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## Resources

- Watch or listen to Sunday's sermon: [abfboone.com/sermons](http://abfboone.com/sermons)
- Find Life Group resources: [abfboone.org/groups/resources](http://abfboone.org/groups/resources)

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## Revelation 1:4-8

[4] John to the seven churches that 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, [5] and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood [6] and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. [7] Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

[8] "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (ESV)

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## Sermon Outline:

1. Superscript (1:1-3)
2. The Salutation (1:4-5a)
3. The Doxology (5b-6)
4. The Purpose (7-8)

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## Life Group Leader Notes:





- Take a few minutes to compare and contrast Jesus' first coming and his second coming.
  
- Jesus is coming back. This is very clear in the NT and I imagine most of the people in your life group would affirm this truth. But how has it practically changed their lives? Can anyone in your group point to a decision that they have made *in light of Christ's return*? Moving forward, what are a few practical steps that you can take to keep the return of Christ at the front of your mind?
  
- If we are not organizing our lives around Christ's return, what are we living for?
  
- This portion of the book is an epistle. John is writing a letter to the seven churches in Asia, and he uses a conventional NT greeting: *grace and peace to you*. Pastor Scott said that the order is deliberate. Grace comes before peace. Discuss this with your group. Why is this the case? Does anyone have a testimony of how grace led to peace? Perhaps you can spend some time praying that the members of your life group would experience the grace of God in a fresh way.
  
- In verses 4-5, John tells us where the grace & peace come from. It is from the one *who is, who was, and who is to come*. Do you ever say it in a different order (chronologically, it should be: the one who was, is, and is to come)? Why did John emphasize the one **who is** first? Why is this important? Think of a current struggle you are experiencing. Are you encouraged that the God who is has given you grace and peace?
  
- We find that grace and peace also come from the *seven spirits*. That sounds confusing, but most commentators believe John is referring to the Holy Spirit. Pastor Scott suggested this could be an allusion to Isaiah 11:1-5 where the Spirit of the Lord will rest upon the Messiah (the shoot of Jesse). Take a few minutes to read the text in Isaiah 11 and consider the qualities of the Spirit. Now consider that the same Spirit has given you grace and peace. How does that encourage you?
  
- The grace and peace also come from Jesus Christ. John tells us that he was a faithful witness. The Greek word for *witness* is the same word for *martyr*. Jesus was faithful even unto death. But John also tells us that he is the firstborn from the dead. How does this transform the way that you think about death? The people who originally received this letter would have been thinking about martyrdom. How would John's greeting have encouraged them? If persecution came to your front door, would you be ready? What can you do to prepare?

