



"We could title this section 'From God with Love." (Craig Keener)





God is reminding us this morning that there is absolutely nothing outside His domain.





1. From Him Who Is... (Revelation 1:4-5)



John is anchoring the weight of these words to the nature and character of God – the one *who is*.



The reference to "the seven Spirits who are before His throne" (vs. 4) is a clear reference to the Holy Spirit.



As "the faithful witness" Jesus came to us and showed us the character of God through his words and works.



As "the firstborn of the dead" Jesus revealed to us the glory of the resurrection.



As "the ruler of the kings of the earth" Jesus is positioned above every other name that asserts or assumes authority.



"He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17)





From Him Who Is... From Him Who Was... (Revelation 1:5-6)



And it's within this ongoing, perpetual love, solidified by his death and resurrection, that we become the recipients of a new identity and calling.



This is what it means to become priests – we not only have access to worship in the presence of God, but we also mediate the knowledge of God to others; we proclaim the saving good news to a lost and fractured world.





From Him Who Is... From Him Who Was... From Him Who Is To Come... (Revelation 1:7-8)



3. From Him Who Is To Come...

That word "Behold" or "Look" is a call to pay attention and is used 25 times in Revelation to indicate that what is about to follow is really important!



3. From Him Who Is To Come... Verse 7 presents us with the image of a Roaring Lamb whose entrance back to earth will demand the attention of every eye and cause every heart to respond in either holy reverence or terrible fear.



3. From Him Who Is To Come... Of the 404 verses in Revelation, 278 make some allusion to the Old Testament.



"I kept looking in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven One like a Son of Man was coming, and he came up to the Ancient of Days and was presented before Him." (Daniel 7:13)



"I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced..." (Zechariah 12:10a)



"... and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn." (Zechariah 12:10b)



3. From Him Who Is To Come...

Verse 8 is like a notary – a stamp or seal of approval – legitimizing the truthfulness of everything we have read.

