

DATE: 23 JULY 2023 | SPEAKER: JOSH YEOH
TOPIC: THE REVELATION OF CHRIST | SCRIPTURE: [REVELATION 1](#)

SPIRITUAL OBJECTIVES

At the end of the sermon discussion, cell members will:

1. Desire to encounter God and receive a fresh revelation of who Jesus is
2. Take the words of Jesus in the book of Revelation seriously, and worship and love God in response

SERMON SUMMARY

The book of Revelation begins with the Revelation of Christ. In [Revelation 1](#), the apostle John receives a vision of Jesus. John encounters Jesus and receives a fresh revelation of who Jesus is. The words that He gives to John are messages of grace to the churches before the coming judgment. In every move of God, there must be a fresh revelation of who He is so that we can respond in worship and obedience.

SERMON RECAP

How much is Jesus worth to you? Do we desire God more than any other thing the world has to offer, or have we put other things before God? As we continue our 21 days of fasting and prayer, we are asking God to revive us, and to align our hearts to His. Josh Yeoh exhorted us to posture ourselves for revival by responding in the following ways:

1. **Honour** previous moves of God – Be students of previous revivals and study what God did before.
2. **Hunger** for God to do something new – Looking at what God previously did should make us desire God to do something new.
3. **Hallow** who He is – As we behold Him, we begin to desire what He desires.

'Revive Us, Lord' is a 21-day fast to hear what the Spirit is saying to the RiverLife church. We want to come in alignment with God as the Head of the Church. The 7 Churches in Revelation represent all the churches that exist throughout history. As we read the book of Revelation, we want to hear what the Spirit is saying to us and our Church today.

1. **Part 1: Prologue** ([Revelation 1:1-8](#))

- Revelation is a book of majesty, mystery, and misery; but the primary theme of this book is Majesty. The point of Revelation is to reveal Jesus and what He wants to do:

*"The **revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave him to show to His servants the things that **must soon take place**" ([Revelation 1:1](#))*

- Revelation = *apokalypsis* (Greek word for “revelation”) / unveiling – God is revealing Jesus. In the second coming of Christ, the Father is going to reveal aspects of Jesus that we have never seen before. There is an urgency in the heart of the Father to reveal His son.
- *“Blessed is the one who **reads aloud** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the **time is near**” (Revelation 1:3).* We will be blessed just by reading this book aloud. If we take the book of Revelation seriously and keep to what is written in it, it will change the way we live.

2. Part 2: Portrait

- In [Revelation 1:12](#), John turned to see Jesus, who looked completely different from the Jesus he knew when Jesus was on earth. Many of us know Jesus as the lamb who was slain (died for us). But the Jesus that John encountered in Revelation was Jesus the Lion, who is coming back to rule and reign with power and glory. Who is this Jesus whom you know?

*“What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us.”
– A.W. Tozer*

The portrait of Jesus depicted in John’s vision ([Revelation 1:13-16](#)) reveals different aspects of Him:

- *“Clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest”* (v.13)– Jesus the great High Priest and King.
- *“Hairs of his head were white, like wool, like snow”* (v.14) – Jesus’ holiness, purity, and wisdom.
- *“His eyes were like a flame of fire”* (v. 14) – Jesus’ eyes that burn with zeal and jealousy and look into the hearts of men
- *“His feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace”* (v.15) – Jesus the righteous judge.
- *“His voice was like the roar of many waters”* (v.15) speaks of the power in Jesus’ voice
- *“In his right hand he held seven stars”* (v.16) – Jesus holds the churches (us) in His hand
- *“From His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword”* (v.16) – Jesus’ words have the power to both judge and destroy the works of the evil one
- *“His face was like the sun shining in full strength”* (v.16) – Jesus’ radiance is brighter than the sun

As we encounter the revelation of Jesus afresh, may our posture and response be like John in [Revelation 1:17](#) – which is to worship and behold Him.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. **What comes to your mind when you think of Jesus? How does the portrait of Jesus depicted in [Revelation 1](#) affect your perspective/view of God?**

Leader’s Notes

This is a question for members to consider and re-examine their present view of God. In his sermon, Josh Yeoh posed this question for us to consider: ***Who is this Jesus whom you know?*** Leaders can invite members to share their responses or reactions to the depiction of Jesus portrayed in Revelation 1, and how this compares with their own understanding or perspective of Jesus.

