Revelation, Chapters 1-3

Prayers, reflections, new hymns, and scripture for public worship and personal devotions

> from the series: Fresh Views of Timeless Truths

> > Ken Bible

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Introduction

The book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ – that is, it is the Father's revelation given *through* Jesus Christ *about* Jesus Christ. In it, the Father uses vivid, larger-than-life visions to show us what He is doing through His glorious Son. The visions give us the big picture of God's actions past, present, and future. These visions seem less focused on relaying specific historical events and more focused on showing us a broad view of what God is doing. They relay history from a perspective that is wider and higher than any single historical incident can possibly capture.

The five-volume *Revelation* series in "Fresh Views of Timeless Truth" is designed to help us see and respond to the truths in this amazing, and sometimes intimidating, book. It is not a commentary, and thus it makes no attempt to explain every image, detail, and interpretation. Instead, it focuses on the major truths taught in Revelation and provides devotional resources to help us understand and respond to them.

With each passage of scripture you'll find:

- The scripture itself.
- A devotional reflection and/or prayer response based on some major truth in that passage.
- An original hymn that helps us respond to that truth with body, mind, and heart. The words and music of the hymn are provided, along with a link to that hymn's recording on our website, <u>LNWhymns.com</u>. Everything there is downloadable and free.

As with every word I write, this book is written with the purpose and deep desire that you be drawn to our magnificent Father. What a glorious, eternal destiny He has created for us in His Son, Jesus Christ!

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe. (Ephesians 1:18-19, NASB)

--Ken Bible

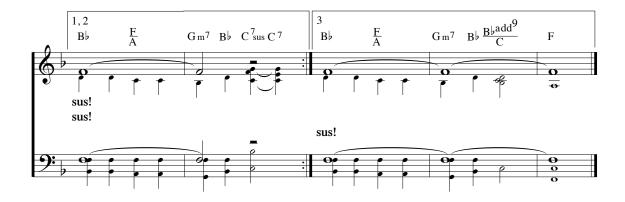
Focus on Jesus Christ

Introduction to Revelation

In a world overflowing with distractions and delusions, empty threats and false hopes, focus on what God is doing through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the sovereign, creative Word of Almighty God. Whatever God wills, His Son Jesus brings about. The Father speaks, and the Son makes it reality. If you want to know what is going to happen in our world, focus on Jesus Christ. He is the future of all creation. If you want to know our destiny as a race and your personal destiny as a believer, focus on Jesus Christ. He is the Second Adam. the first of an entirely new human family. As He is revealed, we are revealed in Him. As He is, we will be. Jesus Christ is our past, present, and future. He is our Source and our Goal, the spring from which we have come and the ocean toward which we are flowing. If you want to understand the past, focus on Jesus. It points to Him. If you want to understand the present, focus on Jesus. He is what our loving Father wants for us today. If you want to understand the future, focus on Jesus. All reality is moving toward Him. Hymn recording: Image of the Unseen God



CCLI Song #3918531. For CCLI information call 1-800-234-2446.



Revelation 1:1-3

(NASB)

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

Urgent!

Reflection on Revelation 1:1-3

Our Sovereign God is calling us. He is calling us to simple faith and complete obedience. He is calling us to Himself. To call us, He is using the very best of all He has and all He is. He is calling us through the life, death. resurrection, and exaltation of His only Son, Jesus Christ. The stakes are high. Eternal life and eternal death hang in the balance for us. No one knows when Christ will return and our decision will suddenly become irrevocable. Life is uncertain for ourselves and for the loved ones for whom we deeply desire all the best. The reward is great beyond our imagining.

The Father promises the fullness of Himself to those who answer the call. He promises Jesus Christ – His life, His love, His holy perfection, His eternal glory.

