

# John's Greeting to the Churches

## *Revelation as Divine Communication*

- The Subject of Divine Communication
  - It Describes Jesus' Nature and Glory
  - It Describes Jesus' Work
  - It Describes Jesus' Kingdom
- The Method of Divine Communication
  - This Revelation is given in 5 Steps
    - Father
    - Son
    - Angel
    - John
    - 7 Churches
  - John (an Apostle) bears witness to what he received
    - He received the revelation through the "testimony of Jesus Christ"
    - He received the revelation through "seeing"
    - John's Reception of the Revelation is Similar to the Prophet's reception of their prophecies
- The Blessing of Divine Communication
  - There is blessing if it is Read
  - There is a blessing if it is Heard
  - There is a blessing if it is Heeded

## *The Greeting to the Seven Churches*

- The Triune Source of Grace and Peace
  - Grace and Peace are continual factors in the Christian's life
    - There can be no peace without grace.
    - When there is grace, peace is capable in the most difficult circumstances
  - Grace and Peace are Provided by every Member of the Trinity
    - They come from the Sovereign Father
    - They come from the Perfect Spirit
      - Odd statement about the "Seven Spirits who are before His throne"
      - This probably refers to the "seven titles of the Spirit" found in Isaiah 11:2
      - Refers to a 7-fold perfection of Graces the Spirit has upon Christ
      - The ministry of the Spirit is always given in relation to the Work of Christ
      - The point being driven home is to see the Father and the Spirit engaged in producing the Redemptive Work of the Son

- They Come through the Redemptive Work of Christ (Ps. 89:27, 37)
    - All that we are about to read is an outworking of what John describes here about the redemptive work of Christ
    - The Faithful Witness
    - The Firstborn from the Dead
    - The Ruler of Kings on Earth
- The Content of Grace and Peace
  - We Have God's Love
    - The hallmark of God's people, the currency of the Kingdom, and the hope of every believer is God's attitude of Love toward us
    - This is a continual and ongoing love
    - The Redemptive work of Christ is the greatest demonstration of God's love
    - For believers who are enduring such suffering, the message of God's affection to them would have been most encouraging
  - We Have Freedom from Sin
    - We have been loosed, the chains and bindings are gone
    - In contrast to God's love that is ongoing, this freedom was accomplished once for all time.
    - This freedom was accomplished by the shedding of Christ's blood
    - This is a hope that the judgments about to mentioned of God on sin will not be endured by Christ's people.
  - We Have A Kingdom
    - This has in view all, past, present, and future, who have humbly repented of their sin and turned to Christ
    - In this kingdom, there is no longer Jew or Greek, slave or free, we are all in Christ (Galatians 3:26-29)
    - **It is ultimately this kingdom, and our citizenship in it, as opposed to the kingdom of the world that will be destroyed, that we are to hope in!**
    - This is a kingdom of priests
    - There is a real sense of the kingdom as happening now
      - Christ came preaching the gospel of the kingdom (1:3, c.f. Mark 1:15)
      - He mentioned that His kingdom was not of this world (Jn. 18:26)
      - We are in the kingdom now (5:10)
    - There is still yet to be a future, visible, and physical manifestation of the Kingdom on earth
      - We shall reign on earth (5:10)
      - The millennium is spoken of as occurring on earth (20:1-6)
    - The final manifestation of the kingdom will be found in the New heavens and new earth (21:9-27)

- Our Response to Grace and Peace

- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ the great \_\_\_\_\_
  - With such majesty and hope, such grace and peace given to us, how can we \_\_\_\_\_
  - Our \_\_\_\_\_ consists of extolling his \_\_\_\_\_ glory and \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ His \_\_\_\_\_ (Zech. 12:10, c.f Jn. 19:37)
  - He is \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_
  - A \_\_\_\_\_ for \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ in His \_\_\_\_\_
  - He is the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_
  - He has \_\_\_\_\_ his plan in the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. He will \_\_\_\_\_ it in the \_\_\_\_\_!