

# THE GREAT ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE CHURCHES REVELATION 01:04–08

## *Introduction*

This is the great announcement to the churches. Note: there were seven churches in Asia to which this great announcement was being made. The churches will be named and discussed in a later passage. When they are, it will be seen that they are representative of all churches of the Lord Jesus Christ throughout the world. For now, the great announcement is the subject to be discussed. What is the great announcement proclaimed to the churches of the world? It is fourfold.

- I. Announcement 1: grace and peace are yours (vv. 4-5).
- II. Announcement 2: Jesus Christ is the great Saviour, the great Redeemer (vv. 5-6).
- III. Announcement 3: look, Christ comes (v. 7).
- IV. Announcement 4: Christ is the Almighty God (v. 8).

## **I. *Revelation 01:04–05 Grace and Peace***

Announcement one — grace and peace are yours. The church must know that it can experience grace and peace.

=> *Grace* means the favour and blessings of God. It means that God takes an active role in our lives; that He looks after and takes care of us: that He provides all the good and beneficial things of life for us whether physical, material or spiritual. We do not deserve the grace of God, but God loves us. Therefore, He showers us with His grace, His favour and His blessings.

=> *Peace* means that we can have peace with God and with men; that we no longer have to feel that God is far way from us, nor that God is hovering over us, watching every little move that we make. God is not evil; He is not seeking every chance to condemn and punish us. God seeks only one thing with us and that is peace.

Peace also means that men no longer have to be divided, separated and discriminated against; nor do they have to be fighting, warring, stealing and killing each other. Man can now have peace — peace with God and peace with each other.

This is the first great declaration to the church. The great gifts of grace and peace are now available to man. But note where. It is not found among men. Neither God's grace (favour) nor the great gift of peace can be found upon earth. Grace and peace come only from heaven, only from God and His Spirit and His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Grace and peace come only from the eternal and unchangeable God. Note how God is described: “God *who is and who was and who is to come.*”
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=> God is.

=> God was.

=> God is to come.

That is, God is eternal and He is unchangeable. He is the infinite God, the only living and true God. He is today as He was, and He shall be the same in the ages to come. This means the most wonderful thing: God has infinite power and knowledge. He knows that we need His grace, His care and provision and His peace. And He has the power to give us grace and peace. All we have to do is go to Him — to Him who is the source of grace and peace.

***Eph 2:4-7** But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

***Phil 4:7** And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

***Titus 2:11-15** For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men. It teaches us to say “No” to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, while we wait for the blessed hope — the glorious appearing of our great God and Saviour, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good. These, then, are the things you should teach. Encourage and rebuke with all authority. Do not let anyone despise you.*

***Titus 3:5-7** He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Saviour, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

2. Grace and peace come from the Holy Spirit of God. Note that the Holy Spirit is called the “seven spirits.” The number seven in the Bible simply means completeness, fullness and perfection. Thus, the *seven spirits* means the Holy Spirit in all His fullness. The Holy Spirit is before the throne of God in all of His perfection and fullness. Therefore, the believer is to find grace and peace in the fullness of the Holy Spirit. It is the Spirit of God who lives within the believer in order to fill the believer with the grace and peace of God.

***Thought 1.** Our duty is to learn to walk in the Spirit; to allow Him to fill us with God’s grace and peace.*

***Rom 8:11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.*

**Gal 5:22-23** *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.*

3. Grace and peace come from Jesus Christ. It is Christ who brought the grace and peace of God to earth. This is clearly seen in the next note.

**John 14:27** *“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.”*

**John 16:33** *“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.”*

**Rom 3:24** *And are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.*

**Eph 1:7** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.*

**Eph 2:14** *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility.*

**Col 1:2** *To the holy and faithful brothers in Christ at Colosse: Grace and peace to you from God our Father.*

## **II. Revelation 01:05–06 Jesus Christ – Redemption**

Announcement two — Jesus Christ is the great Saviour, the great Redeemer. Five great things are declared about Jesus Christ in these two verses.

1. Jesus Christ is the faithful witness. He is the one Person we can depend upon. We can trust what Jesus Christ tells us. Jesus Christ came from God, out of heaven itself, to reveal the truth to us — the truth about God and man and man’s world. What Jesus Christ has revealed can be trusted. He is the faithful witness.

**John 3:11** *“I tell you the truth, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony.”*

**John 8:14** *Jesus answered, “Even if I testify on my own behalf, my testimony is valid, for I know where I came from and where I am going. But you have no idea where I come from or where I am going.”*

**John 18:37** *“You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”*

2. Jesus Christ is the first to arise from the dead. That is, He is the first to arise who never again had to die. The word “firstborn” means to be the first in rank; to be supreme and

preeminent in the resurrection. Of all the people who have arisen from the dead, Jesus Christ is Supreme. It is He who is the Son of God; therefore, it is His resurrection that is the supreme and preeminent resurrection. All other people arise because He arose. All believers shall arise to live with God eternally because He arose and conquered death for us. Because He arose, we too shall arise if we *believe* that He died and arose for us.