The all-wise, all-loving Lord of all begs us to give His call top priority right now. We dare not ignore Him. We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard. How shall we escape if we ignore so great a salvation? (Hebrews 2:1, 3, NIV)

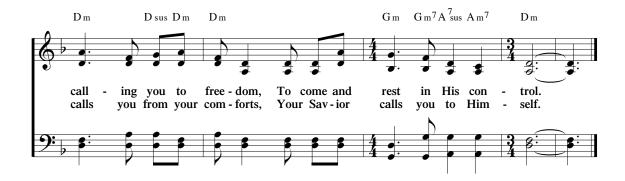
Hymn recording: When Jesus Speaks

When Jesus Speaks

TUNE: I Am a Poor Wayfaring Stranger



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Revelation 1:4

(NIV)

John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

Grace and Peace

Prayer Response to Revelation 1:4

Father, You are forever eager to pour out on me Your grace, the rich goodness and tender kindness that I don't deserve and can never deserve.

You are forever working,

forever reaching to fill me with

Your peace,

Your complete well-being.

You want to share with me and with all of us

the wholeness,

the harmony,

the uninterrupted, undiminished love that flows among

Father, Son, and

Spirit.

This grace and peace pour from You,

who embrace

all time,

all being,

all past, present, and future

in Yourself,

perfect in power,

perfect in loving,

perfect in knowing.

You know me with an understanding that is

permeated with perfect love.

Father, today I receive Your grace, Your peace, Your knowing, Your all-encompassing embrace.

Hymn recording: Holy Father, Only You

Holy Father, Only You

John 4:34; 5:19, 30; 6:38; 14:10



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Ludwig van Beethoven and Ken Bible

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Worship in the Book of Revelation

Reflection on Revelation 1:4-8, 17-18; 4:8-11; 5:8-14; 7:9-12; 11:15-17; 15:3-4; 16:5-7; 19:1-7; 22:13, 16

The primary purpose of prophecy is not to give us a roadmap for the future but to give us God's perspective. Through prophecy, the reality of God shatters our false, materialistic view of life. Through prophecy, we see Him as the focus of our daily world and our eternal destiny.

As a book of prophecy, Revelation exalts God as the center of life, as its Beginning and end, its Source and Goal. Thus it is not surprising that such a God-centered book is permeated with worship and praise. Reading through its praise passages, several basic truths become clear:

- 1. Praise is a simple, honest acknowledgement that God is, and that He is who He says He is. Praise acknowledges God, what He has done, and what He is doing. We don't need advanced intelligence or complex reasoning to praise God. Praise is simple faith's response to God and the truth about Him:
 - God is the Creator. All that is flows from Him.
 - God is eternal, enveloping all the past, present, and future.
 - God is the First and Last, the Beginning and the End and everything inbetween. He is the All-in-all.
 - God is holy, both transcendent and pure.
 - God is our Redeemer. He saved us from sin through the death of His Son. God is worthy of all worship, power, wisdom, riches, and glory.
 - In His own perfect time, God will re-assert His complete control over creation and will judge our world in righteousness.
- 2. As we focus on God, praise draws us deeper and deeper into His magnificence. Seeing God, we think and talk less about ourselves and more about Him.
- 3. Among those who know and trust God, praise is contagious. Praise often causes other believers to join in the praise. Praise spreads. Praise will crescendo until it envelops all creation (Revelation 5:8-14).

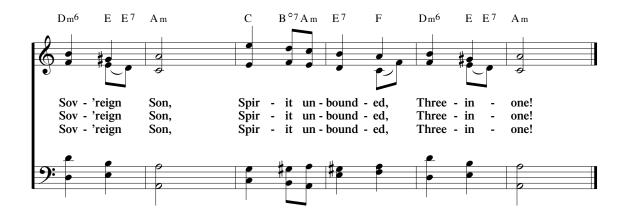
Do you long to praise God in a way that is pleasing to Him? Immerse yourself in the praise and worship of Revelation.

