

Read Revelation 1: 4b – 8

There is much that can be drawn from a thoughtful reading of this short passage. We will focus on only three of the possible topics, (1) the Alpha and Omega, (2) him who loves us and has freed us, (3) Look, he is coming.

1. The Lord God identifies himself as the Alpha and the Omega, and so also does Jesus Christ [read Rev 22: 12-13]), the beginning and the end, all-encompassing. Additionally, the use of number 7 in the passage (7 churches, 7 spirits) is also to be understood as representing fullness/completeness. Jesus was present before history began and will be present when it has ended.

1a. How many words can you think of that encapsulates the fullness and completeness of our Triune God?

1b. Many Christians begin their daily prayers with 'praise', trying to express their gratitude for all that God is and has done. What sort of 'mental pictures of God' do the group members use as they envisage God/Jesus as they pray?

2. Christ has won our freedom by his death and resurrection. However, the secular view is that Christians are far from free but are, in fact, very restricted by 'rules'.

2a. How do you feel about this? What, if anything, have you been freed from?

2b. There are of course some 'rules' for following Christ. In what ways might they be restricting or even freeing?

3. Christ will return and restore creation back into the perfect order he first created. All creation will bow and worship King Jesus. Upon his return, a 'new heaven and a new earth'; everything that is 'wrong' will be put 'right'.

3a. We pray daily, in the Lord's Prayer, for this to happen. What reservations, if any, do you have should this great event happening very soon?

Read John 18: 33-37

4. "Are you the king of the Jews [God's people]?" asks Pilate. This question travels down through the ages.

4a. Christ the King was handed over to Pilate for execution by the leaders of his own people. In what ways can 'his own people' influence today's leaders to ensure our King is not again 'killed off' in our own country?