3. Jesus Christ is the ruler of the kings of the earth. Jesus Christ has been raised from the dead and exalted to the right hand of God's throne. He and He alone has been given the seat of Sovereign rule over the earth. The world may seem chaotic and the problems too enormous to be handled. But Jesus Christ is in control, and He is able to handle it all. However, man may legitimately ask: Why does God not go ahead and come and straighten out the chaotic mess and evil of the world? God tells us as plainly as human language can say it:

**2 Pet 3:9** *The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.* (cp. v. 10)

Jesus Christ is delaying His return so that more people can be saved and live eternally with God. But some day, and from the weight of the evidence the day will be soon, Jesus Christ is returning to take over the rule of the world. He and He alone is going to rule and bring the reign of righteousness to earth. He alone is the ruler of the kings of the earth.

**Psa 24:1** *The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it.*

**Psa 24:7** *Lift up your heads, O you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the King of glory may come in.*

**1 Tim 1:17** *Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

**1 Tim 6:15** *Which God will bring about in his own time — God, the blessed and only Ruler, the King of kings and Lord of lords.*

**Rev 11:15** *The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: "The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever."*

**Rev 17:14** *They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings — and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers."*

**Rev 19:16** *On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

4. Jesus Christ has redeemed us. He “*loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood*” (v. 5). The word *love* is in the present tense in the Greek. This means that Jesus Christ *always loves* us. He loves us today just as He has loved us in the past. The word “freed” (*lusanti*) means to be loosed, set free and released from sin. How did the blood of Jesus Christ set us free from sin?

=> Jesus Christ took our sins and died for them. He had lived a sinless and perfect life as a Man upon earth. Therefore, He was able to present Himself as the Ideal and Perfect Man before God. He was able to die as the ideal and perfect sacrifice. He was able to take our sins — the guilt and the judgment of our sins — upon Himself and bear the punishment for them. He was the Ideal and Perfect Man; therefore, God is able to accept His death as the ideal and perfect sacrifice for sin.

The point is this: Jesus Christ died for our sins. He actually took our sins off of us, removed them, and died for them. Therefore, we are free and loosed from sin. Sin has been removed from us. We stand before God free of sin and acceptable to Him. But remember how: by the shed blood of Jesus Christ upon the cross. It is the shed blood of Christ upon the cross — His dying for our sins — that frees us from sin.

**Gal 1:4** *Who gave himself for our sins to rescue us from the present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,*

**Eph 1:7** *In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace.*

**Col 1:14** *In whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.*

**1 Pet 1:18-19** *For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.*

**Rev 5:9** *And they sang a new song: “You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals, because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation.*

5. Jesus Christ has exalted us. He has actually made us be a kingdom and priests.

=> By *kingdom* is meant a rule, some authority and responsibility that involves overseership, management, supervision and governing. Believers shall rule and reign with Christ. We shall oversee and administer the affairs of the universe for Christ throughout eternity.

**Mat 20:23** *Jesus said to them, “You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”*

**Rom 8:16-17** *The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit, that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs — heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.*

**1 Cor 6:2** *Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?*

**Eph 2:6-7** *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

**2 Tim 2:12** *If we endure, we will also reign with him. If we disown him, he will also disown us.*

**Rev 2:26-27** *To him who overcomes and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations. 'He will rule them with an iron sceptre; he will dash them to pieces like pottery' — just as I have received authority from my Father.*

**Rev 20:4** *I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony for Jesus and because of the word of God. They had not worshiped the beast or his image and had not received his mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

=> By *priests* means that we have open access into God's presence any time. Believers no longer need human priests or mediators. Believers are themselves made priests before God — all by Jesus Christ. Believers are now to offer their own prayers, praises, worship, thanksgiving and offerings to God.

**Rom 12:1** *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God — this is your spiritual act of worship.*

**Heb 13:15** *Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise — the fruit of lips that confess his name.*

**1 Pet 2:5** *You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*

### **III. Revelation 01:07 The Return of Jesus Christ**

Announcement three — look, Christ comes. This is the theme of Revelation, the coming again of Jesus Christ and the justice and judgment which He is to execute upon the earth. Jesus Christ is coming again, and when He comes, this verse says two things will happen.

1. Every eye will see Him. The glory of God is so bright and so full of light that it actually shines brighter than the sun (cp. Rev. 21:23). When Jesus Christ returns, there will be



a display of His glory that will surround the earth, and the reflection of the Lord's glory will be seen by every eye. Remember also there will be an innumerable host of angels and believers who are accompanying Christ back to earth. The idea is this: there will be so many that they will surround the earth. Whatever the case, Christ in all of His glory and majesty is going to return to earth, and when He returns, every eye will see Him.