Hymn recording: Revelation Worship

Revelation Worship



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Revelation 1:5-8

(NRSV)

[Grace and peace from God the Father] and from Jesus Christ,

the faithful witness,

the firstborn of the dead, and

the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"

says the Lord God,

who is and

who was and

who is to come,

the Almighty.

Jesus Died, Risen, Lord of All

Reflection on Revelation 1:5-8

In my weakness, in my ignorance, through all my struggles and failures, who always loves me? Jesus died, Jesus risen, Jesus Lord of all.

Who eagerly, completely, forever forgives me for all the awful things I have ever been and done?

Jesus died, Jesus risen, Jesus Lord of all.

Who delivers me from everything that oppresses and threatens me?

Jesus died, Jesus risen, Jesus Lord of all.

Who pours out on me and into me all the fullness of the Father, from whom all blessings flow? Jesus died, Jesus risen, Jesus Lord of all.

Who leads me through all the unknowns of this world and the next? Jesus died, Jesus risen, Jesus Lord of all.

Who encompasses in Himself all time, all the past, present, and future? Jesus died, Jesus risen, Jesus Lord of all. Whom will I joyfully follow and trust, love and worship no matter what comes, every day and forever? Jesus died, Jesus risen, Jesus Lord of all.

Hymn recording: <u>Jesus, Living God!</u>



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Revelation 1:9-20 (NASB)

I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches."

Christ Walks among Us

Reflection on Revelation 1:9-20

Jesus Christ is no longer the Galilean peasant, the homeless teacher wandering a small corner of the Roman empire. He is the risen, ascended, glorified Christ in all His natural splendor, with all the radiance of the only-begotten Son of God.

He is robed as our Great High Priest.

His hair is gleaming white.

His eyes are like a blazing fire.

He sees everything as it truly is:

this world,

the Church,

our lives.

our desires.

He stands with feet like glowing bronze,

unshakable,

unstoppable.

His voice is like the thunder of a mighty waterfall.

He speaks with absolute, unquestionable authority.

His entire being radiates the splendor and power of heaven.

Right now this Christ is walking among us,

His Church. He is seeing.

He is judging.

He is encouraging.

He is warning.

As He speaks,

I am comforted. I am challenged. I am humbled. I am called.

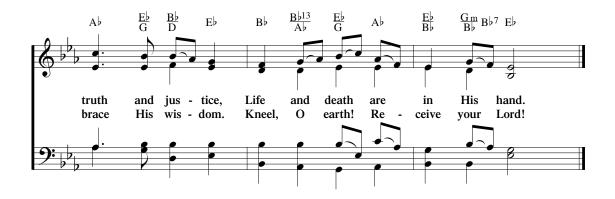
I begin to see the Church... His Church... in a whole new light. What is critical for us is not our size, our finances, or our techniques for growth. What is critical is our living relationship with Him: our love for Him, our obedience to Him, our faithfulness to Him, our living, holy sacrifice to Him, our incarnation of Him.

Speak, Lord Jesus. We are listening.

Hymn recording: The Glorified Christ (AUSTRIAN HYMN)



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Centered on Jesus

Prayer Response to Revelation 2 & 3

Father, examine my desires. Examine my hopes. Examine my thoughts. Examine my words. Examine my habits and all my actions. Examine each of my relationships.

Father, I long for You to find Your holy Son Jesus at the center of all these.

Examine our family. Examine our Sunday School class. Examine our local church. Examine our association of churches. Examine Your universal Church, for we are to be His Body and His Bride.

Merciful Father, may Jesus Christ be at the heart of all we are and all we do. When the world listens to us, may they hear Jesus. When they look at us, may they see Your holy, loving, energetic, self-sacrificing Son, Jesus Christ.

Hymn recording: One in Purpose, One in Passion (PLEADING SAVIOR)



Alt. Tunes: HYFRYDOL, NETTLETON, HYMN TO JOY, HOLY MANNA

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Revelation 2:1-4

(NIV)

"To the angel of the church in Ephesus write:

These are the words of him who

holds the seven stars in his right hand and

walks among the seven golden lampstands.

