

Study 16: The Godhead in the Book of Revelation

In this study we will take a closer look at the Godhead in the book of Revelation. How many Beings or Persons do we find in this book?

Let's start in Revelation 1:

- **Revelation 1:4-6** John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from **Him who is and who was and who is to come, AND** from the **seven Spirits** who are before His throne, **AND from Jesus Christ**, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Here in Revelation 1 John writes and says that we receive grace and peace from the Father, the Son AND the Holy Spirit (the seven Spirits points to the complete or perfect Spirit). Only a being can send grace and peace to us, therefore the seven Spirits must be a separate Person from the Father and the Son.

In Revelation 4 we read of the seven Spirits again:

- **Revelation 4:5** And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. **Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.**

Here we can see that the seven Spirits of God are separate from God Himself. The Holy Spirit stands in front of the throne of God as a separate being. In Revelation 5 we read of the Lamb that enters the throne room:

- **Revelation 5:6** And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, **stood a Lamb as though it had been slain**, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the **seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**

Here in chapter 5 we have all Three Persons mentioned again, but this time there is an added detail. Now that Christ enters the throne room the Bible says that the seven Spirits of God are the seven eyes of the Lamb. Does this mean that the Holy Spirit is Jesus? The word "as" a Lamb used by John points to the fact that he is using symbolic language. What do horns and eyes represent? These are obviously symbols as Jesus isn't a literal Lamb with 7 horns and 7 eyes.

The seven horns represent strength and glory while eyes represent wisdom and intelligence. There is another factor important to understand regarding the Holy Spirit being the eyes of the Lamb. Here in Revelation 5:6 we have power (strength=horns) and knowing all things (wisdom=eyes) together. When Christ became man He gave up His omnipresence. He couldn't be everywhere at the same time anymore as before. He said:

- **John 16:7** Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to **your advantage that I go away**; for if I do not go away, the **Helper will not come to you**; but if I depart, **I will send Him to you.**

Why was it to the advantage of the disciples that Christ leave? Christ couldn't be in all places at the same time, but the Holy Spirit can. So the 7 eyes of Revelation 5:6 is a symbol that points to the fact that the Holy Spirit is now able to be everywhere as Christ's representative. The Holy Spirit is now the power and wisdom of Christ as His representative. I believe that the 7 eyes also points to the Omnipresence of the Holy Spirit on Christ's behalf.

- "Christ tells us that the Holy Spirit is the Comforter, and the Comforter is the Holy Ghost, "the Spirit of truth, which the Father shall send in My name." "I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him, for He dwelleth with you,

and shall be in you" [John 14:16, 17]. This refers to the omnipresence of the Spirit of Christ, called the Comforter." **Letter 7, 1891**

- "O how little man can comprehend the perfection of God, His omnipresence united with His almighty power." **Manuscript 127, 1897. {3SM 312.2}**

Here in this quote omnipresence and power are mentioned together as pointing to God's perfection. In Revelation 5:6 we have the seven (perfection) Spirits, the seven horns (power) and the seven eyes (omnipresence).

Here are a few quotes pointing to the fact that the Holy Spirit was sent as Christ's representative and He cannot be Christ Himself:

- "When Christ ascended to the Father, He did not leave His followers without help. The Holy Spirit, as His representative, and the heavenly angels, as ministering spirits, are sent forth to aid those who against great odds are fighting the good fight of faith." **The Youth's Instructor, November 21, 1911. {MYP 18.1}**
- "The Lord Jesus acts through the Holy Spirit; for it is His representative." **Sons & Daughters of God pg. 282**
- "The Holy Spirit is His representative in our world, to execute the divine purpose of bringing to fallen man power from above, that he may be an overcomer." **(MS 57, 1907)**

Revelation 3:1 "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

Revelation 1:20 "The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

Some refer to Revelation 3:1 and they say because Christ has the seven Spirits it implies that the Holy Spirit is Christ, but the text says that Christ also has the seven stars, which, according to Revelation 1:20, are the angels of the seven churches. These angels actually points to God's leaders in His church, yet they are separate from Christ, as is the Holy Spirit. What does it mean when the Bible says that Christ has the seven Spirits and seven stars (angels)?

- All authority was given to Christ, meaning the Holy Spirit moves at Christ's command, and so do the ministers.
 - **Matthew 28:18** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- Christ said that the Holy Spirit would only speak what Christ commands Him
 - **John 16:13, 14** However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

In Revelation we find the Devil counterfeiting this Divine union between the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Revelation warns us against three entities that have one goal and that is to destroy the people of God. They are:

- **The dragon**
 - **Revelation 12:9** So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.
- **The Beast**
 - **Revelation 13:1** Then I stood on the sand of the sea. And I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name.
- **The False Prophet / Second beast** in Revelation 13 coming out of the earth
 - **Revelation 13:11** Then I saw another beast coming up out of the earth, and he had two horns like a lamb and spoke like a dragon.

- **Revelation 16:13** And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the **dragon**, out of the mouth of **the beast**, and out of the mouth of **the false prophet**.

The Bible says that the Devil wants to be like God. I believe that God is made up of Three Living Persons in the Heavenly Trio as we have seen throughout the studies so far. If it is true that God is One God made up of Three Persons in unity, then the Devil, wanting to be like God, would have three persons/entities in his ranks.

- **Isaiah 14:12-14** How you are fallen from heaven, O **Lucifer**, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, **I will be like the Most High.**'

The false prophet calls fire down from heaven and does miracles

- **Revelation 13:13** He performs **great signs**, so that he even makes **fire** come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men.
- **Revelation 19:20** Then the beast was captured, and with him the **false prophet who worked signs in his presence**, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone.

The false prophet counterfeits the role of the Holy Spirit. The false prophet does signs and wonders to lead people to worship the beast. The Holy Spirit does miracles to lead people to worship Christ.

The beast is a counterfeit for Christ. Look at the following list:

Jesus Christ	The beast
Called the "Son of Man" (Matthew 9:6)	Called the "Man of Sin" (2 Thessalonians 2:3)
High Priest (Hebrews 3:1)	Wears priestly clothing (Revelation 17:4)
Received a wound on the cross (Genesis 3:15)	Receives deadly wound (Revelation 13:3)
Resurrects after the wound (Matthew 28)	Deadly wound is healed (Revelation 13:12)
Receives worship (Matthew 28:17)	Receives worship (Revelation 14:9)
Has a Father (John 10:30)	Father is the devil (John 8:44; Rev 13:4)
Receives authority and power from the Father	Receives power and authority from the devil
Given a throne by the Father (Acts 2:33)	Given a throne by the devil (Revelation 13:2)
Has horns (Revelation 5:6)	Has horns (Revelation 13:1)
He is God (John 1:1)	Claims to be God (2 Thessalonians 2:4)
Christ ministered for 3½ years	Beast ruled for 3½ years (Daniel 7:25; Rev 12:6)

The dragon/devil is a counterfeit for the Father. The devil sits in the background while the beast represents his character. Just as Christ came to this earth to show us what the Father is like. The dragon gave the beast his authority and the Father gave Christ all authority.

The book of Revelation teaches that there are Three Persons actively involved in the salvation of man and that the devil counterfeits that union in his goal to disconnect humanity from God.

In our next studies we will start looking at Jesus' identity in more depth. Is He fully God? Did He have a beginning? What does the Bible mean when it says that He was 'begotten'? All these questions will be answered.

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