

***<sup>1</sup>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants, the things that must happen soon, and He signified [it] by sending through His angel to His servant John, <sup>2</sup>who testified the Word of God, even the testimony of Jesus Christ—as many things as he saw. <sup>3</sup>Blessed is the one who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy and keep the things that are written in it, for the time is near.***

***Revelation 1:1-3 (NKJV)***

**MATERIAL**

The symbol ↓ means material is included in the Excerpts below.

↓ *Why Study the Descriptions of Jesus in Revelation*, BY MIKE BICKLE  
[Notes, transcription, and mp3 available online]

↓ *Keeping the Prophecy Empowered by His Name: A-R-K*, BY MIKE BICKLE  
[Transcription and mp3 available online]

*Descriptions of Jesus in the Book of Revelation (A-R-K)*, BY MIKE BICKLE  
[Notes available online]

*The Revelation of Jesus: Bridegroom, King, and Judge (Rev. 1)*, BY MIKE BICKLE  
[Notes, transcription, and mp3 available online]

**EXCERPTS**

Taken from *Why Study the Descriptions of Jesus in Revelation*

• **THE BOOK OF REVELATION: UNVEILING THE MAJESTY OF JESUS**

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

- The Book of Revelation is called the ***revelation of Jesus*** because it reveals first the majesty of His heart, power, and leadership in His plan to transition history to the age-to-come.
- Revelation is secondarily a book about events in the End Times to purify the church, bring in the harvest, and to replace all the evil governments on the earth as He drives Satan off the planet. **God's purpose in this book is meant first to reveal Jesus as the Man behind the plan.**
- In Rev. 1-3, John reports one visionary experience, which highlights 30 specific descriptions of Jesus' personality and ministry. This passage gives us the clearest picture of Him in Scripture. If we read it with the right perspective it inspires us to adore Jesus and trust His leadership. There are nearly 100 descriptions of Jesus in Revelation (especially see Rev. 1-3; 14-15; 19; 22).

- The **30 distinct aspects** of Jesus in Rev. 1-3 can be seen in 24 descriptions in Rev. 1 (note: 7 descriptions in v. 5-7 plus 17 in v 10-20) plus 18 descriptions in Rev. 2-3 **totaling 42**. However, since 12 are used in both Rev. 1 and Rev. 2-3 (thus, 24), there are 30 distinct descriptions.
  - **Rev. 1-3 is the most complete picture of Jesus in the Bible.** Revelation reveals His glory in a way not yet previously revealed in Scripture. Jesus never changes (Mal. 3:6). Thus, He is the same in OT and NT. This book is a great gift from Him to us.
  - Jesus is initially seen as a **loving priest, righteous prophet, and warring king** who judges all that hinders love in Rev. 1. However, **as the book unfolds, He is presented as our Bridegroom, King, and Judge in Rev. 19-22.** Jesus is shown as fully God and fully man as He openly manifests His love, power, and wisdom before all the nations.
  - **THE BRIDE IS MAKING HERSELF READY TO PARTNER WITH JESUS**
    - **The Bride will make herself ready to partner with Jesus by walking in the truths in Rev. 1-3.** Jesus will not come until the Bride is prepared in knowing Him as Bridegroom, King, and Judge.

*<sup>7</sup> For the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready. (Rev. 19:7)*
    - When Jesus returns, the Church will be victorious and without spot (compromise).

*<sup>27</sup> That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish (compromise). (Eph. 5:27)*
    - Rev. 1-3 is a significant passage that is essential for the prayer movement to mature. The Spirit is raising up forerunners who will prepare the prayer movement in the truths of Rev. 1-3.
    - We must experience Jesus' heart, and call forth His hand according to these truths as our inheritance in God. The truths in Rev. 1-3 are foundational to the activities in Rev. 6-19.
    - Hearing someone teach the Scripture can be compared to reading a menu that stirs our appetite. We do not fully feed on the Word by hearing someone teach. We may be inspired in our faith, but we actually feed our spirit as truth becomes part of our prayer language with God. In other words, **we are not really fed until truth enters into our dialogue with God in our private life.**
    - The goal of this message is to draw attention to the 30 specific truths of Jesus, in order to stir your faith, so that you may feed on them in your private prayer life for many years.
  - **THE FOUNDATIONAL ISSUE IN THE END TIMES: WHO IS JESUS**
    - One of the foundational issues of the early apostles concerned what they understood about Jesus. The same issue will be emphasized by the Holy Spirit to the end-time apostles and prophets.

