

UNRAVELLING THE BOOK OF REVELATION | SESSION 8

WHO IS JESUS?
(REV. 1:9-20)

PART 1



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WHAT AN ENCOUNTER JOHN HAD!

The elderly apostle, who was persecuted and banished by the Roman authorities to the island of Patmos, wasn't expecting this. He was engaging the Lord's heart deeply in prayer on the Lord's Day when all of a sudden, he heard a loud voice like that of a trumpet coming from behind. **When he turned around, he saw Jesus in all of His glory as the Son of Man, and he fell down at His feet as though dead (Rev. 1:9-17) ...**

***HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED -
WHY ON EARTH WOULD JOHN
REACT OR RESPOND THAT WAY?***

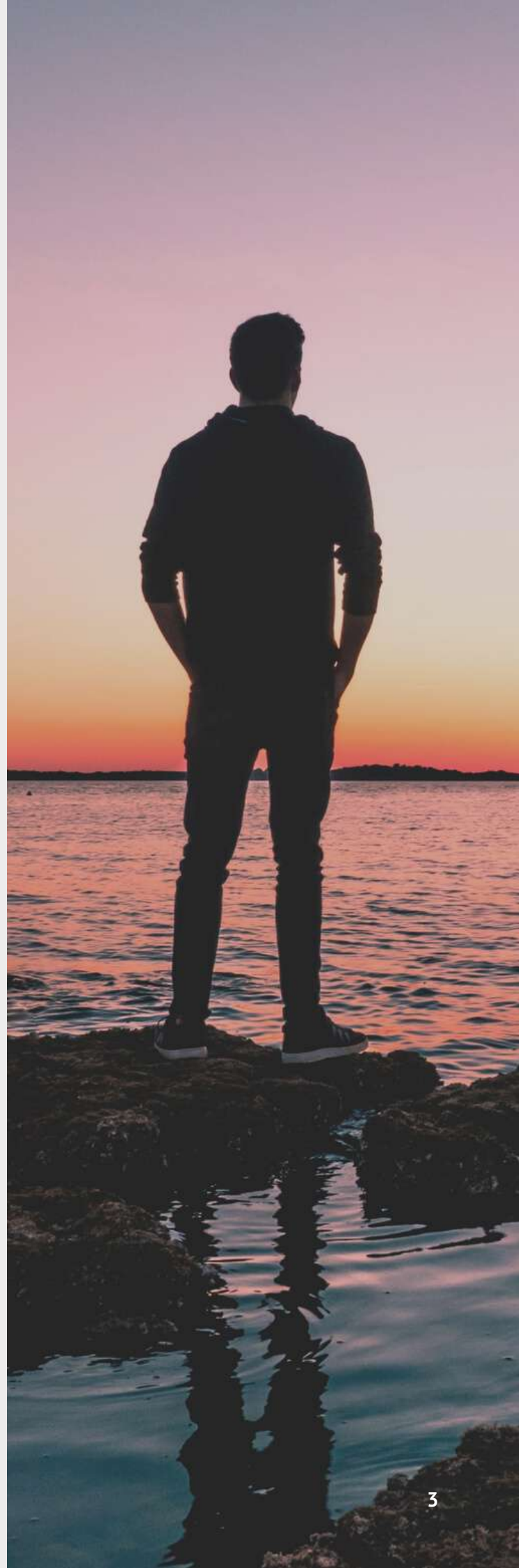
Isn't this the great Apostle John – the Beloved of Jesus, his closest friend here on earth, the one who knew the Lord intimately? Wasn't he the one who leaned on Jesus' bosom, the only one who dared to ask concerning the identity of the disciple who would betray Him?

We would have expected John to rush towards the Lord and embrace Him in joy and gladness.

Instead, he was deeply overwhelmed...

You see, although John was familiar with the Jesus of the gospels, the Shepherd and Redeemer, while He was here on earth, **he had never known or have a grid of Jesus as the Son of Man unveiled in all His glory. This was an entirely new revelation to him!**

There is a Biblical principle at work at every period of transition – **God will visit us and give us a new revelation of who He is.** In Revelation 1:9-20, Jesus came as **the Son of Man** to prepare His Church to **enter into the reality of the events that will unfold in the rest of the Book of Revelation.**





AS A CHURCH, WE TOO ARE AT A PERIOD OF ESCHATOLOGICAL TRANSITION RIGHT NOW; WE ARE ABOUT TO TRANSIT FROM THIS AGE TO THE NEXT.

