

“Who Is and Who Was and Who Is to Come”  
Revelation 1:4-8

Last Sunday: Rev. 1:1-3 and the four schools of Revelation Interpretation:

1. Preterist (past)
  2. Historicist (church history)
  3. Idealist (symbolic, spiritual)
  4. Futurist (future)
- \*Eclectic (combines the strengths of the other four views)

Today: Who Is and Who Was and Who Is to Come.

Rev. 1:4-6: Greetings to the 7 churches

Rev. 1:7-8: A Snapshot of the Return of Christ

Mt. 10:29-31 - “Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.”

“Not so much as a solitary particle of spray ever breaks rank, or violates the command of the Lord of sea and land, neither do floods revolt from His sway.” –Spurgeon

**1:4/** “And from the 7 spirits who are before His throne” – Who or what are the seven spirits?

1. The Holy Spirit.
  - a. Rev. 3:1 - Jesus “has the seven spirits of God.” This fits the Trinity motif.
  - b. Why is the Holy Spirit before the throne?
2. The seven archangels of Jewish tradition. 1 Enoch 20:1-8 lists them as Uriel, Raphael, Raguel, Michael, Saraqel, Gabriel, and Remiel.

**1:5/** “And from Jesus Christ the faithful witness...” This comprises three characteristics:

1. Quantitatively. Everything he heard from the Father he made known to his disciples.
  - a. Acts 20:26-27 - “Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all, for I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole counsel of God.”
2. Qualitatively. He paid no attention to who a person was but revealed God’s ways completely and perfectly.
  - a. Mk. 12:14 - “Teacher, we know that you are true and do not care about anyone's opinion. For you are not swayed by appearances...”
3. Christ is faithful in that he died for his faith, so you can die for yours too. Witness?

**1:5/** “The firstborn of the dead...” This is a title of honor.

- Col. 1:15-16 - “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him” (ESV).
- Col. 1:15-16 - “He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all other things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all other things were created through him and for him” (NWT).

**1:7/** “Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.”

- Preterist (past): This is Christ coming in vengeance—not in his person, but rather him coming in judgment by using the Roman armies to destroy Jerusalem in AD 70.
- Historicist (church history): This is a picture of the Second Coming of Christ.
- Idealist (spiritual): “This Christ comes continually in the clouds of judgment over history” -R. J. Rushdoony
- Futurist (future): This is a picture of the Second Coming of Christ. (The Eclectic view agrees)