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And He Shall Reign: A Reading From Revelation

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And He Shall Reign: A Reading from Revelation

LEE MAGNESS

This reading lets the powerful poetry of the book of Revelation speak for itself. What we hear, amidst all the apocalyptic symbolism which often leaves us baffled, is a clear call to give praise to the Lord, to give thanks to the Lamb, and to live as the victorious people we have been saved to be. Revelation 1.4–5 serves as the unifying text for most of the litany. The reading is configured here for three readers. Alternatively, each stanza could be read by a different reader.

- 1 Grace to you and peace
from him who is and was and is to come,
- 2 and from the seven spirits before his throne,
- 3 and from Jesus Christ
- 1 the faithful witness,
- 2 the firstborn of the dead,
- 3 and the ruler of kings on earth. (1.4–5)

Worthy are you, our Lord and God

- 1 Grace to you and peace
from him who is and was and is to come.
- 2 I am the Alpha and the Omega,
who is and was and is to come, the Almighty. (1.8)
- 3 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
- 2 To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.
- 3 Those who conquer will have this heritage,
and I will be their God and they will be my heirs. (21.6–7)

- 1 Grace to you and peace
from him who is and was and is to come.
- 2 Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty,
who was and is and is to come! (4.8)
- 3 Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power,
for you created all things, and by your will they were created.” (4.11)
- 2 Fear God and give him glory,
- 3 and worship him who made heaven and earth and the springs of water. (14.7)

1 Grace to you and peace
from him who is and was and is to come.
2 Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!
Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!
3 Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name?
For you alone are holy.
2 All nations will come and worship you,
3 for your righteous acts have been revealed.” (15.3–4)

1 Grace to you and peace
from him who is and was and is to come.
2 To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb
be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever! (5.13)
3 Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne,
and to the Lamb! (7.10)
2 Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might
be to our God forever and ever! (7.12)
3 We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, who is and was,
for you have taken your great power and begun to reign. (11.17)

1 Grace to you and peace
from him who is and was and is to come.
2 Hallelujah!
Salvation and glory and power belong to our God. (19.1)
3 Praise our God, all you his servants,
you who fear him, small and great. (19.5)
2 Hallelujah!
For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. (19.6)
3 Worship God! (19.10)

1,2,3 The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he shall reign forever and ever. (11.15)

Worthy is the Lamb, the Lamb who was Slain

1 Grace to you and peace
from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead,
and the ruler of kings on earth.
2 To him who loves us
and has freed us from our sins by his blood
3 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father,
to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1.6)

1 Grace to you and peace
from Jesus Christ.
2 Behold, he is coming with the clouds,
and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him. Even so. Amen. (1.7)
3 Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my reward with me,
to repay each one for what he has done.
2 I am the Alpha and the Omega,
3 the first and the last, the beginning and the end. (22.12–13)

- 1 Grace to you and peace
from Jesus Christ.
- 2 one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.
3 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow.
2 His eyes were like a flame of fire, his feet like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace,
3 and his voice was like the roar of many waters.
2 In his right hand he held seven stars,
from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword,
3 and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. (1.13–16)
- 1 Grace to you and peace
from Jesus Christ.
- 2 behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has conquered,
so that he can open the scroll and its seven seals,
3 a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain. (5.6)
2 Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals,
3 for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God
from every tribe and language and people and nation,
2 and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God,
and they shall reign on the earth. (5.9–10)
3 Worthy is the Lamb who was slain,
to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might
and honor and glory and blessing!” (5.12)
- 1 Grace to you and peace
from Jesus Christ.
- 2 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory,
3 for the marriage of the Lamb has come. (19.7)
2 It is I, Jesus.
I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star. (22.16)
3 Surely I am coming soon. (22.20)
- 1,2,3 The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he shall reign forever and ever. (11.15)

Who are these? A Bride Adorned

- 1 Who are these, clothed in white robes, and from where have they come?”
2 These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
3 They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
1 Therefore they are before the throne of God,
2 and serve him day and night in his temple;
3 and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence.
2 They shall hunger no more, neither thirst anymore;
3 the sun shall not strike them, nor any scorching heat.
1 For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd,
2 and he will guide them to springs of living water,
3 and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.” (7.13–17)

1 Now the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God
and the authority of his Christ have come,
2 for the accuser of our brothers has been thrown down,
who accuses them day and night before our God.
3 And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony,
for they loved not their lives even unto death. (12.10–11)

1 For the marriage of the Lamb has come,
and his Bride has made herself ready;
2 she may clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure”—the righteous deeds of the saints.
3 Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb. (19.7–9)
2 Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life
3 and that they may enter the city by the gates. (22.14)
2 And let the one who is thirsty come;
3 let the one who desires take the water of life without price. (22.17)

1 Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth,
for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.
And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
2 Behold, the dwelling of God is with humans.
He will dwell with them, and they will be his people,
3 and God himself will be with them as their God.
2 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more,
neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore,
3 for the former things have passed away.
See I am making all things new. (21.1–5)

1,2,3 The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ,
and he shall reign forever and ever. (11.15)

1 Grace to you and peace
from him who is and was and is to come,
2 and from the seven spirits before his throne,
3 and from Jesus Christ
1 the faithful witness,
2 the firstborn of the dead,
3 and the ruler of kings on earth. (1.4–5)

1,2,3 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with us all. (22.21)

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