I know your deeds,

your hard work and

your perseverance.

I know that

you cannot tolerate wicked people, that

you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and

have found them false.

You have persevered and

have endured hardships for my name, and

have not grown weary.

Yet I hold this against you:

You have forsaken the love you had at first."

Pursue Love

Reflection on Revelation 2:1-4, based on 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:3; 14:1

God is love, and the surest mark of His children is love: true, active, self-sacrificing love.

Without love,

the greatest spiritual gifts are meaningless. Pursue love.

Without love,

wisdom and knowledge are worthless. Pursue love.

Without love,

all our efforts,

all our accomplishments are empty noise.

Pursue love.

Love is the most excellent way to live. As we grasp for all the best of life, we too often ignore its most precious possibility: a constant, personal, interactive, loving, transforming relationship with the Living God. As we humbly receive His love, we love Him in return. As we love Him, we grow in our love for His children. In the beautiful, perfect Kingdom of our Father, love, not money, is the coin of the realm.

Love will never lose its value.

Pursue love.

Hymn recording: Ever Full and Overflowing



WORDS: Ken Bible MUSIC: Emily D. Wilson and Ken Bible

AGAPE 8.7.8.7.D.

Alt. Tunes: BEACH SPRING, NETTLEON, RIPLEY, SATISFIED

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Revelation 2:4-7

(NRSV)

"But I have this against you,

that you have abandoned the love you had at first.

Remember then from what you have fallen;

repent, and

do the works you did at first.

If not, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.

Yet this is to your credit:

you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

Let anyone who has an ear

listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches.

To everyone who conquers,

I will give permission to eat from the tree of life that is in the paradise of God."

Have You Lost Your First Love?

Reflection on Revelation 2:4-7

Nothing is as vital as having a warm, active, loving, self-giving relationship with God and with His children. Nothing!

> "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?"
> And [Jesus] said to him,
> "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.'
> This is the great and foremost commandment.
> The second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.'
> On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 22:36-40, NASB)

Has your relationship cooled? Have you lost your first love? Is your love for God and for others as warm, natural, and joyful as it was at the beginning?

If not, follow Christ's own words for restoring your love:

Remember the way your love was at the beginning. Realize how you've changed,

and not for the better. Realize what you've lost.

Repent.

Admit that you have been wrong. Focus on what *you* have done wrong, not on what *they* have done wrong. Ask forgiveness, from God and from the other people involved. Commit to change, with God's help.

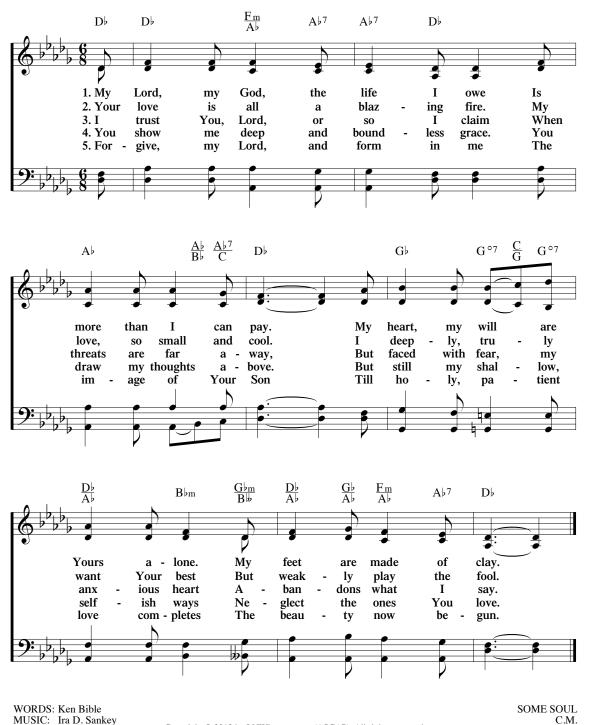
Do the loving deeds you did at first.

