

Session 12 The Majesty of Jesus as the Son of Man (Rev. 1)

I. JESUS, OUR MAGNIFICENT OBSESSION

I am talking about the beauty of the Lord tonight, and that is the very theme of Revelation 1. We are continuing our series on the seven churches in the book of Revelation as the picture of how the Lord is going to equip the end-time Church. Obviously, the message was for the Church 2,000 years ago, but it has its fullest application in the generation the Lord returns, in the generation where the storyline in the book of Revelation unfolds.

So, in Revelation 1-3, He reveals Himself and gives certain instructions and promises and warnings to the Church for that day, but even more so for the Church that would face the challenges that are described in the book of Revelation as well as the great revival described in the book of Revelation.

- A. No aspect of God's grace more powerfully transforms our emotions or satisfies our heart than when the Spirit reveals Jesus to us. Paul gave up everything as he saw the magnificence, or excellence, of Jesus! (Phil. 3:8). If we can see what Paul saw about Jesus, then we can live like he lived.

⁸I count all things loss for the excellence [magnificence] of the knowledge of Christ Jesus... (Phil. 3:8)

This is just a fundamental truth: there is no aspect of the grace of God that more powerfully transforms our emotions than the revelation of Jesus by the Holy Spirit to our heart. The reason I say that is because a lot of folks are looking for heart transformation. We all are. They want their heart to be satisfied. They want to feel that sense of fullness. They try many different ways, ministries, and different kinds of things. There is nothing more exhilarating to the human spirit than when God reveals God to the human spirit. The reason I say that is because I believe that.

When I look for greater transformation, I do not try harder. I focus more to learn more about Jesus from the Word. When I feel that emptiness or that need for a greater encounter, I open the Bible, and I talk to Jesus. I say, "Holy Spirit, show me more about this Man." I want to tell you—I guarantee you—that is the way for transformation of your emotions. A lot of folks basically know that, but they never actually spend their time in this pursuit while they are pursuing healing and for their heart to be satisfied.

Paul said it best here in Philippians 3, "I will lose everything. I will give up everything for the excellence," or I like to use the word, magnificence, "of when God reveals God to my spirit." He calls it the excellence, the magnificence of Jesus.

I call Him our magnificent obsession. I have said to the Lord many times, "Lord, if I can see what Paul saw about that Man, then I can live like he lived." I do not want Paul's ministry but I want his dedication. The key to Paul's dedication was not that he was so fiery beforehand. It is because of what he saw about the Man Christ Jesus. I say, "Lord, if I could see what he saw, I could live like he lived."

Again I say it over and over: do not try harder to obey, but spend more focus getting understanding of Jesus in your heart from the Word of God. It takes time, though. You cannot get that on the run. It takes slowing down, turning some things off, locking in, and it happens little by little, step by step. Over time, our emotions become healed and our heart becomes satisfied.

- B. The Spirit is our escort into the deep things of God's heart. He knows more about Jesus than we can imagine. He will reveal as much of Jesus as we are hungry for. He gives to us based on our hunger. I pray, "Spirit, let me see what You see and feel what You feel about Jesus—teach me about Him."

¹³The Spirit...will guide [escort] you...¹⁴for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
(Jn. 16:13-14)

Jesus said, "The Spirit will guide you to Me." I call the Holy Spirit, the Great Escort. He will escort us into the deeper things of the Lord Jesus. Again, it is in the Word. I do not mean just a dream or a vision, although I appreciate that. I actually do a lot.

It is the open Word of God, talking to Jesus in the Word, saying, "Spirit, help me, help me to connect with Him. Help me to talk to Him in a way that connects my heart. Help me see more."

I have good news, and, of course, it is a little redundant; you already know it. The Holy Spirit knows more about Jesus than you could imagine! He knows everything about Jesus. He will give you as much as you are hungry for. Again, you cannot get it on the run. It takes time, drawing back from some activities, turning some things off, and locking in with an open Bible.

I remember my early days. I was seventeen, eighteen, nineteen, twenty, twenty-one. I loved the Lord. I really did. I witnessed to a lot of folks. I witnessed to somebody almost every day or nearly every day for some years. I loved Christians meetings, like Bible teachings and worship meetings. I hated prayer and Bible study, just me and God alone. I really did. I thought, "Ugh, ugh. I will go to another meeting tomorrow tonight and hear teaching and fellowship." I loved meetings and I loved witnessing, but, boy, I did not like me and God one on one.

I just stayed with it. A few years later, I don't even know when it changed, but I remember somebody asked me a question once. I was in a Q&A. I was about twenty-two, twenty-three years old, having a Q&A with maybe fifty people. They asked, "When did you begin to love the Word?" I was so used to me being a person who did not like the Bible. I mean, I liked the Bible in theory; I just did not like reading it. I mean I loved it as "Jesus, You are the Word." Then in this Q&A, this young woman asked me, "When did you begin to love the Word so much?" I remember I stopped. It was like a cathartic moment. I had a tear in my eye. She said, "Are you okay?"

I said to myself, not to them, "Mike Bickle loves the Bible. Oh my God! When did that happen?" I had not always liked it. I never knew when it happened. I just stayed with it, and just little by little, inch by inch, you turn around and a few months, a few years—for me it was a few years—and I loved the Bible. I thought, "When did that happen?" I did not love prayer yet, but I loved the Bible because I learned to talk to Jesus when I opened the Bible.

So here is one of my favorite prayers. I urge you to pray this prayer. I pray, "Holy Spirit, let me see what You see and let me feel what You feel, Holy Spirit, when You look at Jesus." Because the Holy Spirit is looking right at Jesus. I say, "Let me see what You see."

He would say, "Well, little guy, if you saw everything I see, it would blow your circuits, but I will give you more. I know what you are saying, but you do not really want to see everything I see. Not yet. Not until you get a resurrected body, because you cannot endure it yet. It is like a million volts going in a 120 or 220 unit, you know. It will blow your circuits. I get what you mean you want more."

So many sincere believers are so content with so little of Jesus. I mean they are sincere. They will witness, they will go on ministry trips, they will sacrifice, but they will not ask for more understanding of Jesus. They are so content to have so little encounter with Jesus at the heart level.

One of my life messages: do not be easily content. Because, I promise you if I can love the Word, you can love the Word. You say, "Well, you are the leader of IHOPKC. Of course you love the Word!"

No, you do not know my journey. I was “action.com.” I did not like sitting in the presence of God. If an angel would have appeared to me back in those days when I was in the university and said, “Yea, young man of God, you will have a twenty-four-hour prayer ministry,” I would have died of despair. I just would have collapsed. “Yea, you will have a Bible school and you will teach, teach, teach, teach.” Ugh, I would have run the other way. If he said, “Yea, young man of God, you will go on ministry trips,” I would have loved it.

I like ministry trips, I am not against those. But at that time, I loved action. I did not like sitting because my heart was so dull. None of it connected. I remember I used to complain to the Lord, “Say, Lord, if You would just make the Bible a little easier to read, a lot of Your friends would read it more.” I said, “For example, like Romans 1—seven steps to prayer, Romans 2—seven steps to reconciliation, Romans 3—seven steps to relationship building, Romans 4—leadership principles. Something like that, Lord. So, you know, lay it out a little more clearly, and we would read it more. Well, the Lord did not take my advice at all, which I am glad for it.

- C. The Spirit is raising up those who will proclaim the riches of Jesus. The most neglected subject in the kingdom of God is God Himself.