*<sup>13</sup> Who do men say that I, the Son of Man, am? <sup>14</sup> They said, "Some say John the Baptist, some Elijah, and others Jeremiah..." <sup>15</sup> He said, "But who do you say that I am?" <sup>16</sup> Peter answered..., "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." ...<sup>18</sup> On this rock I will build My church, and the gates (authority) of Hades (Hell) shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup> I will give you the keys of the kingdom...and whatever you bind (stop) on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose (release) on earth will be loosed in heaven"...<sup>27</sup> For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels.... (Mt. 16:13-27)*
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- Some thought Jesus was John the Baptist or a holiness preacher. Some thought He was Elijah or a prophet that could do miracles and call fire down from heaven. Some thought He was Jeremiah or weeping prophet who was full of compassion. All three answers contained some truth about Jesus. However, they did not point to the full truth that was revealed in Scripture about Him.
- Peter understood that Jesus was both the Christ (human Messiah or the anointed one) and the son of God (divine). **Jesus will build His Church on the revelation of who He is as seen in Rev. 1-3.**
- **The Church will not be prepared to stand, nor be able by prayer to bind (stop) the plans of evil men, or loose (release) God's power to the full measure without revelation of Jesus (Rev. 1-3).** In this passage, Jesus promised to release “greater works” which speaks of the miracles of Acts and the miracles of Exodus being combined and multiplied on a global level in the End Times.

<sup>12</sup> *The works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do... (Jn. 14:12)*

- **The ultimate question for the end-time Church is the issue of who Jesus is.** Thus, the question of “who do they say Jesus is” is related to the measure of faith to fully bind and loose His power. We search for this by studying and praying over these truths and by speaking to God by faith.

<sup>3</sup> *Yes, if you cry out for discernment, and lift up your voice for understanding,* <sup>4</sup> *If you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures;* <sup>5</sup> *Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. (Pro. 2:3-5)*

## EXCERPTS

Taken from *Keeping the Prophecy Empowered by His Name: A-R-K*

### • INTRODUCTION

- There is no place in the Scriptures where Jesus is revealed with more depth and diversity than in these three chapters. It is Jesus revealing Jesus in a direct way. So we are going to focus on these different descriptions.
- Let me give you an acronym: A-R-K. It is three prayer focuses for how to apply these thirty descriptions of Jesus, how to worship Jesus and how to encounter Him.
- **The Book of Revelation is called the revelation of Jesus.** To be sure, every book in the Bible reveals Jesus, it's all about Jesus—but there is only one book that is titled, “The unveiling of Jesus.”
  - *Revelation and unveiling* are the same word. In Revelation 1-3, Jesus is revealing Himself through His appearance and communicating facets of His heart in His ministry, both by names that are given to Him and names and descriptions that He gives Himself with His own lips.

### • THE ARK OF SAFETY AND THE ARK OF GLORY

- I use the acronym A-R-K because it forms three focal points of prayer, but also because the Name of Jesus is the ark of safety in the coming storm. **As Noah's Ark was a place of safety in the storm in that day, the name of the Lord will be the ark of safety and the ark of His presence.**
- I'm using the word *ark* in both ways, as the ark of His glory.

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

- **Encountering the name of the Lord is a strong tower.** It will bring safety to your spiritual life and, actually, your physical life as well, because back then you only ran into a strong tower when the enemy was pursuing you. Physical and spiritual safety is related to the name of the Lord.
- The devil is going to release his greatest attack against the Church and against the nations, but there is a strong tower into which we can run and find safety for our spiritual life.
- **When we encounter His name, we encounter His character, because His name contains facets of truth about Him.**

• **THE IMPORTANCE OF KNOWING HIS NAMES**

- There are 300 names or descriptions of God in the Old and New Testament together. His name is His character; it is a description of what His heart or His ministry is like.
- Now, the reason this is so important is because, **when we encounter His name, or the facets of His character, our spirit is calm and strong.** When our spirit is calm and strong in the midst of trouble we respond very differently than if our spirit is in a panic.
  - Many believers get into a situation and fall into a panic mode and make the wrong decisions. However, if our spirit is strong and calm, we will make good decisions. **We will reach in faith to the power of God rather than retreating in fear, in panic and confusion.**
  - The condition of our spirit will really matter in the hour of increased conflict. Of course, that's even true today.

• **“FATHER, KEEP THEM THROUGH YOUR NAME”**

- In John 17:11, Jesus prayed, *“Father, keep them through Your name”* (Jn. 17:11, paraphrased). In other words, “Father when You reveal Your name to them, their spirit is strong, their spirit is clear, their spirit is focused.”
- When the Lord reveals His name, it calms us on the inside so that we relate to God correctly instead of in a frenzy and panic, retreating from the enemy. We also stand strong in confidence and connection to God.
- Also, **the name of the Lord reveals His power.** Jesus said, “It is through Your name, through the name of God, that the people of God are kept.”
- My point is that these thirty descriptions are really an issue of life and death. These are the thirty ways Jesus described Himself; it doesn't get any higher than Jesus describing Jesus.