Love is not an emotion, to be chased like the wind. Love is a decision. Love is a commitment. Love is action. Do the loving deeds you did at the beginning, and the emotion will return in its own time.

Love is the most excellent way to live. Never let it slip away. Treasure love. Pursue love.

Hymn recording: **Daily Confession**

Daily Confession TUNE: Lord, Lay Some Soul Upon My Heart *Psalm 32:1; Daniel 2:31-33, 41-43; Ephesians 1:7; Philippians 1:6; 3:12-14; Colossians 3:1-4; 1 John 1:7-9; 3:1-3*



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Revelation 2:8-11

(NASB)

"And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write:

The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life, says this:

'I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich), and the blasphemy by those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan.
Do not fear what you are about to suffer.
Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, so that you will be tested, and you will have tribulation for ten days.
Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.
He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.
He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'"

Our Reality in Christ

Prayer Response to Revelation 2:8-11

Father, when we are like Your Son Jesus, the world will treat us as it treated Him. We will suffer as He suffered persecution, need. false accusations, and death. But Father, as You cared for Him, now exalted to Your right hand, You will care for us. And just as we are sharing His sufferings, we are sharing His beautiful relationship with You and His unending, unbounded life. Though we suffer, we need not fear suffering. The worst our persecutors can do is to hasten the inevitable death of this body and our eternal reward. They cannot touch our real life, which is our life in You. (Matthew 10:26-31) Though we may be poor in the passing goods of this world, we are rich in Christ. All things are His, and all things are ours in Him. (1 Corinthians 3:21-23) People may falsely accuse us. Satan is the great accuser, and his servants will do his work. But Christ knows the truth, and He is judge of all. He has already declared us completely innocent. (Romans 8:31-39) If He tarries in His coming, this body will die. But Christ is the One who died and rose again, and His resurrection life is already pulsing through us.

Death cannot touch us. We will rise in Him. (John 11:25-26)

In comfort or suffering, need or plenty, glory or shame, life or death, we are rich, secure, eternally alive, and abundantly blessed in You, Father, through Jesus Christ Your Son.

Hymn recording: <u>Captives of Eternal Love</u>



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Revelation 2:12-17

(NIV)

"To the angel of the church in Pergamum write:

These are the words of him who has the sharp, double-edged sword. I know where you live where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city where Satan lives.

Nevertheless, I have a few things against you:

There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam,

who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they

ate food sacrificed to idols and

committed sexual immorality.

Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

Repent therefore!

Otherwise, I will soon come to you and

will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

Whoever has ears,

let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

To the one who is victorious,

I will give some of the hidden manna.

I will also give that person a white stone

with a new name written on it,

known only to the one who receives it."

A People of Truth

Reflection on Revelation 2:12-17

As human creatures, our ignorance runs deep. There is so much we cannot know on our own. Powerful spiritual beings can easily deceive us. But we can know the truth, absolute and unchanging, through the Spirit of Jesus Christ living within us. We spend so many of our words spouting what is trivial or self-serving. Our speech can be so meaningless. But we can speak the truth clearly and boldly as the Spirit of Truth speaks through us. We are weak, and evil presses in from all around. But we can live the truth consistently and courageously as we simply trust the almighty, all-wise, all-loving Spirit of God. Father, keep us true, each of us and all of us, individually and together. Make us Your holy, faithful, loving people through the indwelling Spirit of Christ.

Hymn recording: <u>We Will Be Your People</u>





Revelation 2:18-29

(NRSV)

"And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write:

These are the words of the Son of God,

who has eyes like a flame of fire, and whose feet are like burnished bronze:

"I know your works —

your love, faith, service, and patient endurance.

I know that your last works are greater than the first.

But I have this against you:

you tolerate that woman Jezebel,

who calls herself a prophet and

is teaching and beguiling my servants to

practice fornication and to

eat food sacrificed to idols.