⁸*To me...grace was given that I should preach...the unsearchable riches of Christ... (Eph. 3:8)*

Oh, what a fantastic verse! I want you to put your name on this passage, literally put your name on it. Paul says, “Grace was given”—the anointing of the Spirit—“that I would preach the unsearchable riches of this Man. He is fully God and He is fully Man.” He said, as it were, “I was anointed to unpack, to make known, to proclaim, to sing about the riches of a Man.”

The most neglected subject in the Body of Christ, in the kingdom of God, the most neglected subject in the kingdom of God is God. It is true. We teach leadership skills, people skills, ministry skills, lots of financial principles. Those are actually biblical and important to teach. The most neglected subject in the kingdom of God is God, the person of God Himself. He is the most exhilarating and the most beautiful.

I believe in this hour the Holy Spirit is raising up people who will proclaim the unsearchable riches. They will sing it. They will blog it. They will talk it. They will pray it. They will preach it. They will write about it, the riches of Jesus, the unsearchable riches. Unsearchable means you can search them out—the Bible tells us to—but you will never get to the bottom of it. You will never exhaust the fulness of the splendor of this Man, never. Around the throne of God, the angels cover their eyes, the seraphim, the four living creatures. They see the glory of God, and they are overwhelmed. Then, after the power of it races through their being, they come up for air, as it were, and they get another glimpse. Then they cry out, “Holy, holy, holy!” They cover their eyes again. We will never exhaust the glory and the beauty of our God ever, and that is why the Word is unsearchable.

So I really want you to put your name on that verse. I don't mean write it on this paper. What if Ephesians 3:8 was truly a goal for your life? It does not require you to have a preaching ministry. What if it is one-on-one discipling or talking about it? You are going to make known to other human beings the riches of a person. Not just activities, but the riches of a person.

II. JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- A. The book of Revelation is called the *revelation of Jesus* because it reveals the majesty of His heart and leadership. Second, it reveals events that will occur in His end-time plan to purify the Church, bring in the harvest, replace all the governments on earth, and transition it to the age to come. God's first desire is *to reveal the Man behind the plan*. Many only see the end-time plan and miss the Man.

¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him [Jesus] to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to...John. (Rev. 1:1)

The subject of the book of Revelation is the unveiling of a Man. We often read the book of Revelation to look for the events. Revelation 1:1 says it is a revelation of Jesus which is communicated through events. So the idea is that we read the events and they lead us back to the Man who is giving leadership over those events. The events, the things that happen, are to lead us back to the Man Himself.

God's first desire is not that we would just see His end-time plan, but we would see the Man behind the plan. A lot of folks—I am not saying this critically, but I am saying this kind of to alert us—read the book of Revelation to see the plan, not the Man. They miss the Man entirely when they read the book. Someone told me this years ago. I cannot remember who, but it was many years ago.

I remember, before IHOPKC started, which was twenty years ago, when I was pastoring the church here in Kansas City. We had a Friday night prayer meeting for some years. We went from seven to midnight, and then for some other years we went from seven to like to five in the morning or three in the morning. Over twenty years we had different timeframes. I would go every Friday night. For some years—I do not know how many years—I always sat right back there.

It was actually this very building; our church was in here. Then when I started IHOPKC, another pastor took on this church. They moved down the road, and they called me, you know, when we were running IHOPKC. They said, "Hey, do you want to buy your old building back for a conference center?" So I am the only guy in Kansas City who bought the same building two times. I paid for this thing twice. I don't really like the building, but, anyway, let's get back to the Bible.

So I used to sit over there. For some years—I do not know how many years I did this, two, three, four, five years, something like that, every Friday night I would come in and I would simply read the book of Revelation—I was not looking for end-time activity. I was searching out the majesty of the Man in the book every Friday night. It took me about two to three hours. I read it slowly. You could read it quickly in an hour plus, maybe seventy minutes, if you just go right through. I took three or four hours. I would read it, and I would pause, and I would talk to Him. I would say, "Spirit, reveal Jesus to me"—because some preacher told me to do this. I read it in a book or somewhere. I did not come up with the idea myself. I thought, "Okay, I will do it."

So I read Revelation every week for some years, never thinking hardly ever about the end times. I was thinking about this verse, "The revelation of the Man Christ Jesus that God the Father gave to Jesus." The Father said, as it were, "Jesus, I have authority over Your own majesty, but I am commissioning You to reveal this facet of Yourself to Your Church." Even for Jesus, the Father had to commission Him to unveil this level of who He is.

- B. The greatest corporate miracle in history is the transformation of the end-time Church from spiritual compromise into a "prepared Bride" walking in the first commandment (Rev. 19:7).

⁷...for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)

Do not ever lose sight when you read the book of Revelation: It is not about the Antichrist, though he is mentioned. Not about persecution, though there is a little bit of persecution. It is not about judgment, though there is judgment. At the end of the day, it is the glory of a Man. It is His plan to raise up a prepared Bride at the end of the age. That is the whole plan of Revelation. If you lose this, you get off track.

It is about raising up—I am just using the number—a billion in the great end-time harvest who will walk as a prepared Bride in the first commandment. The book of Revelation is the plan of the Father and Jesus together, obviously in perfect unity, to bring forth a Church in the first commandment as a prepared Bride.

If you are reading the book of Revelation, and you think, “I am really afraid of Revelation,” I would say that you are missing it. It is about His plan to raise up a prepared Bride. I call this the greatest miracle in human history, the greatest miracle of human history besides Jesus Himself becoming a Man. It is the transformation of the end-time Church out of a spiritually compromising Church. Most of the Church in the earth today is in spiritual dullness and compromise. What I mean by most: millions are not living that way, but hundreds of millions are. It is really easy to see the great miracle of the end-time Church. The great miracle of human history is the transformation of the Church worldwide from spiritual compromise to a prepared Bride.

This book of Revelation is a love story. It is the glory of a Man, and it is His plan to bring forth a Bride. If you read Revelation through that grid, you will read it very differently. I like understanding the plan and some of the details. I put time into that. That is not what captures me really. It is the Man Himself.

- C. In Revelation 1-3, John shares a vision which highlights **30 descriptions of Jesus'** majesty, ministry, and personality, and **22 eternal rewards**. Each description and reward communicate insight into Jesus' leadership that is necessary in equipping the Church to overcome compromise, endure persecution and pressure, and engage in partnership with Jesus in the great end-time drama.

In Revelation 1-3 is where His message to the seven churches is. These three chapters go together. You cannot separate these three chapters. I just want to mention this to you. Those of you who have been here through this course know it. Of course, the course was for the IHOPU students. They have already graduated and left in May, but I want to continue on through the summer because I just love this passage. It is really endless, the amount of insights we can glean from Revelation 1-3 if we stay with it, by the Holy Spirit. I do not mean me myself, but I am talking about how it is endless, how many implications are in these three chapters.

Well, I have identified thirty descriptions of Jesus in these three chapters, though you can organize it differently, and twenty-two eternal rewards. Now each description, each one of these descriptions is critical. In the next couple weeks, by the grace of God we are going to look at these descriptions, the next three, four, five weeks. There are thirty. I do not know that we will cover all of them before the end of July.

These descriptions are so easily overlooked by the Body of Christ. They kind of read it, “Jesus the first and last, the beginning...” and then, “Okay,” and they move on to the next words. Whoa, whoa, whoa, whoa! Those are massively significant statements about the God-Man. The implications are vast. So I do not want to just rush by and say, “Oh, yeah, I got it: He is the first and the last, a sword is coming out of His mouth, eyes like fire. Okay good, let's get to the message.” Whoa, whoa! This is a real Man who is fully God, and this is how He describes Himself. This is how He is going to reveal Himself in the generation in which the book-of-Revelation events unfold, and then it ends in a prepared Bride at the end of human history.