• **ABIDING UNDER THE SHADOW OF THE ALMIGHTY**

- Psalm 91 is a favorite: ***“He who dwells in the secret place of the Most High”***—in other words, the person who is near God's heart. That's the secret place; that's the place of encountering God's heart—or God's name, because **God's heart and God's name is the same concept.**
- The one who lives, or dwells, in the secret place, the place of encountering God's heart, ***“will abide under the shadow of the Almighty. They will say of the Lord in time of trouble, ‘You are my safety; You are my refuge’”*** (Psalm 91:1-2). So rather than being in a panic and a frenzy in the time of trouble, since they are close to Him, they say to the Lord, “You are my protection. You are my refuge.”
- When it talks about abiding under the shadow of the Lord, it means the place of nearness. If someone gets

close enough to you to be in your shadow, more often than not they can touch you because they're so close. A person a mile away from you isn't in your shadow, so to be in someone's shadow speaks of proximity. You have to be close to be in another person's shadow. So it's talking about nearness to God.

- It is also talking about “refreshing,” because [the shadow is a metaphor for refreshing in a time when the sun is scorching and hot](#). It is a time of strength and refreshing. We are refreshed in our spirits by His presence.
- Therefore, the shadow of the Lord is nearness, and the shadow of the Lord is enjoying His presence. Here's what God says about the man or woman who lives in the secret places, which is near God's heart: **“Because he has set his love upon Me, I will deliver him” (Ps. 91:14).**
  - The Lord takes this very personally. He says, “I see what you have done: you have determined to set your mind and your heart on Me in love.” [That is a choice that we make every day, to set our love on Him](#). God says, “I will deliver this one; I will set this one on high” —in other words, “in a place of My favor. I will set this one in a place of nearness to My heart because he has known My name.”

### • KNOWING THE DEEPER THINGS OF HIS HEART

- The point I'm making is that setting your love on Jesus and knowing His Name are the same thing. The Lord says, “Because they know My name, I see that they have set their love upon Me.”
- As we continue in this course, and as you continue in your pursuit of knowing these descriptions of Jesus, it will take a [rigorous resetting of your love upon Him to be near Him](#). [All the powers in the world and in the devil will try to drive you from the secret place, from the place of encounter with His heart.](#)
- The Spirit will be wooing you and me; He will be wooing us, but there is a place where we have to set our love to know His name. [That means we have to know the deeper things about His heart.](#) This is what it means to know His name.

### • “BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO KEEP THE WORDS OF THE PROPHECY”

- I'm setting the context for understanding why it's important to know these thirty descriptions. Again, these are the descriptions Jesus gave to prepare the Church in the hour when the events of the book of Revelation unfold. Those descriptions, and the power of knowing Him, have been effective for two thousand years of church history. [But there is no time in history where they will be more desperately needed than in the hour of the great revival and in the hour of the great conflict that is coming.](#)
- In Revelation 22, Jesus says, “Behold, I come quickly” —then He gives a promise—“Blessed are those who keep” —that's the operative word, *keep*—“the words of the prophecy” (Rev. 22:7). In other words, you have to **keep** the book of Revelation.
- Those who keep the words of the prophecy are blessed. There is a special blessing for the believer who keeps the words of the prophecy. So, whatever else we know when we study the Book of Revelation, we want to know what it means to keep the words of the prophecy, because there is a special blessing.
  - It's actually mentioned twice in the book of Revelation, once in Revelation 1:3 and here in Revelation 22:7. There's a blessing on anyone who keeps the prophecy.

### • THREE WAYS OF KEEPING THE PROPHECY

- The twenty-two chapters of the Book of Revelation form a very specific prophecy. We keep it three different ways. That's what this acronym of A-R-K. is about.

