

John and the Revelation

The Apostle John had a firm grasp on the humanity of his savior. His writing reveals his love for the man Christ Jesus. John, in deep devotion, refers to himself as the disciple that Jesus loved some five times. John records Jesus speaking on the subject of love (English) approximately thirty-one times (Luke 12X, Matthew 11X, and Mark 3X). John was deeply and emotionally invested in his Lord. I believe this is why John refers to Jesus in distinction from the Father so often. He was in love with the person, the human he walked with for three and one-half years. John didn't shy away from the fact that Jesus was very human; he embraced it. Nobody like John wrote of Christ's humanity and its contradistinction to deity, and nobody like John revealed that this human, whom he loved so much, was the Father manifest in the flesh. We'll look to Revelation for a quick lesson on this very thing.

In the first chapter of the book of Revelation, John wastes no time getting to the opening words of his letter, "The Revelation of Jesus Christ..." Verses 4 through 5 show John's penchant for mentioning the Father distinctly from Jesus. (Emphasis is mine.)

Rev. 1:4–6 KJV

Rev. 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, **from him which is, and which was, and which is to come**; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Rev. 1:5 **And from Jesus Christ**, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Rev. 1:6 **And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father**; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

In vs. 4, 'him' is no doubt speaking of the Father. We see this because in vs. 5, we have Jesus introduced with the conjunction, "And." Then vs. 6 tells us that Jesus, "hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father..."

John was very comfortable with the fact Jesus was truly a distinct man. He had camped with Him, eaten with Him, heard His words, then seen Him crucified. And he loved that man.

The beauty of this unique experience that John and the disciples shared is brought out in vs. 8. Let us step back and look at vs. 4, first. Remember, vs. 4 is speaking of the Father when it says,

"...from him which is, and which was, and which is to come..."

But John leaves us in no doubt that he knows exactly who the man Christ Jesus is. He records Jesus himself declaring in vs. 8,

"I am the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord," and then John adds, "which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty." This is exactly what he had just said about the Father in vs. 5! Can we blame John for his infatuation with Jesus in His humanity? Can you imagine for a moment John sitting next to Christ and looking at this man and knowing, this is God come down to us! Oh, beautiful for situation! This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ; He was God in the flesh.

*O how I love Him! How I adore Him
My breath, my sunshine, my all in all
The great Creator became my Savior
And all God's fullness dwelleth in Him*

1 Tim. 3:16 KJV

And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.

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