I gave her time to repent,

but she refuses to repent of her fornication.

Beware, I am throwing her on a bed, and

those who commit adultery with her I am throwing into great distress,

unless they repent of her doings;

and I will strike her children dead.

And all the churches will know that

I am the one who searches minds and hearts, and

I will give to each of you as your works deserve.

But to the rest of you in Thyatira,

who do not hold this teaching,

who have not learned what some call 'the deep things of Satan,'

to you I say,

I do not lay on you any other burden;

only hold fast to what you have until I come.

To everyone who

conquers and

continues to do my works to the end,

I will give authority over the nations;

to rule them with an iron rod,

as when clay pots are shattered ---

even as I also received authority from my Father.

To the one who conquers

I will also give the morning star.

Let anyone who has an ear

listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Morning Star

Prayer Response to Revelation 2:18-29

Father, You are holy -

completely right, always just, pure from all sin.

We are weak and engulfed by an evil world pressing in all around us, with a wickedness both brazen and seductive.

Yet You call us to be holy as You are holy, right now, in this sinful place, in all our weakness.

How, Father?

Your holy Son Jesus offers us His holiness – Your holiness – moment by moment, need by need, as we simply trust Him.

Does that make us perfect? Certainly not. But Holy Father, You always deliver everyone who calls to You and trusts You. Always.

Everyone.

What is more, Father, in this darkness, with sin and death filling the night around us,
You have given us the Morning Star.
He has already risen in our hearts, promising that a new, eternal day is about to dawn.
Soon sin and death will never again darken our world or our hearts. He is shining in us and among us right now.

Praise to You, Father God! Praise to You, Lord Jesus, the Light of the World!

Hymn recording: Jesus, the Light of the World

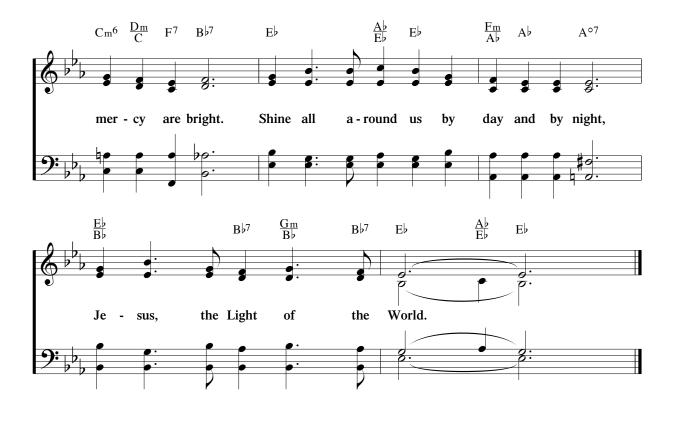
Jesus, the Light of the World

John 8:12; 2 Peter 1:19; Revelation 21:23



WORDS: Ken Bible and George D. Elderkin MUSIC: George D. Elderkin, arr. by Ken Bible ELDERKIN 7.7.7.7. w. Ref.

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Revelation 3:1-6

(NASB)

"To the angel of the church in Sardis write:

He who has

the seven Spirits of God and

the seven stars,

says this:

'I know your deeds,

that you have a name that you are alive,

but you are dead.

Wake up, and

strengthen the things that remain,

which were about to die;

for I have not found your deeds completed in the sight of My God.

So remember what you have received and heard; and

keep it, and

repent.

Therefore if you do not wake up,

I will come like a thief, and

you will not know at what hour I will come to you.

But you have a few people in Sardis

who have not soiled their garments;

and they will walk with Me in white,

for they are worthy.

He who overcomes will thus be clothed in white garments;

and I will not erase his name from the book of life,

and I will confess his name

before My Father and

before His angels.