Beloved, it is my opinion—it is not a prophecy but it is my opinion—that we are in the early days of that final generation. So these thirty descriptions are of paramount importance to the Body of Christ. We do not want to be content just moving fast, really quickly. This is God revealing God. This is Jesus preaching Jesus. Revelation 1 is that. It does not get any more intense than that.

Again—and I am truly not being negative when I say this, I am not being critical in my heart but I am wanting to alert us—in the Body of Christ so many are so content just to move on quickly and leave this gold mine behind. I do not want to leave this gold mine behind. The thirty descriptions of Revelation 1-3 are necessary to equip the Church to overcome the escalating temptations at the end of the age. To overcome the temptation to draw back in persecution. These thirty descriptions will help equip the Church to engage in the Lord's great end-time purpose, to partner with His heart. These thirty descriptions, do not overlook them.

- D. I identify **30 descriptions** from Jesus' titles, appearance, actions, and clothing in Revelation 1-3. I recognize *24 descriptions* in Revelation 1 (note 7 descriptions in 1:5-7 and 17 in 1:10-16) and *18 descriptions* in Revelation 2-3, *totaling 42*. However, since 12 are seen in both Revelation 1 and Revelation 2-3, I identify 30 distinct descriptions in Revelation 1-3. John gave only abbreviated statements of each description and reward. Each phrase is but a *hint* that we are to search out more by using the rest of the Bible to get a more complete picture of what the Spirit is saying about Jesus.

I derive these descriptions in these three chapters from His titles, appearance, and action. Some of these are titles. Some of these are the way He appears. Some of them are His actions. Some of them are the clothing He is wearing. I put those together, and I have identified thirty different descriptions. Somebody else might organize it differently and have a different number.

Here is the thing you want to understand: each phrase is only an abbreviated statement. These statements are so short and abbreviated. They are divine hints. The Holy Spirit is saying, "Search it out; search it out. He is the first and the last. Search out what that means. Look through the Scripture. I will help you. Search out, compare scripture with scripture, and see the implications of what that phrase means." I am not content to move on without doing this in my personal life or as a teacher and a pastor.

III. JESUS AS THE SON OF MAN

- A. One of the most significant prophecies about Jesus is found in Daniel 7. It describes Jesus as the *Son of Man* who will rule all nations with His people (Dan. 7:14). Jesus used this title more than any other when speaking of Himself (85 references). Each time Jesus was referring to His identity as set forth in Daniel 7 since Daniel is the only one to prophesy about Jesus as the "*Son of Man*."

⁹The Ancient of Days [the Father]... His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool...¹³One like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days [Father]...¹⁴To Him was given dominion...and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations...should serve Him [Jesus]. His dominion is an everlasting dominion...²⁷Then the kingdom...shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. (Dan. 7:9-14, 27)

For those of you that are new here, I never finish the notes, and I don't ever care. The locals know I could be on page one, you know, for forty minutes and sometimes say, "Amen, let's stand." They say, "Wait, what about the other three pages?" I say, "Well, you got them for free there. Here they are." I always like to give you something to take home to look later. I am never in a hurry to finish it or cover it. I have so much fun writing it. I just love Jesus writing this to us. I do not care if I say it just all day long, "Ooh, ooh, ooh, ooh! I love You! Thank You. What do You mean? I do not know what this phrase means. Holy Spirit, help me." So I am happy. I was satisfied before I came tonight.

Well, it is the Son of Man. His premiere title. This might be a new point to you, but I want you to grasp it. The premiere title of Jesus as the Man who is unfolding the plan in the book of Revelation is the Son of Man. This is

a very significant phrase, the Son of Man. This is the Man. When we see who Jesus is as the Son of Man, we do not lose sight of His power and His might nor of His humanity. This phrase is the phrase Jesus used most to describe Himself more than every other title or every other description. I have never counted, but I would say He used this phrase ten times more than any other one phrase, maybe more. He used it over eighty-five times in the gospels. I do not know of any other phrase He used to describe Himself eight or nine times, and this is eighty-five times. So probably over ten times more than any other. It is so significant.

Here is what He is talking about. Here is the part I want you to grasp. The title, Son of Man, is only found one place in the Old Testament. All eighty-five times refer to the one place in the Old Testament referring to the Messiah. Ezekiel called himself a son of man in a very different context, so I am not using those. Just the one time in Daniel 7. So eighty-five times in the gospel when He said, "the Son of Man," He was saying, as it were, "Check out Daniel 7. Check out Daniel 7. Go back to Daniel 7," because Daniel 7:13-14 is the only place that the Messiah was ever called the Son of Man.

The Pharisees were really thrown off. They thought, "You are saying You are the Daniel 7 guy?"

Jesus would say, "I am the Son of Man. You take it from there."

They thought, "Do you understand what You are claiming, that You are the Daniel 7 Messiah?"

Let's look at this really quickly. My point is not to teach Daniel 7 tonight. This is a glorious passage that deserves a lot of time. That is not my point. My point is to let you know where this phrase is anchored because then Jesus uses it eighty-five times in the gospels.

Then Revelation 1 begins, the Son of Man. Here He is revealed as the leader and the king who is going to unfold the book of Revelation action plan from heaven. It is the Son of Man with all the implications anchored in Daniel 7.

It started off in Daniel 7:9. Daniel said, "I see the Ancient of Days." That is a term for the Father, the Father in His eternal nature. That is the idea. His garments were white. His hair was white like pure wool. Suddenly next to God the Father in heaven is a human. How does a human get up there? This is what the Pharisees understood. They understood it was not a normal human. A human cannot get into God's throne room and walk up to Him. A human cannot do that. Whoever this man is, he is unique, unique, unique. Nobody could quite figure it out because you have to be divine to have this audience in the presence of God, to actually walk up to the Father. Angels cannot do it. This Man could, but He is human. He is in God's throne room, walking up to God, receiving the commission to rule all the nations forever. So he is an eternal human, and he is at God's throne. He is going to rule all the nations forever, but He is human. Who is this guy?

- B. The two primary chapters that describe Jesus as the Son of Man are Daniel 7 and Revelation 1. In Revelation, Jesus gives more insight into His identity as the *Son of Man*, which will be manifest across the nations in the generation He returns to the earth.

¹³In the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet...¹⁴His head and hair were white like wool...and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. (Rev. 1:13-17)

What I want you to put together in your own time and study from your hunger where you say, "I got to have more. I got to have more. I got to have more," is these two chapters: Daniel 7, which we just looked at briefly, and Revelation 1. Those are the two "Son of Man" kind of "pillar" chapters. You want to compare them. Read those two together. The Son of Man references in the gospel, the eighty-five, fit into the story. Take these two chapters, just put them in front of you and look at them. Say, "Holy Spirit help me to understand these," because this is the Jesus who is going to be revealed to the end-time church, who is going to be manifested in His glory. Most of the Church is not familiar with this Jesus at all. This is the Jesus who is going to empower their heart to overcome temptations, to endure persecution, and to partner with Him in the greatest revival.

In the book of Revelation, there is the greatest revival that far, far surpasses the revival in the book of Acts. People say, "Oh, I want the book of Acts!"

I say, "No, no. Really what you want is the book of Revelation, actually." Some folks have a real wrong view of the book of Revelation. Like I said, it is the revelation of Jesus and His plan to bring forth a prepared Bride who is walking in deep love for God in the first commandment.

