

THE SOURCE OF ALL BLESSING Revelation 1:4-5a

- execution of a will (Sadie), preparation of a will (ours)... specific forms and customs
 - Revelation is written like a legal document... beneficiaries , benefits

where it fits

INTRODUCTION (1:1-8)

A. PROLOGUE (1:1-3)

B. BENEDICTION & DOXOLOGY (1:4-8)

1. The benediction (1:4-5a)

Revelation 1 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.

The beneficiaries (1:4a) [

⁴ John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

- approaches to playing piano: classical, blues, jazz
 - same 88 keys, wildly different ways to play
- approaches to interpreting Revelation
 1. Preterism
 2. Futurism
 3. Historicism
 4. Idealism
- when I was a teenager: seven churches as seven ages (creative combination)
 - simple, straightforward approach is best: simply seven churches in Roman province of Asia
 - applies to Christians and Christian churches in similar situations
 - come to know these seven churches really well... easiest to understand and apply

The benefits (1:4b) [the usual apostolic, Greek/Hebrew benediction]

Grace to you and peace

Unmerited favor from God ("grace")

Unobstructed fellowship with God ("peace")

The benefactors (1:4c-5)

[the triune God, who alone is in a position to grant real blessings]

The eternal Father *from him who is and who was and who is to come,*

- before time, above time, outside of time

The Holy Spirit *and from the seven spirits who are before his throne,*

1. sevenfold perfections of the Spirit of the Lord

Isaiah 11 ¹ *There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

² *And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

2. seven spirits → Rev. 1:4; 3:1; 4:5; 5:6 → always connected with seven churches
 - HS is intimately and individually associated with each congregation,
almost as though each church had its own HS
 - how we underestimate the sanctity of the congregation
 - at various places in our history, this church has been the same size as Asian churches
 - 250: Ephesus
 - 25: Pergamum
 - each has the Holy Spirit

The Lord Jesus (1:5a)

⁵ *and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth*

On account of his humiliation ("faithful witness")("martyr")

→ identification with a suffering church (he will be with them unto death)

On account of his resurrection ("firstborn of the dead")

→ salvation of a suffering church (he will not leave them in death's grasp)

On account of his exaltation ("ruler of kings on earth")

→ vindication of the suffering church (they will rule with him)