This will happen when Jesus returns to rule and reign as King of all the earth. We too have no grid of Jesus as the glorious Son of Man, nor who He is as the Bridegroom, King and Judge.

We are at this crucial juncture where we need profound revelation and encounters with Jesus as the Son of Man. We desperately need a heart encounter with Him in this season!

There are reasons why Jesus is revealing Himself as the **Son of Man**. The title "Son of Man" speaks of:

1. HIS DEITY AND HUMANITY.

Jesus is fully God, yet He is fully Man. **He is forever a Man.** He is one of us and **He is coming back as a Man** when He returns the second time.

2. JESUS AS THE PROMISED MESSIAH WHO IS COMING BACK AGAIN.

Jesus is telling the End-Time Church and the Jewish people that **He is the fulfilment of the prophecy in Daniel 7:13-14.** This passage tells us about the **Son of Man, the promised Messiah**, who is coming in the clouds to take leadership over the earth.

3. JESUS AS THE IDEAL MAN WHO WILL REDEEM AND LEAD THE HUMAN RACE FOREVER.

It is in the heart of God that the earth will be ruled and led by a man (Gen.1:26,28). **Jesus is the perfect Man.** All that God the Father wants in a man is found in Him. When we see Him in the fullness of His glory, we will love Him.

4. JESUS AS THE ONLY MAN WITH AUTHORITY TO JUDGE (Jn. 5:22,27; Acts 17:31).

The key purpose of Jesus coming as the Son of Man in Revelation 1 is to prepare His Church to know and understand who He is at His Second Coming – He is returning as the Jesus of Armageddon, the Bridegroom, King and Judge (Rev. 19). We cannot cross into that understanding of the Jesus of Revelation 19 unless we have encountered the Jesus of Revelation 1.


Right now, the Church at large understands Jesus as the Shepherd, the Lamb who was slain, and the Redeemer. **But this is insufficient to prepare us for His End-Time plan and His leadership at His Second Coming.** He is not coming back as the Man of Peace. **He is coming back to judge, make war, and usher in the kingdom of God to all the nations of the earth.**

Jesus knows the gulf that exists between our current understanding of who He is and whom He is returning as. That is why in Revelation 1:9-20, He also came as **Prophet, Priest, and King** to prepare the Church. There are four reasons why He came as Prophet, Priest, and King:



1 To prepare His Church to understand who He is as the Bridegroom, King and Judge at His Second Coming (Rev. 19).

In the Old Testament, **prophet, king and priest** are three important offices through which God works to **prepare the nation of Israel to know Him and His promises**. Jesus starts off in Revelation 1 by revealing Himself as Prophet, Priest and King. As the Book of Revelation unfolds, He will be increasingly seen and understood as the Bridegroom, King and Judge. **The fullness of revelation of Jesus as the Bridegroom, King and Judge will happen in Revelation 19.**



A brief note on prophet, king and priest:

- a. Prophet and Judge are two sides of the same coin. **The Righteous Prophet declares and speaks forth the heart and truth of God. The Zealous Judge will come to establish and uphold the truth of God.**
- b. Jesus came as the **Merciful High Priest** to cleanse and sanctify us so that we can approach Jesus in full confidence (Heb.10:19-22), and enter into a deep intimate relationship with Him as the **Passionate Bridegroom.**
- c. Jesus comes as the **Sovereign King** in Revelation 1 to prepare us to be ready for Him coming as the **Transcendent, Conquering King** in Revelation 19.

2

To prepare us to fully embrace His End-Time Storyline by forthtelling the heart and message of God.

