



# DISCOVERING REVELATION

## The Man of Revelation

When you really begin to study the book of Revelation, you quickly discover that the towering image of the exalted Christ completely dominates the landscape. The book has been considered by many to be foreboding—full of denunciations and threats. Grotesque beasts glare threateningly from its pages. Monstrous powers of evil appear. Hundreds of volumes have been written in attempts to identify the beast and his image.

The good news is that the beast is not the hero of the book.

The book of Revelation emphasizes a Man. We call Him “The Man of Revelation.” The last book of the Bible begins with these words: “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” (**Revelation 1:1**). It is not “The Revelation of St. John the Divine,” as some man-made titles for the book state. Revelation reveals Jesus Christ—His personality, His power, His ministry and His eternal purpose. His name or its equivalent is used 187 times in the first three chapters of the book. The emphasis of the book is not the beast. It is the Lamb! Jesus is referred to as “The Lamb” 28 times in the book of Revelation.

In Revelation, chapter 5, God’s prophet is seen weeping bitterly. The question echoes through the courts of heaven, “Who is worthy?” (**Revelation 5:2**) The only answer is total silence. No angel can answer. No fallen being on earth can answer. Neither angels nor men know the secret purposes of God. Finally the answer is given, “The Lion of the Tribe of Judah is worthy.” (**Revelation 5:5**) The prophet turns to see a lion, but what does He see instead? A lamb! Christ is a lion to his enemies. The King of kings became a lamb so that He could redeem His people. “Worthy, worthy is the Lamb.” Why is He worthy? “For you were slain” (**Revelation 5:9**). Not because He was born on earth. Not because He lived a holy life. His credential lies in the fact that He purchased us by dying on the bloody tree. His blood was shed for people “of every kindred, tongue and people, and every nation.”

The Man of Revelation is the source of our salvation because it is only through His sacrifice that fallen humankind can find redemption. He is worthy because He paid the awful price of our sin with His sacrifice on Calvary. It is through this sacrifice that the human race can have access to the “everlasting gospel” (**Revelation 14:6**).

What is the essence of the everlasting gospel? Through sin, our first parents were alienated from God. Their transgression brought the death sentence upon them. Right after sin entered the world, even before any announcement of punishment, before the condemnation, came a swift message of mercy. Satan had introduced sin into the world. He had managed to promote a rebellion against God. But his victory was short-lived. The promise of a Champion was given—One who would be bruised and suffer, but would smite the enemy in a vital part and deliver a deadly wound (**Genesis 3:15**). The patriarchs and prophets of the Old Testament rejoiced in the mysterious language of this promise, and rested their hope upon it.

Woven throughout the messages of the Scriptures like a thread, we find the promises of the coming Man of Revelation.

Isaiah states that all human beings, like sheep, have gone astray (**Isaiah 53:6**). It appears to be a hopeless situation. But there is a solution: “The LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.” Only Jesus could provide salvation. Worthy is the Lamb!

The Apostle Paul presents the hopeless state of human beings. “...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (**Romans 3:23**). The news gets worse: “The wages of sin is death” (**Romans 6:23**). There is a death sentence hanging over every member of the human race. The best person in the world is a sinner, worthy of death. There is no human solution to the problem of sin. All human righteousness is compared to filthy rags (**Isaiah 64:6**). The situation seems hopeless. But there is a solution. “The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord” (**Romans 6:23**). How can we find salvation? “For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost” (**Luke 19:10**).

The first step in salvation is to recognize our lost condition. It is only then that we can turn to the Man of Revelation, who alone is worthy. We cannot earn our salvation; it is the gift of God (**Romans 6:23**).

One night while the people of Jerusalem were sleeping, a prominent man was walking through the streets. He went out of the city limits, down through a valley, and up a mountain known as the Mount of Olives. There he met the Man of Revelation. Under the dim light of the twinkling stars, accompanied by the sound of the soft breeze blowing on those olive trees, Jesus laid bare the most important truth of all times. There was no human hope for Nicodemus. The only way to eternal life was to be born again (**John 3:3**).

Every time a child is born it is a wonderful miracle of God. There is a much greater miracle. Nicodemus had no trouble believing in the birth of a child. He asked, “How can a man be born when he is old?” (**John 3:4**) Christ explained the miracle of the new birth. It is the work of a moment. Theologians call it justification. When we confess our sins and accept Christ, He cleanses us from all unrighteousness (**1 John 1:9**).

Yet to be a Christian means more than simply to change your ways. Christ didn't tell Nicodemus to simply turn over a new leaf. He spoke of a change that must come from within. It is a total change. The born again Christian is a new person. Although he still has the same physical appearance, things are different. He speaks about new subjects, his actions are different, and his likes and dislikes have changed. Things that had formerly been important to him now lose their charm. They are replaced with an interest in spiritual matters. He continues to grow through the process of sanctification.

Not everyone who claims to be born again is truly a new person. Many use the name of Jesus, but are still in a lost condition (**Matthew 7:21-23**). Jesus asks them, “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and not do the things which I say?” (**Luke 6:46**) There are many who talk the talk but fail to walk the walk.

The book of Revelation projects a scene of the followers of the Lamb who “keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus” (**Revelation 14:12**). “And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.” (**Revelation 14:5**). They are not saved in their sin, but they are saved from their sin. To those who receive Him, He gives the power to become the sons of God (**John 1:12**).

The book of Revelation closes with a picture of the glorious finale to the conflict of the ages. Soon the last conflict will have ended and this bloodstained planet will be transformed into a place of joy and peace. The Man of Revelation will make all things new (**Revelation 21:5**). His people will see His face, and live with Him forever (**Revelation 22:4**).

He calls you to accept His salvation today and to be a part of His eternal kingdom.