

# Revelation

## Who You Are and Who He Is

### Revelation 1:9-15

Grace Fellowship Church / Pastor Brad Bigney / March 29, 2026

#### I. You Belong to Something Bigger

**Revelation 1:9** “I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus...”

Two things stand out that should reorient us in the midst of all that’s going on around us:

- The word “brother” reminds us that when you put your faith in Christ, you became a part of the family of God which is a forever family that transcends biological families, ethnicity, education, and political preference.
- The word “kingdom” reminds us that that the moment you put your faith in Christ, you were ushered into the “Kingdom of God” that transcends earthly kingdoms, countries, and nations that you might have been born into.

What does it mean that we’re a part of the family of God and the Kingdom of God?

#### A. You’ll Never Be Alone in This World

The people in the “Kingdom” of Jesus have each other, and they have His Spirit living in them, as well as His promise to us in **Matthew 28**.

**Matthew 28:20** “...And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

#### B. You Should Never Feel at Home in This World

In **v. 9**, John doesn’t just remind us that we’re a part of the family of God. He tells us what it’s going to feel like to be the people of God in a fallen, broken world.

**Revelation 1:9** “I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus...”

The grammatical structure of the original language assures us that we will be partners in three things that are interrelated and go together both then and now: tribulation, kingdom, and endurance.

This trifecta of affliction, kingdom, and endurance is a great lens for the entire book of Revelation, as well as your entire life, if you choose to be a follower of Jesus Christ.

The Christian life could be defined as “patient endurance as we wait for the fullness of His kingdom.”

**Matthew 24:9** “Then they will deliver you up to *tribulation* and put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations for My name’s sake.”

**Acts 14:22** “...through many *tribulations* we must enter the kingdom of God.”

**Romans 12:12** “Rejoice in hope, be patient in *tribulation*, be constant in prayer.”

**1 Thessalonians 3:2-3** “...we sent Timothy...to establish and exhort you in your faith, <sup>3</sup> that no one be moved by these *afflictions*. For you yourselves know that *we are destined for this*.”

## II. You'll Need to See that Jesus Is Greater

Revelation shows us that there's far more to Jesus than what meets the eye because most of us have our picture of Jesus based on the four Gospels, which highlight the humanity, humility, and compassion of Jesus.

But don't leave Him stuck there because that's not where He is anymore. Revelation shows us where He is and who He is right now as a glorious, ruling, reigning Almighty Savior and King!

### A. You Need to See Who He Is Today

In a day that was filled with fear, confusion, and speculation as to what was going to happen next, Jesus knew John needed an updated and much more accurate picture of who He is and where He is.

**Revelation 1:10** “...and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet...”

The voice of Jesus today is unavoidable and inescapable because He doesn't go around whispering in hushed tones. His voice and His promises can penetrate our noisy world like the blast of a trumpet!

**Revelation 1:12** “Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me...”

When John turned, he saw a person that he recognized. The same person with whom he'd lived, walked, talked with **60 years** before! The same person on whose breast he had leaned during the Last Supper.

But He was so much bigger, more brilliant, and breathtaking than he had ever imagined because this was the glorified, risen, reigning King Jesus!

**Revelation 1:12-15** “...and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the lampstands one like a Son of Man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around His chest. <sup>14</sup> The hairs of His head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, <sup>15</sup> His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the roar of many waters.”

When you regularly have your breath taken away by who Jesus is, you won't be left gasping as often over what the world just did!

The phrase “Son of Man” was the favorite name of Jesus for Himself that shows up **85x** in the Gospels because it was a technical Jewish term from the Old Testament that pointed to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

When John uses that term, he is referring to the towering figure that Daniel talked about hundreds of years before.

**Daniel 7:13-14** “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a Son of Man, and He came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him. <sup>14</sup>And to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him; His dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and His kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.”

## **B. You Need to See Where He Is Today**

Jesus shows us where He prefers to be: in the church with His people.

**Revelation 1:13** “And in the midst of the lampstands one like a Son of Man...”

John says he saw Jesus “in the midst of the lampstands.” There’s a lot of imagery in Revelation that’s hard to understand, but we don’t have to wonder what these lampstands represent because Jesus tells us in **v. 20** that the lampstands are the seven churches.

Imagine how encouraging this must have been to those early Christians who were wondering if the church was about to be snuffed out. Jesus is not above it all, looking down. Jesus is not outside of it, looking in. But Jesus is right in the middle of it with them.

Our perfect and glorious Savior loves to be with His imperfect people who follow Him and serve Him in imperfect ways because He’s not given up on the Church! He died for her and He’s coming back for her! And so, He loves to spend time with her now!