

GREETINGS FROM ALMIGHTY GOD
REV. 1:4-6

Introduction:

- A. We receive many letters as a church.
 - 1. Some are extremely important.
 - 2. Some are insulting and worthless.

- B. Imagine receiving a letter from God!
 - 1. It would be important.
 - 2. We would need to act on it.

I. THOSE WHO WOULD RECEIVE THE LETTERS.

- A. "John to the seven churches which are in Asia."
 - 1. These are literal churches.
 - 2. These are representative churches.
 - 3. The same as Corinth, Ephesus, etc., local.

- B. "Grace be unto you, and peace."
 - 1. grace = charis - favor, affection, pleasing.
 - 2. peace = eirene = peace, rest, in contrast to strife.
 - 3. Grace from God is why we can have peace with God.

II. THE SOURCE OF REVELATION.

- A. "from him which is, and which was, and which is to come"
 - 1. The absolute one, the one who changes not.
 - 2. The One untouched by time!

- B. "and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne"
 - 1. Angels that do God's bidding, representative of all angels who are His workers.
 - 2. Angels are by creation His servants.

- C. "And from Jesus Christ."
 - 1. "who is the faithful witness."

- a. faithful = pistos - trustworthy, one on whom we may rely, sure, firm, certain.
- b. witness = martus - one who remembers, one who bears witness to the truth until death.
2. "and the first begotten of the dead."
 - a. first = prototokos - first-born.
 - b. dead = nekron - a dead body.
 - c. The first to lay down life and take it up again.

III. WHAT GOD HAS DONE FOR US IN CHRIST. V5b,6

- A. "Unto Him that loved us."
 1. This is the fountain from which all things flow.
 2. We do not deserve or merit it.
- B. "and washed us from our sins in his own blood."
 1. washed = louo - to bath, used only of the whole body, hence to cleanse by purify.
 2. own blood = to haimati = by his blood, ransom from sin.
 3. Not another's blood, but His own blood.
 4. Heb. 9:14; I Peter 1:18-19.
- C. "And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his father."
 1. basileian - the royal dominion including the power and form of government, with the territory and the kingdom.
 2. God had made us a kingdom people. We are, as a church, to the New Covenant what Israel was, as a nation, to the Old Covenant.
 3. priest = hiereus - he who has the care of the sacrifices, a priest, a servant of God.
 4. The church is a custodian of the ordinances, baptism and the Lord's supper, and as a church we occupy the position of a priest, offering up spiritual sacrifices to God by Jesus Christ.

5. I Peter 2:4-5.

- a. priesthood = heirateuma - the body of priests as composed of persons.

D. When we view the solemn assembly of the Old Testament priests to offer sacrifices we are conscience of their sacred work. However, we are not conscience of the work of worship that occurs when a New Testament Church assembles and does what God has called Her to do.

IV. TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

A. "to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

- 1. glory = doksa - splendorous recognition.
- 2. dominion = kratos - strength, power in action, force, superiority.

B. Give to him everlasting glory!

He rules forever!

Amen. May it be so.