You know, just off the cuff, there are some 400 verses in the book of Revelation. It's 403 to be technical, but call it 400. Only twelve verses are about persecution. Three percent of the book of Revelation is about persecution. Ninety-seven percent is not about persecution. It is the revelation of the glory of God and the removal of darkness off the planet. God's judgments remove everything that hinders love. It is the love book. It really is. It has been completely misread. If you say, "Oh, the book of Revelation scares me, I say, "You are not reading it right; you are not reading it right."

It is a glorious Man, the Son of Man, revealing Himself to His Church so powerfully that it brings forth the Church as a prepared Bride. He shows His zeal to remove everything on the planet that hinders love. That is the book of Revelation in one sentence. I love this book.

Well, we see Jesus as Son of Man here in Revelation 1. Because Revelation 1 gives us more insight than Daniel 7, you want to put the two together. So it is not that complicated. It is not like 1,000 verses. It is two chapters. Put them together. Say, "Okay, this is the Jesus we are going to become more familiar with."

We will never get so very familiar with Him. I mean, John the apostle was called the beloved disciple. He was one who put his head on Jesus' breast at the table. He said, "I am the disciple Jesus loved." That is how John described Himself five times in the Gospel of John. He said, "I am the one God loves." He put his head on His breast. When Jesus appeared as the Son of Man, we find out here in verse 17, John fell as a dead man. It is like Jesus said, "Oh, John, you didn't really know Me that well, did you? You didn't know who I was. I have always been this. This is not new. When I was with you, this was veiled."

Beloved, this is the revelation that the end-time Church is going to enter. I don't mean fully, but we are going to enter into more of this reality. The Church will be so fascinated and exhilarated with this Man. When they are threatened with death and persecution, they will say, "This Man is worth it," like Paul the apostle. "Oh, I will forsake everything for the excellence of encountering this Man more and more."

Well, it starts in verse 13. Here He is the Son of Man. He has garments down to His feet. That speaks of His high priestly ministry. He is a sympathetic high priest. His head and His hair are white. His hair is white like the Ancient of Day, like the Father's hair. Meaning, His wisdom is pure. His wisdom is holy. His wisdom is rooted in an eternal perspective. It is white like the Father's, based in eternity. His wisdom does not come out of a temporal mindset. It comes out of the ultimate big picture. That is why His hair is white like the Father's.

His eyes are burning flaming fire. His feet are like brass and that speaks of removing everything that gets in the way of His kingdom before it is over. "Everything will be removed, I promise you," is what He is saying here.

His voice is like the sound of many waters. You know, throughout Church history, over 2,000 years, Jesus' voice is mostly ignored in the nations. They say, "Well, the Church says this. Whatever! Jesus of Nazareth..." Let me tell you, when He comes back, His voice will be like the sound of many waters. Everybody in the earth will be paying attention to Him. He will not be overlooked. He will not be dismissed. His voice will not be missed.

Every knee will bow, every tongue will confess, and every single believer and unbeliever will be paying attention to that Man's voice. Not like 2,000 years when they said, "Well, we are not really into Him." They will be when He comes back, and growing even more and more leading to His return. The billion that I believe will come to Him, that is just the number I use for the great end-time harvest. I think it is probably going to be more than that.

Out of His mouth comes a sharp, two-edged sword. His countenance is like the sun shining at noonday. John said, "When I saw Him, I fell like a dead man." Beloved, I have good news for you! The end-time Church is going to be awestruck, not bored, with Jesus. The spiritual boredom that is so common in the church today, the compromise, dullness, and spiritual boredom is going to be alleviated completely. We are going to be awestruck at this Man. I don't mean we will fall down dead every day. Our hearts will be trembling at His terrifying beauty. We will have confidence in His tender mercy and love. The Church is not going to end up in a Laodicean compromising spirit when the Lord comes back.

- C. The *Son of Man* title emphasizes that Jesus will reign as King over all nations forever and that He is fully God and fully human—the God-man. Jesus is saying, "I am God, yet I am also one of you."
- D. Jesus can manifest or veil His glory. On several occasions, believers did not recognize Jesus in His resurrected body, because He veiled His glory (Lk. 24:13-32; Jn. 20:11-15; 21:1-14).
- E. ***His hair is white***: In Daniel 7, the Son of Man came near to the Father, the Ancient of Days, who has hair white like snow (7:9), speaking of His eternal nature, wisdom, and holiness.
- F. ***His eyes are like a flame of fire***: The Man who loves us is a Man with eyes like fire. He has burning eyes because He has a burning heart. It is not enough to know doctrine about the Messiah; we must encounter the Man with eyes of fire
- G. ***His feet were like fine brass***: He will judge the hostile kingdoms that persecute His people.
- H. ***His voice is as the sound of many waters***: For 2,000 years, multitudes have ignored the voice of Jesus, but when He returns, every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess His lordship. He will never be dismissed again. He has a voice of authority to impact all nations when He returns.
- I. ***In His right hand are seven stars***: The stars represent the leaders over the seven churches (1:20). He carries His leaders in His right hand. He helps them because they are near and dear to Him.
- J. ***Out of His mouth went a two-edged sword***: Jesus' piercing words liberate His people from sin, sickness, and it removes those in the nations who persecute His people (Rev. 19:2, 15).

- K. **Summary:** John heard a voice like a *trumpet* calling the Church to seek and encounter God's glory (Joel 2:15) and warning all nations that the King was coming to earth (Rev. 6-19). The One who spoke is *fully God* (Alpha/Omega) and *fully man* (First/Last). He is the glorious *Son of Man* who will rule all nations as a *sympathetic High Priest* (garment to the feet), yet as One who is *forever holy and wise* like His Father (His head and hair are white) in all that He does. He is filled with burning desire for His people with *eyes like fire*. He will cleanse the nations with His *feet like brass*. All will listen to Him because *His voice is like many waters*. In the midst of all His mighty works, He *holds and upholds* His messengers (stars) and *fights against all* that harms them (sword). None can resist the brightness of His glory (sun), even His people fall overwhelmed at His glory.

Okay, I put this summary here just because it was fun to write it. You do not have to read it. I am going to read it just for me right now. I am just having fun. Here I give just a quick snapshot of what we read in Revelation 1:10-18. It says that John heard His voice like a trumpet. Jesus' voice is like a trumpet, and it is also like the sound of many waters. Like a trumpet He is. It is like Joel 2 where they blow the trumpet to alert God's people. The glory of God is coming, and He is warning that the enemy is approaching. God is going to confront the enemy. So the trumpet is alerting, and warning, and signifying something very dramatic is about to happen.

*He is the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last. That means He is fully God and fully man. We will look at that in the weeks to come. He is the Son of Man. The idea of Him being the Son of Man comes from the passage we just looked at from Daniel 7. He will rule all nations. That is the idea. We did not develop that in Daniel 7, but that is one of the key points. A Man who is fully God will rule all nations, not for a term, but forever. It is even more intense! He is going to rule **all nations forever**. I didn't read that from Daniel 7:14. It says in Daniel 7:27 that He is going to bring His people to rule with Him. That is the Bridegroom heart. He would say, "I do not want to rule alone. I want to rule with My Bride forever." What a glorious statement! Well, He has garments reaching to His feet. He is a sympathetic high priest.*

His hair is white. So all of His wisdom is rooted in eternity. It is pure and holy. There is no mistake in His leadership. You read the book of Revelation; I call it the most politically incorrect document in human history. I really mean that. The book of Revelation taken at face value—I mean there is some symbolism here and there but a lot of it is face value—is the most politically incorrect document on planet earth in all of history. His wisdom is going to prove pure like the Father's, rooted in an eternal perspective. When the end of the plan is made known, everyone will say, "Worthy is the Lamb! All wisdom was Yours, perfect wisdom." That is what His white hair is signifying.

