

Describing the Savior
By Trey Sullins

Who is Jesus? Such a simple question can often be met with numerous answers from the world. Instead, we ought to look to the word of God to find out who exactly our savior is. The “Revelation of Jesus Christ,” or the book of Revelation is a powerful book containing many great lessons and Revelation for those in the first century. Although its message was revealing the events that would “shortly take place” (Revelation 1:1, 22:6), the book also offers to us a great look at how God’s own word describes God’s own Son: “and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth” (Revelation 1:5).

Jesus is the “faithful witness.” The word faithful means trustworthy or true, and a witness is someone who has firsthand experience of something so that they can give testimony of it. Therefore, a faithful witness is one who is faultless and can be trusted to give an accurate account. The next question then becomes, of what is Jesus giving testimony? John 1:14 says, “And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” This passage reveals that when Jesus came to earth, He revealed the glory of God the Father to us. That same “Word” also declares to us the righteousness of God and His path for salvation. Imagine that! Just by studying to learn about Jesus Christ we are also learning about God the Father.

Jesus is the “firstborn from the dead.” This unique description almost seems contradictory at first glance. However, when looking closer we find “firstborn” means that Jesus is the first in importance or in preeminence. “From the dead” is referring to the fact that He was once dead and then alive. Once more putting it together reveals the meaning: Jesus is the most important person to have been raised from the dead. He is also the only one to have never died again after being raised. This description of our savior helps us to understand that we can have confidence in our own resurrection. First Thessalonians 4:4 reveals the resurrection that is coming for those who are dead in Christ. Such an unnatural event would be much more difficult to believe in if we did not have the powerful proof of the perfect savior being raised as well.

Jesus is the “ruler over the kings of the earth.” As ruler over the kings of the earth, Jesus is the highest authority and has position over everyone on earth. Matthew 28:18 says, “all authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” Jesus is also described as the King of kings (1 Timothy 6:15). This passage shows us the superlative nature of Christ and how He is the highest rank as king. With His status as highest King, He set us up as His priests for Him. In 1 Peter 2:9, the Bible says that we are a “royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people.” With Jesus on the throne, we serve Him to “proclaim the praises” of God. We must hold to our calling and fulfill this mission that we have to do!

God expects us to know Him and furthermore it would be impossible for us to serve Him properly without knowing Him. Our savior is described as the faithful witness, the Firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. The better we know Him, the better we serve Him. Let us all make sure that we worship, serve, and obey him as best as we can!