

Series: The Glory of God in the Person of Christ #1242

Title: Jesus Is

Revelation 1.7

Thank you for joining me today from wherever you are and by however you listen as we meet together coast-to-coast here in the United States and all the way around the world. Ah, a new day! The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, does it? His mercies are new every morning, afternoon, and evening.

Now, as you know if you have been with us, we have before us Ten Facts about Jesus Christ that are written about within just three of John's twenty verses in Revelation 1. These Ten Facts are in verses 5, 6, and 7. I will not repeat all ten right now, but what I want to do is to read Revelation 1, verses 5-7 and then I'll highlight facts nine and ten and discuss those today. Tomorrow we're going on to verses 8 and following so we can get over to verse 12 as quickly and as effectively as possible. Here now is God's Word to us this Tuesday:

"...from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— ⁶and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen."

Well, amen indeed! And we have dealt with facts one through eight already, and a bit of time on the fact that Jesus is coming again. We spoke extensively about His Second Coming. Today we learn that **"Every eye will see Jesus (even those who pierced Him)..."** This is Fact #9. What does this mean?

The Bible means exactly what it says, and this sentence clearly says that at the time of Jesus' Second Coming, literally every human eye will see Him. The whole world will see the glorified Jesus. He will be here in His exalted being. And then the Apostle John writes specifically about **"even those who pierced Him,"** and we might be tempted to think this means the actual Roman soldiers who nailed the incarnate Christ to the cross on the day of His death at Calvary. Actually, the Romans are not in view here, but some of the Jewish people are.

It is the clear testimony of the Bible that some of the Jewish people are, in part, responsible for the death of Jesus Christ. His crucifixion was partly their responsibility. Now, of course, as we talked about when we learned that Jesus loves us and demonstrates this love by dying for our sins on the cross, all sinners are responsible for Christ's death in the sense that if we had not sinned, He would not have had to die. But when God directs our attention to who killed the Lord Jesus on that dark day in the first century, this falls at the feet of the Jewish religious rulers. And let me prove this to you from Peter's sermon in Acts chapter 2. These are the words of Peter, who was Jewish and a disciple and apostle of Jesus.

Peter says this in Acts chapter 2 and verses 22-23, **"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know— ²³this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death."** As you've just heard, Peter holds his fellow Jews accountable for piercing, for crucifying Jesus. He says, **"Men of Israel..."** The Israelites are Jews. He says, **"you nailed to a cross...you..."** And Peter's audience are the Jews. Read Acts chapter 2.

So, the Jewish people, who pierced the Lord, will (at the time of the Second Coming) *see Christ!* That is what John is saying in Revelation 1.7 with our fact number nine. And this brings us, finally to fact number 10: **"The tribes of the earth will mourn over [Jesus]."** And we ask: who are these tribes of the earth who will mourn over Him? That's a very good question. It's always right that we ask good questions of the biblical text. This is what helps us to learn what the Bible means by what the Bible says.

Here the focus shifts away from the Jews to the Gentiles (everyone who is not Jewish). So, just in case you unbelieving Gentiles were feeling like you're off the hook for the death of the Lord, you are not. And here the mourning does not come as the result of being sorry for the crucifixion of the Lord. This is not what we would call genuine repentance, but rather terror (horror) that Christ will then condemn them for their

unbelief; for their outright refusal to invest sincere faith in the Lord Jesus because of genuine sorrow for their sins. You see, for every person who is not a Christian, there comes a day of judgment. And the Second Coming manifests the wrath of God on unrepented sin! Gentiles who are not Christians do not like to think about this, they deny it, and continue to indulge in that which offends deeply the Living God. (Bold, unrighteous living!) But the *fact*, I mean the deadly reality is that judgment *is* coming, the wrath of God *is real*.

And yet when you read on in the Revelation you'll read about how even when it becomes clear that condemnation is near, people will *still not* repent of their sin. Here is just one text to consider. Revelation chapter 9 and verse 21. This is Revelation chapter 9 and verse 21, "²¹**and they did not repent of their murders nor of their sorceries nor of their immorality nor of their thefts.**" If you will read that verse in the context of chapter 9 this evening, you will see how obstinate sinners are, so in love with their transgressions that they'll cling to them until the end (straight into an eternal hell). The tribes of the earth (the Gentiles) will mourn over Jesus, but only in the sense that they're doomed and at that time they'll know it.

Facts nine and ten about the Lord Jesus Christ go together and they are sobering. Every eye is going to see Jesus, and you can either see Him as your loving Lord who has forgiven you, totally, of your sin against Him. Or you can see Him as your judge who is going to condemn you because your sin remains unforgiven since you did not trust Jesus to remove it from you. You rejected Him when He called to you. You reap what you have sown. This is biblical. So, I ask you today: what have you sown? Have you sown faith in Christ for the forgiveness of sin, or have you sown corruption of the soul through denying Jesus as your Savior from sin? Which is it? There are only two choices. These are the choices God gives all of us.

I am just the messenger right now. This is God's message. I give it to you as clearly as the English language allows me to. I am reading it to you from right out of the Bible. And perhaps you have heard this before! Well, then, I humbly invite you to accept this to be true. And my sincere prayer for you is that you'll choose for Christ and no longer against Him. It's not too late to believe in Him now, to ask Him to forgive you, but it will soon be. Sow repentance today! I believe this is how we apply what we have read in today's text.

Verse 7 of Revelation 1 then ends like this, "**So it is to be. Amen.**" Simply put, these are the Apostle John's words of affirmation. They are strong words in two languages. The "**So it is to be**" is Greek and the "**Amen**" is Hebrew. When we take the Ten Facts that are true about the Lord Jesus Christ in Revelation 1, verses 5-7 that we have studied together, we affirm with the Apostle that yes, indeed, so it is to be, amen! This is who Jesus is!

Well, I certainly hope (and I have prayed) that you get the picture. This is such a rich chapter. It's like sending your fork down through the center of a chocolate cake and then biting into a piece that's thick and sweet. You cannot eat that kind of cake too quickly. It needs to be savored, maybe you eat 1/3 and put the rest away for later when you come back to it. Revelation 1 is like that. It's a lot to digest and it is sweet to the soul. But it's only sweet if you believe it and obey it. If you reject Jesus Christ, then this is a bitter tasting book. Very bitter. You probably want to spit it out.

Many people try to reinvent Jesus, because they do not like the biblical testimony of who He is. Or, they generally favor the meek Jesus of some portions of the Gospels, but certainly stiffen when it's reported here by John's heavenly vision that Jesus Christ is returning (He is coming again) in judgment on the unrepentant sinner. But the Bible discloses Jesus in *all* His glory, for the totality of who He is.

For now we are finished with our Ten Facts. I hope these have been as transformative for you as they have been for me. And remember, if you missed any of the broadcasts, you can download them today as a podcast and listen or listen again. Just go to godisministry.org, that's godisministry.org and get the podcasts on the homepage. And then be sure and come back again tomorrow. There is much more for us to discover and we do so because God Is!

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