His eyes—He has burning desire for His people. He will cleanse the nations. His feet are like brass. Everyone will pay attention and pledge allegiance to Him. His voice will be like the sound of many waters. Nobody will ever dismiss His voice after He returns. He will hold His messengers in His hands as near and dear. It goes on and on.

- L. A more complete biblical picture of Jesus is set forth in Daniel 7 and Revelation 1 in the context of the four gospels, the epistles, the book of Acts, the book of Psalms, and the Old Testament prophets.

Jesus' ministry in the four Gospel as the Son of Man and Jesus' ministry in the book of Revelation as the Son of Man, we put the two portraits together to get the full picture. Jesus in the Gospels is not the full picture. Jesus in Revelation not the full picture. The two go together, together with the epistles and the book of Acts and the Old Testament prophets, to get the whole picture of the One who is the Living Word. His whole thumbprint, it is the written Word. I call it the transcript of His soul. The written Word is the transcript of the Living Word. So we look at the Gospels Son of Man and the book of Revelation Son of Man. We put them together in context to

the epistles, to the book of Acts, and to the Old Testament prophets. We see a clearer picture of the Son of Man. Do not take any part of the Bible and just get rid of it, because this Man's portrait is through the book from Genesis to Revelation.

- M. We understand more about the “Jesus of the gospels” in context to the “Jesus of Revelation.” We see both Jesus’ transcendence and immanence expressing His power and love for His people.

We understand more about the Jesus of the Gospels when we see the Jesus of Revelation. We understand more about the Jesus of Revelation when it is rooted in the Jesus of the Gospel because it is the same person. There is no change. I gave a couple examples there, though we will skip them.

1. In the gospels, He reveals that He loves His people in the way that God loves God (Jn. 15:9). In Revelation 1, He has eyes of fire that are filled with love for His people (Rev. 1:14).
⁹As the Father loved Me, I also have loved you... (Jn. 15:9)
2. In the gospels, He cleansed the temple (Mt. 21:12-14). In Revelation 1, we see that He has feet like brass that will cleanse the nations preparing them for God’s presence (Hab. 2:14).
¹⁴For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD... (Hab 2:14)
3. In the gospels, He spoke piercing words to liberate His people from sin, sickness, and Satan. In Revelation 1, we see that His mouth is like a sword that liberates His people (Rev. 2:16) and removes those in the nations who persecute them (Rev. 19:2, 15).

IV. SEARCHING WITH ALL OF OUR HEART

- A. The Spirit will escort us into the divine treasury of the magnificence of Jesus. Searching for God includes prayerful study of the Word, with fasting. We are to be diligent in our pursuit of the knowledge of God, being willing to pay any price in seeking for more of Jesus.

⁴If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures, ⁵Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. (Prov. 2:4-5)

This verse has been a lifetime verse for me personally. The Lord gave me this verse when I was eighteen. I remember it vividly the day it happened. It's in Proverbs 2. It was very dramatic. I will not go into it just for the time's sake. While right now some of you say, “Hey, we are in no hurry,” well, we have a whole group of amazing people ministering to our children. I am always thinking of them over there. They work so hard. So I do not ever like to go late. I do not mind going late for you, but I care about them. They are working hard. So I always want to keep it a little bit short and bless them.

By the way, when you pick up your children, look at the workers in the eye and say, “Thank you, thank you, thank you!” Don't just say, “Billy, how was children's church?” Look the workers in the eye and say, “Thank you.” It will touch their heart.

Anyway, back to this verse. This is a very powerful verse. I was eighteen years old when the Lord marked me with this. It says that if you will seek for her as silver, if you will search for it like treasure that is hidden, you will discover the knowledge of Jesus more and more. I was crying out for the knowledge of God. I said, “God, Jesus, I love You, but it is kind of boring.” I mean, you know, Jesus has big shoulders, He was not worried. He knew the problem was me, not Him. I said, “This whole thing is boring. Meetings are fun, but everything else is boring besides meetings and ministry trips.”

The Lord spoke to me through some ways; I will not go into it. He said, "You need to grow in the knowledge of God."

*I thought, "I do not know how to grow in the knowledge of God." I read a couple books at the university about how to grow in the knowledge of God. J. I. Packer, **Knowing God**. I read it and thought, "Ugh!" I told everybody, "Amazing book," but it was kind of boring. I read it later, and it really was amazing. I thought it was supposed to be amazing. I read A. W. Tozer, **The Knowledge of the Holy**. I read several books like this to know God. It just kind of bounced off of me. I thought, "This is supposed to be exciting." I told everybody, "This stuff is amazing." They read it too, and they kind of thought it seemed kind of boring to them, too. That is because our spirit was not acclimated to these things.*

*So I was desperate. I said, "God, I have to know this. I do not just want to be active in ministry. I do not just want to be faithful at meetings. I do not want to be content with living a moral life and helping people. I want to encounter God. I do not want to just have a Christian morality and a Christian ethics." I believe in walking in purity, and I want to serve people, and I want to touch people. I want to know God. My spirit was created to encounter God, not just serve Him. I do not want to work **for** Him, I want to work **with** Him. I want to be exhilarated by Him. He was boring to me, and that was a problem to me.*

The Lord said, "You seek for it as silver. You search for it as hidden treasure." You know the problem with hidden treasure? It is not on the surface. Hidden treasure is hidden. That is how it works.

B. Jesus is our greatest treasure, but is "hidden" until we seek for more of Him with all our heart.

²Attaining to all the riches of...Christ, ³in whom are hidden all the treasures... (Col. 2:2-3)

You dig for hidden treasure. You dig and dig and dig, like the gold rush in 1849 in San Francisco. You know thousands went there, and many people dug for months and months. Every now and then they would find a nugget of gold. If you found a nugget, even if you dug for months, it was worth it. So you dig.

I searched the Bible, studied the Bible, studied the Bible. The Bible was boring...the Bible studies boring... the Bible, I did not understand it. When I first came into the kingdom, I did not have a Christian background at all. I always like to say that I didn't know the difference between a Gospel, an epistle, an apostle, a disciple. None of it made sense to me. I said, "Lord, I do not know. I do not know."

Search for it. You are no different than anybody else. Even your spirit was created by God to enjoy God. Beloved, every one of you were created by God to enjoy God. Do not ever sell yourself short. Like, "I do not get it...You know I am a Millennial...I just have a short attention span." I do not buy that. No, I do not. I have had people say, "I am ADD. I cannot read more than three minutes."

I say, "Yes, you can. Read the same sentence three minutes in a row, and just do it fifty times straight." I say, "Do not sell out so quickly. Do not, do not!"

This generation does not have an attention span? Yes, they do. You know why? Because they were created in the image of God, and there is a hunger for God emerging in the Millennials. They will go deep and long with God. I do not buy this, that they cannot pay attention for more than three minutes. I tell you, when they touch a little bit of the Son of Man, when any of us do, we say, "Oh, my goodness! Your terrifying beauty! Who are You? I have to have more. I have to have more! I have to have more."

Paul spoke of those riches, remember Ephesians 3:8? About twenty minutes ago he proclaimed the riches, the unsearchable riches of Christ. He continued on, "Let me tell you about those riches here in Colossians. They are hidden. They are not on the surface."

