

Revelation 1:1-6 ESV

The Newborn King Is Now Victorious and Reigning!

Sunday, December 27 at 10:00

First Sunday after Christmas – 2015

Join us for our New Year's Eve Divine Service at 7 PM

A good way to conclude 2015 and begin 2016!

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: It's the season of Christmas *so we are celebrating Jesus' birth*, yet we also know of ✦His victory on Calvary, ✦His resurrection from the dead, ✦His ascension into heaven, and ✦His present reign *in heaven and on earth*.

Today we focus on the *first six verses of the book of Revelation*, which include ➡the source of the information, ➡the importance of taking heed to the book, ➡a Trinitarian greeting, and ➡a focus on Jesus – *the Christ of Christmas!*

1. **The Message – From God to Us:** ¹ The revelation [the making things known] of Jesus Christ, which God [the Father] gave him [Jesus] to show to his servants [literally His slaves – like the apostle John] the things that must soon take place. He [Jesus] made it known by sending his angel to his servant John [that is, the apostle John], ² who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. // Did you catch *the order* of how the book of Revelation came from God to us? The information passed from **the Father**, to **Jesus**, to **His angel**, to **the apostle John**, to

the written Word, to us! So it came through many to get to us, *but God the Father is the Source!*

2. **The Message – *Let Us Know and Do It*:** ³ **Blessed is the one [reading and the one hearing] the words of this prophecy and [keeping] what has been written in it, for the time is near.** // That verse identified these things:
 - a. The one reading: That could be a pastor, leader, or teacher; *all such people should share the Word of God with others!*
 - b. The one hearing: That includes all people who gather for our services; *they should faithfully come and they should listen carefully!*
 - c. Both those reading and those hearing: They should *continue keeping* the Word of God; keeping is not just for full-time church workers, *but for everyone who knows Jesus as His Savior!*
 - d. Why are reading, hearing, and keeping important? Because the time of *the end of the world* is near!

3. **The Message – *The Trinitarian Greeting*:** ⁴ **John to the seven churches that are in Asia** [*which possibly represent the whole Christian Church on earth and the troubles that congregations will face during the NT era*]: **Grace to you and peace from [God the Father] him who is and who was and who is to come, and from [God the Holy Spirit] the seven spirits who are before his throne,** ⁵ **and from [God the Son] Jesus Christ...**

4. **The Message – Focusing on Jesus:** ...the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings [of the] earth. To him *[Jesus]* who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- a. The Faithful Witness: Jesus faithfully told God's truth during His ministry – *when it was easy and when it was difficult.*
- b. The Firstborn of the Dead: Jesus is the first fruits of those who have died (1 Cor. 15:20). He rose first; *all will be raised when He returns!*
- c. The Ruler of the kings of the earth: They seem to be in control here, *but He is over them all!*
- d. The One who loves us: True love is sacrificial, so *Jesus put our needs before His own;* even when we did not love Him, *He loved us!*
- e. The One who has freed us from our sins by His blood: The entire human race had brought a death sentence upon itself. In all the universe there was only one antidote—**Jesus holy precious blood**, *so He shed it for our freedom!*
- f. The One who made us a kingdom of priests: Because of *His work and our relationship with Him*, we are members of God's kingdom. Every member is a priest, so we are called to *pray for others and share the good news about Jesus!*

Conclusion: As we will soon conclude 2015 and begin 2016, we do so ✓ with peace—*our sins are forgiven*, ✓ with confidence—*Jesus is reigning*, and ✓ with purpose—*to pray for others and share the good news about Jesus, who is God's gift to the world!*

And all God's people said: **Amen!**

Disciple Training

(Matthew 28:18-20)

Important Teachings to Remember:

1. Jesus is victorious over sin and reigning over heaven and earth.
2. We are forgiven through Jesus and priests in God's kingdom.

Important Actions to Practice:

1. Let us pray for the spiritual and physical needs of others.
2. Let us share with others who Jesus is and what He has done!