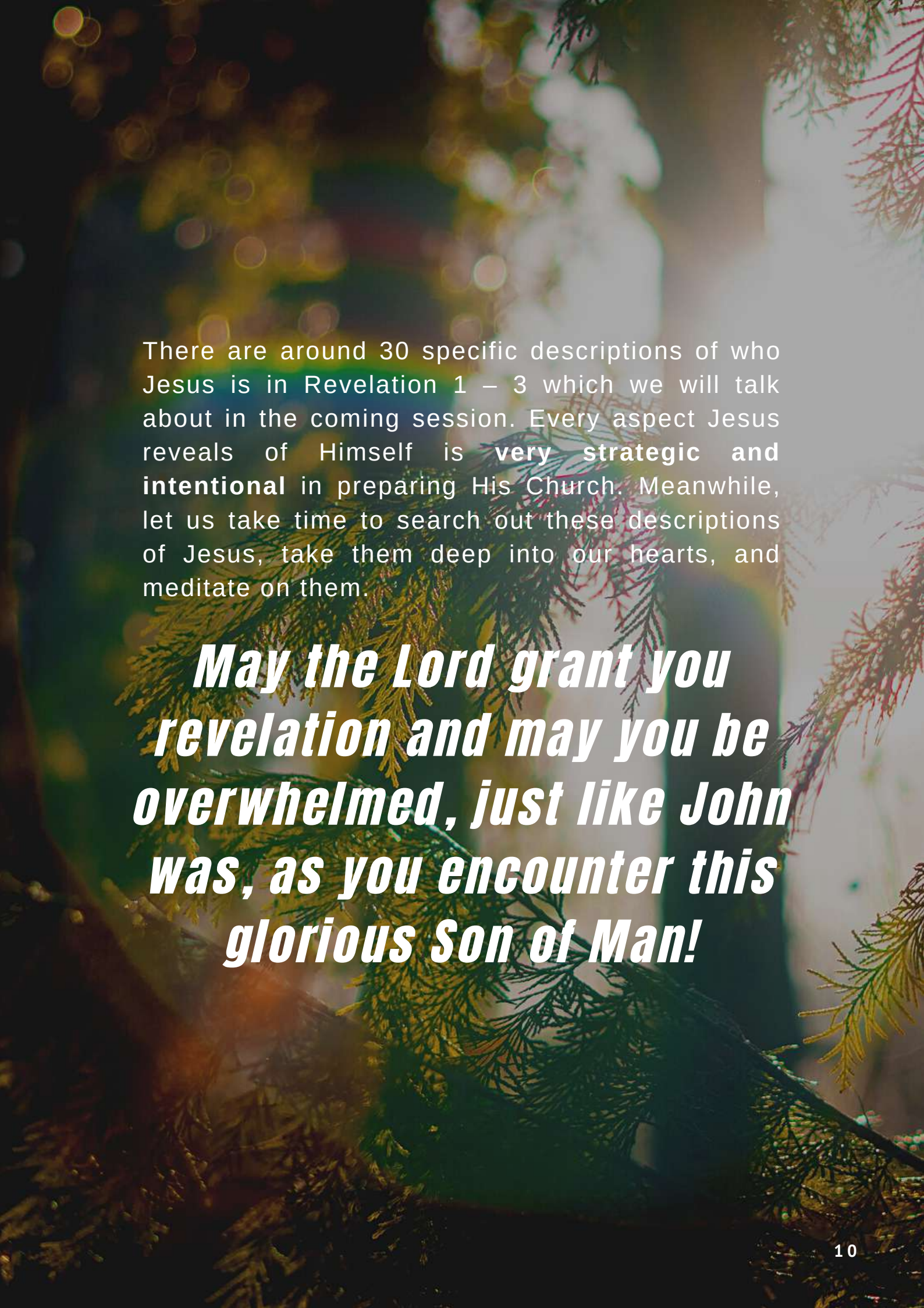
To tell His Church our true spiritual condition so that we can overcome (Rev. 2 – 3).

3

4

To prepare us to be His voices so that we may speak to His Church.





There are around 30 specific descriptions of who Jesus is in Revelation 1 – 3 which we will talk about in the coming session. Every aspect Jesus reveals of Himself is **very strategic and intentional** in preparing His Church. Meanwhile, let us take time to search out these descriptions of Jesus, take them deep into our hearts, and meditate on them.

May the Lord grant you revelation and may you be overwhelmed, just like John was, as you encounter this glorious Son of Man!



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