- We keep the prophecy by responding in faith and obedience to the truths about Jesus' name that are revealed in this book. When we understand the truths about Jesus in the book and respond in faith and obedience, we are keeping the words of the prophecy. That is one way.
  - The second way we keep the prophecy is that we proclaim it. In other words, we pray the release of it. Of course, you can proclaim it for years, but there's only one time in history where you will pray the release of it, and that's in the final three-and-a-half years. But the Lord is raising up a people who will actually proclaim and pray it. So that's a second aspect of keeping the prophecy: *engaging with the battle plan in a very specific way.*
  - But there is a third way: by refusing all of the compromise that the book warns us about. We refuse compromise by enduring persecution, not caving in and yielding to the enemy; by resisting temptation, not yielding to the enemy.
- Therefore, we keep the book three ways: by responding in a very specific way in faith and obedience to the revelation of Jesus from our heart; by proclaiming the message and praying it through; and by resisting the compromise that comes from either persecution or temptation. As a people we want to keep the prophecy in all three ways. A-R-K is the acronym.
- **“THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IS THE SPIRIT OF PROPHECY”**
    - The angel told John, *“Worship God... for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev. 19:10)*. This is foundational to worship and foundational to the spirit of prophecy. We all want to worship rightly and to excel in the spirit of prophecy, but foundational to worship and operating in the spirit of prophecy in a mature way is the understanding of the testimony of Jesus.
    - The testimony of Jesus, simply put, is whatever is on His heart; that is His testimony—it's what's on His heart and what His plans are, what He's doing. It is what He feels and what He's doing at any given time. That is His testimony.
    - His testimony is not only what He did in the past, although it certainly involves what He did in the past in the redemption, in creation, for sure. But His testimony is also what He's doing right now in the present tense, and His testimony is what He plans to do in the future.
    - Therefore, having understanding of His testimony is foundational to mature worship and operating in the spirit of prophecy. There is nothing that reveals more precisely His testimony, what He is like, than these descriptions that He gives with His own mouth or by His appearing in glory. It's what He looks like: His eyes are like fire. His face is like the sun. He gives us deep insight into what His heart is like.
  - **A-R-K: AGREEING WITH THE TRUTH ABOUT JESUS**
    - A: Agreement. We take these thirty descriptions and make declarations of agreement.
    - A is for agreement with who Jesus is; in other words, we agree with His testimony. There are many different ways you can do this. You can agree with who He is. It's very simple.
    - For example, when Jesus says that He is the faithful witness (Rev. 1:5), there is a power that touches your heart in the presence of God when you look at Jesus and declare with agreement, “You are the Faithful Witness; You are the First Born from the dead. You are the Ruler of the kings of the earth. I agree with You; I declare it in Your presence.” I assure you, not every time, but more often than not, even in a small measure you will sense the Spirit of God touching your heart.
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- I believe many believers have never brought their hearts before the Lord and actually declared these thirty truths back to Him. **But this is at the core of worship, the agreement with who He is.** Around the throne, they say, “You are holy; You are good; You are worthy.” **They declare with agreement who God is, with affection and thanksgiving.**

- **A-R-K: SEEKING THE REVELATION OF THE SPIRIT**

- R: Revelation. Not only will we agree that You are the faithful witness and these other thirty descriptions, we will go the next step. **We will ask for revelation.** We will say, “Lord, show me Yourself as the One who is the Faithful Witness. Tell me about Yourself. Reveal more of who You are to me.”
- **Beloved, if you ask Him persistently, He will tell you more about Himself in that way.** Anything you pray for in the will of God, persistently, in faith, you will receive it.
- The reason many believers don’t understand much about Jesus as the firstborn from the dead is because they’ve never asked Jesus, “Show me Your glory as the firstborn from the dead. Speak to me; talk to me.”
  - Normally it doesn’t happen this way, though it might, that you have a big breakthrough of information and revelation that very day; **but over the weeks, months and years you will have distinct increase of understanding if you will ask Him for revelation of Him.**

- **A-R-K: KEEPING THE PROPHECY**

- K: Keeping the prophecy—it is the way you keep the prophecy related to His name—these aren’t events. The revealing of Jesus is the testimony of Jesus. That is what prophecy is all about: it is unveiling His heart.
- **We keep the prophecy by responding in a very specific way, in faith and obedience, to the truth that He reveals in each one of those descriptions.** If you respond at the heart level to the truth represented by the descriptions, beloved, you are keeping the prophecy in that dimension.
- There is more to keeping the prophecy than responding to the truth of Jesus’ name and His description, but that is a very foundational and vital way to keep the prophecy. If you don’t do that, you will not keep the prophecy in the other two ways. Of course, the great blessing in the Book of Revelation is to keep the prophecy.
- **We respond to these specific truths by committing ourselves.** We respond by saying, “I commit myself to obey You and believe You in these ways.” **We respond by committing ourselves to obedience in very specific ways.**
- Also, **part of keeping of the prophecy is asking for help.**
  - For example, when we say, “You are a faithful witness,” we declare it with agreement, and then we say, “Lord, reveal Yourself to me in this way.” Then we say, “Lord, I commit by the power of the Holy Spirit to be faithful and stand for the truth regardless of what it costs me. **Help me, Holy Spirit.**” We commit ourselves and ask for help with each of these thirty descriptions.