



GENESIS

BOOKENDS

REVELATION

GRACE AND PEACE

REVELATION 1:4-8

SYNOPSIS

In Revelation 1:4–8, John introduces the book by announcing the true source of peace. Against Rome’s claim of peace through power, John declares peace that comes only through grace. This peace flows from the Triune God Father, Son, and Spirit and is secured by Christ’s work as Prophet, Priest, and King. Unlike worldly systems that demand victims, Christ offers peace by becoming the sacrifice Himself. This grace produces internal peace with God and fuels the external expansion of Christ’s Kingdom. As the gospel spreads, Christ’s peace advances through transformed lives, faithful witness, and hopeful anticipation of the King’s return.

SERMON OUTLINE

1. **Grace Must Precede Peace:** All worldly efforts at attaining peace that do not go through the grace of Christ are bound to fail.
 - a. Caesar’s Understanding of “grace and peace”
 - b. John’s redefinition of “grace and peace”
 - c. Modern efforts (like Caesar’s) to attain peace without grace
2. **All Three Members of the Trinity Are the Anchors of Peace:**
 - a. God the Father: his aseity
 - b. God the Holy Spirit: his seven characteristics
 - c. God the Son: His role as our prophet, priest, and king
3. **Christ’s Peace Expands as Christ’s Kingdom Increases:** Christ’s kingdom is portrayed by John as beginning internally in the heart, and then expanding out of us into the world.

- a. John's six phases of expanding peace in verses 5-7
- b. Practical applications of Christ's expanding kingdom

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

LOOKING AT THE TEXT

As you begin your study, we want to encourage you to study the text as a group before you think about the Reflection Questions based on the sermon. The goal is to slow down and observe the text and its plain meaning before you begin to apply the text into your own life. If you need help in this area, the following questions might prompt discussion

1. In verse 4 John introduces himself. What do we know about John? About his relationship to Christ? Who he was before Christ, and who he became after following Christ?
2. Read verses 4–5 carefully. From whom does John say grace and peace come. List every source mentioned and note the order. Why do you think John structures the greeting this way rather than simply saying “from God”.
3. Verse 5 gives three titles for Jesus: “faithful witness,” “firstborn of the dead,” and “ruler of kings on earth.” What does each title tell us about who Jesus is and what he has accomplished. How do these titles move from past to present to future?
4. Verse 7 changes the mood of the passage. What words signal this shift. How does the promise of Christ's return function as both comfort and warning in the text.

GROUP REFLECTION & APPLICATION

1. **Grace Before Peace:** John says “grace and peace,” not “peace and grace.” Where in your life are you currently trying to manufacture peace without first resting in grace. What does that look like emotionally or relationally?
2. **False Sources of Peace:** Rome promised peace through power and control. What has functioned as your personal “Caesar” lately something you rely on to feel secure, calm, or justified. How has it failed you.
3. **Sin as the Barrier to Peace:** Revelation 1:5 says Christ freed us from our sins by his blood. Is there a sin, pattern, or unresolved guilt that is quietly stealing your peace right now. What keeps you from bringing it fully into the light.

4. **Anchored in the Triune God:** John anchors peace in the Father who is unchanging, the Spirit who dwells within us, and the Son who reigns over all. Which of these truths is hardest for you to trust in your current season, and why.
5. **Participating in Christ's Kingdom:** Christ makes us a kingdom and priests to God. Where is Christ inviting you to actively carry his peace into someone else's chaos right now. What fear or hesitation is holding you back.