I stay with it. I do not mean for a summer or a semester. I stay with it. Beloved, just lock in. I am going to be a pursuer of Jesus through meditating on the Word. I do not just read the Word. I read the Word and turn it into conversation with a person. Because, while reading the Word is good, talking to the Living Word when you read the written Word is far more powerful. The riches are hidden; the riches are hidden.

C. A kingly spirit searches diligently and refuses to be denied (Prov. 25:2).

²It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.
(Prov. 25:2)

A kingly spirit diligently searches out the riches. Here is what it says in Proverbs 25:2, "It is the glory of God to hide a matter, but it is the glory of a king to search it out." The Lord would say, "It is My glory to hide the most valuable thing in the created order. That is the knowledge of My Son. It is My glory to hide it because it is so valuable. I only want to give it to the hungry." Now, He gives the introductory knowledge of salvation to the unbeliever who is running from God. God ambushes him, and traps him in a corner, and gives him the revelation of how to receive His forgiveness for sin. So in that, He chases us down when we do not even have hunger. You know I have heard the people say, "...and I sought for God and I found Him." I can imagine the Lord saying, "Well, that is not exactly the story. I searched for you. I boxed you in. I hemmed you in. Finally you said, 'O God!' Your story is you were searching for Me. No, I was searching for you." So we find Him with very little to do with us initially. After that, we are in the kingdom. Then He says, "The greater things of the glory of My Son I will only give to the hungry. They are too valuable for Me to just throw them to the earth, if you do not want them. If it is not worth searching for, you will not. They will not be precious to you, this growing understanding.

It is the glory of God to hide valuable things to denote they are valuable. It is the glory of a king, it is a kingly spirit that says, "I am going to search this out all my days. I do not care what it cost me. I do not care how long it takes. I am not going to be denied." That is a kingly spirit.

V. HOW TO APPLY THE DESCRIPTIONS OF JESUS: A-R-K

A. We are on a lifelong journey into the glory of Jesus as highlighted by these 30 descriptions of Him. The Spirit will teach us about each one. Take time to journal as you pray-read the Word.

I want to talk of how to apply this. We will just end with this, not really long on this. Do not miss this fourth page because it has these thirty descriptions. I just kind of abbreviated a few of them. We are going to be looking at them more in the weeks to come. Those that are visiting with us, you can join us on Friday nights here on the internet.

You want to get this. I came up with this acronym, ARK. I always have to have acronyms or I forget. I have to have something simple. So I use this acronym when I look at these thirty descriptions, because I do not want to just read the description, underline it, and then move on to the next verse. That is not enough. I want to do something with those descriptions. I want to grow in my understanding.

Beloved, we are on a lifelong journey. We are on a lifelong treasure hunt. The knowledge of God is a treasure hunt. All of our days, even into the age to come with resurrected body, we will be gaining more and more insight into the treasure of this Man Jesus. Again, like the seraphim that close their eyes in Isaiah 6, they cover their eyes when they see the glory of God, and then the power of God races through their being. They open their eyes, and they get a new revelation. That will go on forever and forever and forever. They will never exhaust the beauty of God ever. There is always more. A million years, a billion years, we will not be bored with Him. We

will have new discoveries. I do not want to wait until the resurrection. I am on a treasure hunt now. I want to go deep in this as far as He will let me go. The Lord would say, "Well, take time and search it out."

I learned a long time ago that you will not get it just on the run or at a meeting or, you know, a brother lays hands on me so I get the revelation. Well, laying hands on people is good, and there is impartation, but the impartation is to be a catalytic jumpstart to get you going. The impartation does not elevate the searching heart.

B. Jesus' name will be the "ark of safety" and the "ark of His presence" in the end-time pressures.

¹⁰***The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.* (Prov. 18:10)**

I use the acronym, ARK. I think of the ark of His presence or the ark of His strength or the ark of His safety. In Proverbs 18:10, the name of the Lord is a tower, it is a safe place. So I am using this, ARK, referring to the name of the Lord, understanding these thirty descriptions of His name and His character and His activity. Those are all parts of His name.

¹¹***Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom You have given Me...* (Jn. 17:11)**

The Lord Jesus prayed in John 17:11, "Father, keep them through My name." Meaning, as they feed on My name, they feed on using tonight's message of these thirty descriptions, as they feed on Me, You will protect them spiritually. A lot of folks might read that and think He was saying, "Father, just take care of them, and, you know, put it on My bank account, no matter what they do." What Jesus was saying was, in effect, "As they feed on My name, protect them spiritually from the wiles of the enemy to pull them into the ditch, to the right, or to the left."

I want to be kept by His name, by feeding on His name, these thirty descriptions.

C. **A-R-K:** We apply the truths of the descriptions of Jesus in Revelation to our lives in three ways:

1. **A**-agreement; **R**-ask for revelation; **K**-keep the prophecy.

So I use the letter A for agreement. The letter R, I ask for revelation. The letter K, I pray to keep the prophecy.

2. Jesus promised to bless all who "keep" the prophecy set forth in the book of Revelation (Rev. 1:3; 22:7, 9) by responding in faith and obedience in our actions and attitudes.

⁷***Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.* (Rev. 22:7)**

Okay now, "keep the prophecy" is a phrase a lot of folks are unfamiliar with. It is mentioned three times in the book of Revelation. Blessed is the one who keeps the prophecy. Meaning, they engage with faith and obedience according to it. By keeping the prophecy, their hearts are engaged by faith. They believe what it says, the storyline. Their heart is engaged in obedience. They are obeying what the implications of Jesus' leadership in the book of Revelation are about. To keep the prophecy means to engage in faith and obedience. I like that phrase, "keep the prophecy," because, well, the angel said it. It is said three times, so it is an important phrase. Blessed are the people who will engage their heart in this prophecy.

⁷***"I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book"...***

⁹***I [the angel] am your fellow servant...and of those who keep the words of this book.* " (Rev. 22:7-9)**

**³Blessed is he who reads...this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it...
(Rev. 1:3)**

- D. **Agreement:** We make declarations of agreement to Jesus about who He is and what He does. We identify the core truths in each of the 30 descriptions (some overlap), then simply declare these truths back to Jesus with affection and gratitude.

When we look at these thirty descriptions—and again we will be looking at them more in the weeks to come—first of all, I cannot overestimate the simplicity yet the power of this. Agree with it. Just declare it back to the Lord. When you read in Revelation 1 where it says, “He is the faithful witness,” stop and say, “You are the faithful witness.” It will surprise you, if you have never done that, how the Spirit will touch you. not every time but more times than you think.

I stop, and I read these. It says, “His eyes like burning fire.” I just agree. With affection and adoration, I say, “Jesus, Your eyes are like burning fire. I love You.” I just agree. I just say it to Him. It is not enough to underline it. Say it. The Spirit, not every time, will move on you.

For example, pray:

- 1) **“You are...” declarations:** You are a faithful witness, the firstborn, the ruler of kings (v. 5)
- 2) **“You have...” declarations:** You have a sword; You have the keys of the kingdom, etc.
- 3) **“Your...” declarations:** Your face is like the sun; Your eyes are like fire, etc.

I have three different types of declarations to make. There are what I call the “you are” declarations of these thirty descriptions. You have the “You are” declarations. What I mean by that, one passage says He is the faithful witness. I say, “You are the faithful witness. You are the firstborn of the dead. You are the ruler of the kings of the earth.” Say it back to Him. The Spirit will move on you. Again, not every time, but more times than you think.