He who has an ear,

let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

The One Thing

Reflection on Revelation 3:1-6

As you respond to the various pressures around you in all their variety, as you decide how to spend your time, your energy, your words, your money, your passion, and your trust, as your daily actions establish what is truly important to you, not what you claim to be important, realize that in the end, only one thing will matter. Only one thing will decide Your character, Your identity, Your influence, Your peace, Your eternity. Only one thing will decide who you have been here and who you will be forever. In the end, all that will matter is Your relationship with me, Your Creator, Your Designer, Your Father. Your Savior, Your only Source of life, love. rightness, and joy.

Consider what you want from this life. Consider who you want to be, and choose wisely.

Hymn recording: God Alone

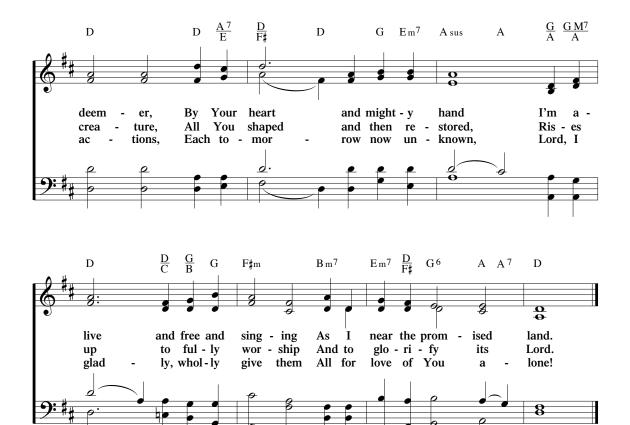
God Alone

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 22:34-40; Mark 12:28-34; Luke 10:25-28



Alt. Tune: NETTLETON

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Revelation 3:7-13

(NIV)

"To the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: These are the words of him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars -I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you. Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. The one who is victorious I will make a pillar in the temple of my God. Never again will they leave it. I will write on them the name of my God and

the name of the city of my God,

the new Jerusalem,

which is coming down out of heaven from my God; and

I will also write on them my new name.

Whoever has ears,

let them hear what the Spirit says to the churches."

Church, Follow Me

Reflection on Revelation 3:7-13

My Church, I do not call you to human success, to fulfill grand ambitions, or to make a great name for yourself. I call you to a real, living relationship with Me. Trust Me and follow Me, not just with your words, but with your daily lives, with every word you speak and every decision you make. During my earthly life, I focused on saying what my Father told me to say and doing what my Father showed me to do. Keep your focus the same, and you will be like Me. People will see Me in you, and they will know that you are mine. As you follow Me, my Father and I will claim you as Our very own. We will write Our names on you for everyone to see. You will belong to Us, and you will be with Us completely, beautifully, now and forever.

Church, just follow Me.

Hymn recording: We Fix Our Eyes on Jesus Christ

We Fix Our Eyes on Jesus Christ



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Revelation 3:14-22

(NRSV)

"And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write:

The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin of God's creation:

"I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to spit you out of my mouth. For you say, 'I am rich. I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched. pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent. Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door,

I will come in to you and eat with you, and you with me.

To the one who conquers

I will give a place with me on my throne, just as I myself conquered and sat down with my Father on his throne.

Let anyone who has an ear

listen to what the Spirit is saying to the churches."

Knocking

Prayer Response to Revelation 3:14-22

Jesus, You come and offer me the boundless wealth of all You have and all You are. yet I cling to my meager resources. You ask to clothe me in Yourself, and I angrily resist, wrapping myself more tightly in my filthy rags. You freely offer me Your wisdom, but my ignorance feels so much safer and more familiar. Despite all this, You humbly stand at my door, day after day, need after need, and simply knock. Your only desire is to offer me Yourself: Your ability for all my weakness, Your beautiful purity for all my sin, Your sight for my total blindness, Your glory for my deep shame. You have done all You can for me and

will always do all You can, but my destiny depends on me trusting You enough to invite You in.

Hymn recording: Seeking Me

Seeking Me



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