Transition

In his vision, the apostle John encountered a Jesus different from the Jesus he knew. Our view and understanding of God will affect how we live our lives, and our response to Him.

2. The Apostle John describes different attributes of Jesus in his vision ([Revelation 1:13-16](#)). Share how the attributes of Jesus in John's description encourages or impacts you.

Leader's Notes

Josh Yeoh highlighted several attributes of Jesus portrayed in John's vision – Jesus is the great High Priest, King, Judge who is holy, pure, wise, righteous and powerful. He is a jealous God full of zeal and radiance (refer to sermon recap above).

Leaders can invite members to pick 2 to 3 aspects/attributes of Jesus described in John's vision, which impacted them the most, and how it has made a difference in their lives.

Additional Resource: [The Fire in His Eyes – Desiring God](#)

Transition

Jesus is not just the lamb that was slain for us. Though Jesus came the first time as a suffering servant, to die and be humiliated, He will return in glory and exaltation as a conquering king to judge the world. As the end-time church, let us be ready for His return.

3. How should we respond to the Revelation of Jesus and the words of Christ to the Churches in the book of Revelation?

Leader's Notes

Like how the apostle John "fell at his feet as though dead" ([Revelation 1:17](#)) when he saw Jesus, Josh Yeoh exhorted us to respond in worship and to behold Him, and be prepared to hear what the Spirit is saying to us through these letters to the 7 Churches in the book of Revelation.

Leaders can invite members to meditate on the attributes of Jesus in [Revelation 1:13-16](#) and wrap up with a response time in worship and prayer.

Closing

We become what we behold. Let us ask God to encounter us and give us a fresh revelation of who Jesus is. Let us take the book of Revelation seriously and allow its truths to change the way we think and live.

WORKS

Consider dividing the group into micro-groups for a deeper time of sharing as well as praying for the following items:

1. Sermon Application

- Pray that God will give us a new revelation of who Jesus is
- Pray that we will heed the warnings of Christ in Revelation seriously and revere and love God in response

2. RiverLife

- Pray for our church that God will revive us individually as we go through the 21-Days of Prayer and Fasting.

3. World

- Pray for good weather in Singapore during this hot season. Pray also that there will not be any haze.
- Continue to pray for the Russia-Ukraine war and the avoidance of using nuclear weapons.

- Pray for the political scene in Singapore amidst all the scandals that have surfaced these 2 weeks.
- Pray for Japan as they release the Fukushima radioactive water into the ocean, as well as the nations that will be affected.

4. Opportunities for Outreach

- Ask the Lord to bless us as we step out to reach a pre-believer.
- Ask the Lord to grant you opportunities to reach out to a non-believing loved one, friend, or colleague this week as we seek to mature in Christlikeness.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Digital Bulletin: rlc.sg/bulletin

1. Revive Us, Lord – 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting, 17 July – 6 August 2023.

- After three years of praying together, our Elders and Senior Leaders sense it is now time to call the church into a season of prayer and fasting. We invite you on this journey as we commit ourselves to pursue the Lord together and align our hearts to His.
- Listen to Ps Ben's sharing on the heart behind the call: rlc.sg/21days-2jul
- For 21 days from 17 Jul to 6 Aug, we are committing ourselves to:
 - Daily Devotion
 - Daily Fasting
 - Nightly Worship & Prayer
 - Weekly Sermon Series
- Visit the microsite for more details: rlc.sg/21days
- We have also prepared a 21 Day Devotion for parents to do with their children during the 21 Days. You can download the e-Devotion here: rlc.sg/21d-kidsdevo

2. Revive Us, Lord. Sermon Series starting Sun, 16 July.

In the book of Revelation, Jesus wrote letters to 7 churches. He commends them for what they have done well, addresses their current state, gives them each a warning and an encouragement for those who would heed His words. As we embark on 21 Days of Prayer & Fasting, this sermon series will move us to examine the state of our hearts and the spiritual condition of our church. As we hear what God is saying to us, may we return to the ways and will of God for us individually, and as a church. Lord, awaken us to the urgency of the times and the reality of your return!

