

Seven Great Revelations

Read 2 Corinthians 4:3-4. Note that the god of this world is Satan.

What is the gospel? Who is Jesus Christ? Aren't Christian fundamentalists the same as Islamic fundamentalists? Aren't all religions the same, in that they show people how to find God?

Q. Why do so many not come to the light and worship Jesus Christ as Lord?

A. Folks either adore Him or abhor Him.

Jesus makes several claims in the book of John, claims which differentiate him from the leaders of other world religions. This devotion is entitled "Seven Great Revelations", because there are seven amazing things Jesus revealed about himself.

I AM'S
I am the bread of life (6:35)
I am the light of the world (8:12)
I am the gate (10:7, 9)
I am the good shepherd (10:11, 14)
I am the resurrection and the life (11:25)
I am the way, the truth, and the life (14:6)
I am the true vine (15:1, 5)

The Bread of Life

In John chapter 6, one can read the account of a miracle in the wilderness when Jesus fed five thousand men, plus women and children, with five barley loaves and two fish. The next day, the crowd found Jesus and asked him, "What shall we do, so that we may work the works of God?" Jesus answered and said to them, "**This is the work of God, that you believe in Him who He has sent.**" Jesus was telling them that the only "work" that a man can do that is acceptable to God is to believe in Christ (1 John 3:23). But the crowd asked him to show them another sign, so that they might believe.

And Jesus said unto them, "**I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.**" (John 6:35)

Never hunger and never thirst, he said.

The Light of the World

Another day, the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery to Jesus, told him that the Law of Moses commanded them to stone her, and asked Jesus what He had to say about it. His response to them was,

"**He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.**" One by one, her accusers left. Jesus then said to her, "**Woman, did no one condemn you?**" She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "**I do not condemn you either. Go. From now on, sin no more.**"

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying "**I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**" (John 8:12)

Our Lord here draws an analogy between the sun as the physical light of the world and Himself as the spiritual life of the world.

The Gate

In John chapter 10, Jesus is talking about a sheepfold - a walled enclosure open to the sky, having one entrance and holding several flocks.

So Jesus said to them again, "**Truly, Truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. .. I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.**" (John 10:7,9 NASB)

Here, Jesus says that anyone who enters the sheep fold through Him will be saved. Christ also says that he will supply all our needs (find pasture).

The Good Shepherd

"**I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and I know my own and My own know me.**" .. (John 10:11,14 NASB)

Some of the Jews were now saying that, "He has a demon and is insane." No one today has witnessed the miracles Jesus performed. But just like Bible times, today people either say Jesus is a Lunatic, a Liar, or the Lord.

The Resurrection and the Life

After Lazarus of Bethany died, Martha told Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died. Jesus said to her, "**Your brother will rise again.**"

Jesus said unto her, "**I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**" (John 11 :25-26)

She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that you are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."

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The Way, the Truth, and the Life

Jesus saith unto him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." (John 14:6)

There are not many ways to the Father in heaven, only One -- through Jesus. (Acts 4: 12)

Four main spokes of the gospel (1 Corinthians 15:1-8)

He died for sin.

He was buried.

He rose from the dead.

He appeared to many (over 500 people).

The central truth, or hub, of the gospel:

Jesus is God

"I and my Father are one." John 10:30

- Jesus Christ claimed equality of nature with God.
- Jesus Christ claimed full Deity and others attested to it.

The True Vine

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ... I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing." (John 15:1,5)

This refers to the works of the believer. Abiding depends on keeping Christ's commandments. The Christian who does not abide in Christ cannot do what pleases God; therefore, his works will be burned at the judgment seat of Christ, though he himself will be saved.

I ask you today, do you know for sure that you are saved?

Three things that distinguish biblical Christianity from every other religion:

- Deity of Christ
- Resurrection of Christ
- Salvation comes by grace alone, not works

We believe that, according to the authority of Scripture alone, salvation comes by grace alone, through faith alone in Christ alone, to the glory of God alone.

Thoughts to ponder

- God loved us so much that He did not spare His Son.
- Christ's payment was so full that we cannot contribute to our salvation.
- Salvation is only available to those who believe in the Christ of the cross.

Notes

But He answered and said to them, "An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth." Matthew 12:39-40 NASB

grace - "Undeserved favor from an almighty God that brings great joy, sustaining strength, and the power to obey God." Steve Stodola, The WILDS

justification - to be declared righteous in God's judgment.

faith - An awareness of the facts, followed by an affirmation they are true, which leads to an acceptance of them as desirable.

As the Good Shepherd, Christ gave His life for His sheep and became the door to God's fold. (v. 10:7)

As the Great Shepherd, He rose from the dead to care for His sheep. (Heb. 13:20-21)

As Chief Shepherd, He will come again for His sheep. Faithful church leaders, who are often dishonored on earth, will receive glory in heaven from Christ. (1 Peter 5:4)

v. 15:2 This work, "take away" may mean this literally and would therefore be a reference to the physical death of fruitless Christians.