So wherever there is a statement in these thirty that describes who He is, say, “You are...” and just agree with Him. You do not have to say it really loud. You do not have to jump around. Just, “You are the firstborn from the dead. I love You. You are this... You are this Man. You are the King of all the kings of the earth.”

Then there is the “You have” declarations. You have a sword. You have the keys of the kingdom.

Then “Your” declarations: Your eyes are like fire. Your face is like the sun. I mean they are all kind of the same thing. I just broke it down this way so these thirty declarations, these thirty descriptions of Jesus, I speak them back to Him. I say, “I agree with You. I do not see it with my eyes, but I agree with You.”

The Spirit will touch you when you do that. Say it with affection and adoration. Do not be in a hurry. I don't mean it takes you five minutes to say it, but even twenty, thirty seconds, forty seconds. Do not move on to the next one quickly. Just go slow.

- E. **Revelation:** We pray for increased revelation of the truth implied in each description (Eph. 1:17). For example, “Reveal Yourself to me as One with eyes like fire,” or “as One with feet like brass.” “Show me Your glory as One who shines like the sun. Teach me more about these.”

*Then the next one is **R**. **A** is **agreement**, I say to Him the truth about Him. Then **R**, I ask for **revelation** because it is the acronym ARK, A-R-K, so the R. I start off and I say, “Lord, Your eyes are like burning fire. Thank You for Your eyes”— then R now—“Give me insight. I do not know much about that. Show me more. Show me more. Your feet are like brass.” I say that to Him. I say, “Teach me what this means. Of course, right through the*

Word of God there are phrases all from Genesis to Revelation to connect with this. "Spirit, help me connect these verses." I study different commentaries, other people's articles and stuff. I ask the Spirit, "Show me this."

I will say something like, "Your face is like the sun in its brightness." That is cool to say. I love it. Then I do the R, the reveal. "Show me more about Your face." When was the last time you thanked Him that His face was like the sun and asked Him for revelation of His face? My point is not that you never actually did that before. I tell you there is a goldmine, there a treasure hunt, with these thirty descriptions. I mean, you will do this the rest of your life. I started doing this years ago. You will never ever get to the bottom of it. You will never get weary of it. Never will you get weary of this. That is why I am passionate that people get a hold of these three chapters, Revelation 1-3.

- F. **Keep the prophecy:** We make simple declarations of commitment to obey or believe these truths. For example: "I commit to be a faithful witness to the truth, regardless of the cost. Help me to do this. I will submit to Your leadership as the ruler over the earth. Empower me to obey You."

Then there is the **K, keep** the prophecy. Meaning, when I say, "You are the faithful witness," then keeping the prophecy, "and I want to obey You. I do not want to draw back in fear. I want to be a faithful witness like You, even if I lose friends and opportunity. Even if I am persecuted falsely. You are the faithful witness. I want to be like that too. I want to walk this out."

When it says, "You are the ruler of the kings of the earth," Revelation 1:5, I say, "I want to submit to Your leadership as the kings of the earth. It is not enough to tell You that You are the leader. It is not enough to ask for insight. I want to line my life up with this. Your eyes are like burning fire. Lord, I want to enter into that passion of Your heart. I want passion in my heart. I want my heart burning like this," because He has eyes of fire because He has a heart like fire. "It is not enough that You have eyes like fire. I want to have them. Holy Spirit, impart this to me."

So I take this simple little acronym, ARK, right through these thirty descriptions. I gave just a little snapshot tonight of this. I tell you, you will be set for a long-term treasure hunt in the glory of God.

VI. DISCUSSION

This is my very dear friend Matt Chandler who helped us start IHOPKC twenty years ago. He has been a leader the whole time. He has something really important to say about these three chapters because he loves this. I know him. Without looking at him, he is oohing and goooing over there. So let's get a microphone, so I can interrupt you when you are talking. He is one of my dearest friends. He has been here day one. You were like twenty or something. That means you are like forty.

Matt: I was.

Mike: Man, you are forty. You are old!

Matt: I am exploding over here.

Mike: I know. When I saw you walk up, I thought, "I know what is happening."

Matt: I am exploding because, Mike, you guys got some of the Luke 18 guys to give some of their testimonies. You just gave my testimony tonight during your message. I want to challenge others. I want to say as an almost forty-four-year old, twenty-two years ago I had the same story as Mike. I loved meetings, I had a hunger for God, but I never thought I would enjoy the Word of God when I was alone. I wanted to. I remember. I just want to challenge those that are in college, college age. I was twenty years old. My last two years of college, I was

finishing up physical therapy school at the University of Oklahoma. I had no time on my hands, so I thought, but a burning heart of hunger for God. I did not love the Word.

I got a random tape from a friend of mine, not random to the Lord. It was Mike Bickle. In this he gave just a little five-second plug of what he just told you guys. How, on Friday nights, he would sit over there and he would do what he just described with ARK, in his own way, reading through the book of Revelation. I was the guy who studied twice as much as my friends in college and made half the grades and tried to stay off academic probation to make it work in college. So I was like only sleeping four hours a night, but I wanted to study the Bible, but I did not like it. So I was kind of caught. So I thought, "Ooh, the book of Revelation! That might catch me." I had no clue what was about to happen to me. I did not have a clue about the book of Revelation. I heard that he does this. I thought, "This is what I am going to do." I do not know why this happened. Changed my life forever. Every Friday night I did this. I did not plan to do it every Friday night, but it kept pulling me back. I said, "Lord, this is what I commit to do." I said, "I am going to have some fellowship time with a few of my Christian brothers, some friends on Friday night. Then I am always going to come home at nine on Friday. I am going to go to my little, you know, eight-foot by eight-foot room in the dorm. I am going to turn on some worship music. I am going to brew a pot of coffee and as late as I can stay up. I am just going to pick up where I left off the week before and read through Revelation and talk to You."

I had no idea but, this is what I did. I did exactly in my own little version what Mike was describing, but when I would come across like Revelation 17 and read about this scarlet clothed woman that sat on this beast, I would get there, and I would think, "I have no idea what this means or who this is." I just thought, "If I ever see a woman like that, I am not getting near her, I know, and especially if she is drinking blood of Christians. I know for sure that is bad news."

My point is, I did not have living understanding, so I thought. I did not know what it meant. I did not know how to apply this in my physical-therapy-world life. Something radical happened. I looked back, similarly to Mike—I did that every Friday night for two years—I looked back. I said, "I do not know who the scarlet woman is or how this is going to happen," but something radical happened. It is simply this: it was that big things got really big, and small things got a lot smaller to me. Through the lens of eternity, at the judgment seat of Christ, the glory of the Man behind the book and the plan that I did not know how to make sense of, how to apply it. All I know that is when I made that F in neurobiology class, it seemed smaller than it used to in light of the judgment seat. It is not that it did not matter. It was like I saw it in the picture.

Mike: So big things became big and small things became small. Give one or two more examples. What does that mean? Elijah, I am going to have you come up for three minutes. You are busting over there. Just come on up, bring your little guy with you. Just come on up here.

Matt: I just like, when you read the book of Revelation, and you see I did not know how much the revelation of heaven or the throne room was there and how captivated they were and how much I was not. I do not know how much was the Holy Spirit or caffeine. I did not care. I just wanted to be engaged. Every now and then—just like Mike said, it is incremental—I would just pause and I would try to picture those burning living ones and the saints. I knew that this was a day in my future. I tried to let the day in my future somehow impact the order of my days now, in the sense of what I thought about. Set your mind on things above and on things to come. I wanted it to impact my days now. So, again, knowing that I was going to be evaluated on my heart responses, not so much on my letter grade in neurobiology, but on how I related to the Lord through it and how I evaluated if I was a failure or not.