2. Every person who has rejected Jesus Christ and crucified Him will mourn because of Him. This refers to all the enemies of Christ, not only to those who crucified Christ. Every person who has rebelled against Jesus Christ shall see Jesus Christ and they shall cry out in anguish because they have...

- cursed Him
- neglected Him
- rejected Him
- rebelled against Him
- ignored Him
- opposed Him

Men do not believe Jesus Christ: they reject His claim to be the Son of God, that He came from God *out of (ek)* heaven to save the world. Most persons accept that Jesus Christ was a great man and one of the greatest religious teachers of all time, but they reject His deity. They believe that man can be good enough to become acceptable to God on their own. Therefore, they reject the fact that Jesus Christ had to die for the sins of the world.

The result is going to be catastrophic: when men see Jesus Christ return to earth, they will then know that He is exactly who He claimed to be: the Messiah, the Anointed One of God, the Saviour of the world. They will know that God does love the world, love it so much that He actually sent His Son to die for the sins of man. But note: when Christ returns, the idea is not that of salvation. It is that of wailing, of mourning and crying out, because of the judgment that Jesus Christ is bringing with Him. Jesus Christ, the Lord God of the universe, will be returning in glory to execute justice upon all who have rejected Him and worked evil upon the earth.

**Mat 24:30** *“At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.”*

**Mat 25:31-32** *“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his throne in heavenly glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats.”*

**Mark 8:38** *“If anyone is ashamed of me and my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of him when he comes in his Father's glory with the holy angels.”*

**2 Th 1:7-8** *And give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus.*

**Jude 1:14-15** *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: “See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.”*

**Rev 1:7** *Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.*

**Rev 11:15-18** *The seventh angel sounded his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, which said: “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he will reign for ever and ever.” And the twenty-four elders, who were seated on their thrones before God, fell on their faces and worshiped God, saying: “We give thanks to you, Lord God Almighty, the One who is and who was, because you have taken your great power and have begun to reign. The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great — and for destroying those who destroy the earth.”*

**Rev 19:11-16** *I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice he judges and makes war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on his head are many crowns. He has a name written on him that no one knows but he himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron sceptre.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (cp. v. 17-21)*

**Rev 22:20** *He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

#### **IV. Revelation 01:08 Jesus Christ, the Almighty God**

Announcement four — Jesus Christ is the Almighty God. Three great descriptions are given of Christ in this verse.

1. Jesus Christ is the Alpha and Omega. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega the last letter. That is, Jesus Christ is the beginning and the ending of all there is. He began all things and He shall end all things. All things find their purpose, meaning



and significance in Him. Man, the world, history — no matter how chaotic and disjointed life may seem — all things are under the control of Jesus Christ.

**Thought 1.** The exhortation is clear: we must put our trust in Jesus Christ and cast our lives upon Him. When we do, we receive the great gift of God spoken about in verse four. We receive the grace of God's care and provision and the great gift of peace, and we become safe and secure for eternity.

**John 10:28-29** *"I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand."*

**John 14:27** *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."*

**John 16:33** *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."*

**Eph 2:4-7** *But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions — it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.*

2. Jesus Christ is the Lord *who is, and who was, and who is to come*. That is, He is eternal and unchangeable. Today He is the same Person He has always been, and He shall always be the same Person.

**Thought 1.** This is a great message for man. Jesus Christ *loves us all*; He loves us as much as He loved those who lived when He first came to earth. His love is unchangeable. But remember: so are His justice and judgment. If we trust Him, we shall know His love; if we reject Him, we shall know His wrath.

**Mat 16:27** *"For the Son of Man is going to come in his Father's glory with his angels, and then he will reward each person according to what he has done."*

**Heb 1:10-12** *He also says, "In the beginning, O Lord, you laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But you remain the same, and your years will never end."*

**Heb 13:8** *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.*

**James 1:17** *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.*

*Psa 135:13 Your name, O LORD, endures forever, your renown, O LORD, through all generations.*

*Psa 145:13 Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations. The LORD is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.*

3. Jesus Christ is the Almighty (pantokrator). The word means the All-Controller, the All-Ruler. He is the One who controls all things and rules over all things in the whole universe. This means that Jesus Christ possesses all power: He is omnipotent, able to do anything. He controls everything: the universe and every being within the universe. He controls the atoms, protons, neutrons and electrons of space and matter. He even controls every circumstance, event and happening throughout the universe.

**Thought 1.** Jesus Christ is the Almighty. This means a most wonderful thing: no matter what a person goes through, if he belongs to Jesus Christ, all things will be worked out for his good. Jesus Christ will control the circumstances and twist them to the good of the believer. Nothing can snatch the believer out from under the control of Jesus Christ.

*Rom 8:28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.*

*Rom 8:38-39 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Col 1:15-17 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*

*Heb 1:1-3 In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways. But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. ■*