. It sent Him from heaven
4. It sent Him to the cross
5. Love we cannot comprehend
 - a. Ephesians 3:19
 - b. We can't even conceive of such love

ii. **Redeemer of humanity**

1. 5...and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
2. John 3:16
3. As the old hymn puts it:
 - a. He breaks the power of canceled sin, sets the prisoner free;
 - b. His blood can make the foulest clean, His blood availed for me - Charles Wesley

iii. The Reconciler to God

1. 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father...
2. Colossians 1:21-22
3. Family of God – “From the door of an orphanage to the house of the King, No longer an outcast, a new song I sing; From rags unto riches, from the weak to the strong, I'm not worthy to be here, but praise God I belong!”
4. What more could we want than that?

c. Awesome Returner

i. Psalm 96:8-13

- ii. “7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen”

1. Here is the simplified calendar that the Bible describes in numerous prophecies, OT, NT and the book of the Revelation
 - a. Rapture – anytime
 - b. The Judgment Seat of Christ – (bema seat)
 - c. The Marriage of the Lamb / Tribulation – 7 years
 - d. Second Coming of Christ**
 - e. The Battle of Armageddon
 - f. Millennium – 1,000 years
 - g. The creation of the New Heaven and New Earth
 - h. The Great White Throne Judgment
 - i. Eternity
2. The book of the Revelation deals with all of these in one way or another
 - a. The Rapture and the Second Coming are sometimes hard to distinguish from one another
 - b. Simply put – He IS coming to get us AND then He IS coming to rule
 - c. Revelation 16:15

II. Conclusions

- a. Worship Him – you will now or later (Philippians 2:1-11)
- b. Trust Him – Gospel (the central core of “following Jesus”)
- c. Follow Him – actively live your life in Him in 2025
- d. Serve Him – Revelation 22:12 “And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”