All those things just began. I did not leave with interpretation at that time, but I did leave with a heart that saw the Man. So you do not have to be bogged down by the pressure of "I do not know what this means." Eventually

it takes root, and you get hooked. You will go on a life journey, and it will not end with the book of Revelation. It will start going everywhere.

I want to hold this out to the Fire-in-the-Nighters and the Luke 18. What if tonight is not an accident for you? What if this is not just a “huh” idea, but the Lord is saying, “Try Me.” There is a blessing in engaging in the book of Revelation. What if we are at the beginning of that last generation? What if you started doing something like that now and your life looked different twenty years from now in the way that mine does, even a little bit more. This might be more than coincidence for you tonight.

Mike: I love it. Because the book of Revelation, most of you know twice in Revelation it says, “Blessed are the people who read this book.” It is the only book in the Bible that contains in it a promise of blessing for reading it.

Well, Elijah helps lead the prayer room. Matt has led the prayer room for years. I know you are busting over there. Just give us three minutes.

Elijah: I remember.

Mike: Wait, are you busting over there?

Elijah: I am busting every Friday night. I am busting every Friday night.

Mike: You are an easy target, man.

Elijah: You know it is funny because the story of Mike of not loving the Bible, not loving prayer, I think it relates to many of us. Typically for me, growing up in a Korean culture with a 100 percent Korean mother, who prays a lot. My father who used to pray seven hours. He had a seven-hour praying schedule and thought it was normal for young men—which at the time I was younger—a younger man to pray an hour in tongues was normal for him. So he forced me to pray one hour every day in tongues. He made me to read ten chapters. On my summer break I had to read thirty chapters.

Mike: He made you read thirty a week?

Elijah: A day, thirty chapters a day.

Mike: That is not possible.

Elijah: I did it for years.

Mike: You were eighteen?

Elijah: I was nine years old. As nine years old, on top of it I had...

Mike: Wait, you are exaggerating!

Elijah: No, I am not.

Mike: What did you mean, your mother was a 100 percent Korean? What did that phrase mean?

Elijah: Let the reader understand.

Mike: Okay, okay.

Elijah: I have a lot of wounds to be healed. This is not a healing session. Here is the point: I remember Mike preaching on Proverbs 2 about “if you search for it, you will find the treasure.”

Mike: The phrase I shared with you about ten minutes ago.

Elijah: If you search for it, you will find the hidden treasure. I remember one day that phrase just stuck out to me because I remember reading through Isaiah 56 about the house of prayer. You know one word that God characterized the house of prayer is joy. He says, "I will make you joyful in the house of prayer." As a Korean, I never went to a prayer meeting for joy, never, never.

Mike: The word we use is enjoyable prayer. Some folks they think joy, they just think they have to do this at the meeting. Joy is enjoyable prayer.

Elijah: Prayer, Koreans go to prayer meetings for fire. Koreans use to say that if your voice does not get hoarse, you have not prayed it. So this was perplexing. I was confounded by Isaiah's description of house of prayer. I remember when I was listening to Mike talk about this praying the Bible. He talked about it is a treasure hidden. Somehow the Lord connected me, "Elijah, it is the hidden treasure hidden in a field."

In Matthew 13, the Lord talks about the gospel. The kingdom of God is like a treasure hidden in a field. When you find that treasure, out of joy you go sell everything. Suddenly I realized the house of prayer is where you find that treasure. It is the Word of God that caused the joy of finding that treasure.

So I am busting every week. This is why I am here every Friday night.

Mike: This guy, you do this, you bump him, and he just preaches like that. You just bump him, and it will come out on the microphone.

Elijah: I just I want to encourage you.

Mike: Watch this, bump, he will just go for it.

Elijah: I want to encourage you. You know, it does not take a smart person to understand the Bible. I mean look at us. We are in the same category.

Mike: Okay, okay, that is better.

Elijah: No, really, you know, I have...

Mike: He is my buddy.

Elijah: Minimum education, but it takes hunger and thirst. Those that hunger and thirst, there shall be kingdom of God. So I just want to encourage you: take what Mike says. I remember when you talked about ARK, that A-R-K. I did that. Even today I am doing that. Like every morning. I have those acronyms. It just takes a simple of doing it, just shadow the pattern, and the Lord will give you grace to continue you to do them. I want to encourage you.

Mike: Amen, Elijah.

Elijah: You shouldn't have given me the mic.

Mike: No, I should have. Thank you, Matt Candler, too.

Let's stand if you would. I am going to pray for the Ephesians 3:18 anointing. Paul said at the very beginning of the message, "The Lord has given me grace"—You could say, "The Lord has anointed me." It is the same thing—"to proclaim the riches of the Man Christ Jesus."

I want to pray for folks who are saying in your heart, you are crying out, "I want to proclaim the riches of the Man." Not just ministry skills and leadership skills and people skills. Those are critical. Financial principles, those are very biblical concepts. I want to get lost in the Man. I want to make Him known in my songs, my

blogs, my conversations, my Bible studies, whatever. If you are stirred by that and would like prayer, I want to invite you to come up tonight.

You can be stirred by that and say, "You know, I am good where I am at." Others of you say, "No, I need prayer for that tonight. I really need some prayer for that."

Lord, here we are. Holy Spirit—

I am just going to ask the Holy Spirit to blow across this room right now. Again you can be in your share back there, those on the internet with us.

—Holy Spirit, Jesus said You would escort us into truth, that You would take our hand and lead us to truth about Him. Jesus said, "He will tell you about Me." Holy Spirit, we ask You tell us about this Man. Holy Spirit, we ask You, Your beauty, Jesus."

I want to invite anybody that will come and help us pray for people, whether you are visiting or you're a local. The Lord gives more when the church prays for the church. So the ten, twenty, or thirty of you would come up and just move around and lay hands on folks. Ask the Lord to mark them as messengers of the riches of Christ Jesus, messengers of the Man Christ Jesus.

Matt, good job, that was awesome.

Lord, come like a wind. Mark hearts. They will never be content without moving forward in this. Lord, release Your fire. Release the fire of the Holy Spirit on people right now. Mark hearts with this passion to proclaim the riches. I ask for anointing to unlock the riches in their hearts, an anointing to speak the riches through their mouths, through their music, through their writings. I ask for a prophetic spirit: dreams and visions. Visions and dreams in the night about the beauty of Jesus, an anointing to receive it and to impart it to others. An anointing to receive and impart it to others.

More fire, Lord. Release Your fire, Lord. Holy Spirit, we are waiting for You.

We are just going to wait a few moments.

Here we are, Lord. Mark us. Let the very fire of Your eyes touch our hearts tonight. An anointing to unfold the beauty of Jesus in our heart. Fan the flame. Fan the flame tonight all over this room. Rest on us by Your fire. Fire, Lord, release fire on the heart and the mind. Awaken hunger supernaturally. Awaken hunger supernaturally.

Some of you are praying right now, "Lord, give me the desire for this, the hunger for this."

The Lord would say, "I am going to answer you."

You are saying, "Lord, give me this desire. Give me this hunger. I desire to desire it, but I am not there yet."

The Lord would say, "I will help you. Keep asking Me. I will fan the flame. I will fan the flame in your heart."

Come, Holy Spirit. Spirit, we want Your touch on our hearts tonight. We need Your touch tonight, tomorrow, the next day. More, Lord. Lord, release Your fire in this room right now. Release the spirit of burning on the human heart, the spirit of burning on the heart. Release the fire, the burning of the heart for You."