- 16 Jul: Facing Revival
- 23 Jul: The Revelation of Christ
- 30 Jul: The Church That is Lukewarm
- 6 Aug: The Spiritually Dead Church
- 13 Aug: The Church in Persecution

3. Staff Planning Retreat Tue-Thu, 25-27 Jul.

Our staff team will be away in Johor Bahru for Staff Planning Retreat from 25-27 Jul. We will keep to our daily fast and nightly worship & prayer during the retreat. During this period:

- Nightly Worship & Prayer Sessions in Victory Chapel will be ongoing.
- Church office will be closed. For urgent matters, please contact us at office@riverlife.org.sg.

4. Marriage Retreat.

We had a powerful time with 27 married couples in March as we piloted our first Marriage Retreat. It was a powerful time of learning, rejuvenation, healing and restoration for our couples. No couple left unimpacted. We would like to encourage married couples to join us at this retreat and experience God's hand on your marriage.

- For more information, download the eBrochure here: rlc.sg/mrBrochure
 - Highlights from previous retreat: <https://youtu.be/csHrCtBsuWg>
 - Link to signup: rlc.sg/mr
5. **Caleb Ministry: *Helping Seniors & Retirees Live Well and Finish Well in Christ***. If you are working, retired or intending to retire in the next 5 years, we invite you to join us at our first event:
- **Finishing Well** *A four-part teaching series by Rev David Wong*
 - **19 Aug, 16 Sep, 21 Oct, 18 Nov 2023 9am to 12pm**
 - **Topics include:**
 - Few Finish Well
 - Lessons from The Three Kings
 - Ignorance, Indulgence and Resilience
 - Open-ended Closures & Principles of Finishing Well
 - **Registration Link:** rlc.sg/finishingwell
 - **Cost:** Food: \$20 per pax (To be paid via PayNow when you register for the course.) | Book: \$20 per copy (To be purchased in-person in the Foyer outside Worship Centre on Sundays, 23 & 30 Jul.)
6. **Cultivating Emotional & Mental Wellness Seminar. Sun, 13 Aug | 11am-1pm Grace Chapel (Level 1)**
- This seminar will:
 - Help individuals who are struggling with emotional or mental wellness
 - Educate and equip caregivers of those who are struggling with emotional or mental wellness
 - **Speaker: Dr Danny Ng**, a clinical psychologist in private practice and the President of the Singapore chapter of Renovaré (USA) offering resources for Christian Spiritual Formation for spiritual growth. He is the founder of Family Connexion, a Christian ministry whose focus lies in promoting a greater bonding and deepening of relationships between people, especially within the family.
 - Register at rlc.sg/counems

CHURCH CALENDAR

1. **Church Calendar Highlights**
- **Quarter 3**
 - 32nd Anniversary Weekend: 26-27 Aug
 - Bible Equipping – Leviticus: 15 & 17, 22 & 24 Sep
 - Cells Prayer Night #2: 29 Sep
 - **Quarter 4**
 - Equipping Series: 17 & 19, 24 & 26 Nov
 - Christmas Outreach: Dec
 - Cells Prayer Night #3: 29 Dec
2. **YA Gatherings (For Young Adults in their 20s). First Saturday Every Month, 5pm-8.30pm Victory Chapel (Level 1)**. The YA Gathering is a space where young adults can get together to connect and build community. This gathering is made up of two components – Community Conversations & Communal Dinner – both with a focus on relationship building and life conversations. If you are currently in a cell, register your attendance with your cell leader. If you are currently not in a cell, do register online: rlc.sg/YAgathering-apr-reg.

3. RiverLife Prayer Meetings.

- *RLC Prayer Room.* Tue, 8-9.30pm, Victory Chapel. (Online: rlc.sg/rpr-watch)
- *Wed Night Prayer Meeting.* Wed, 8pm – 9.30pm, Victory Chapel.

CHURCH MINISTRIES & OPPORTUNITIES

1. **9M Ministry.** The 9M Ministry provides prayer support for expectant mothers on their 9-month journey of pregnancy. Sisters-in-Christ who are fellow RiverLifers are assigned as Prayer Buddies to walk alongside mums who sign up to receive prayer support.
 - Receive Prayer Support: rlc.sg/9m
 - Provide Prayer Support: rlc.sg/serve
2. **Global Hunger Fund.** This fund will go towards RLC's mission partners to help their local churches and communities gain access to food amid soaring costs. Refer to the Digital Bulletin for more details.
3. **Missions Microsite.** Discover how you can go, give and pray for the nations. Let's make a difference in the nations together! For more information, visit rlc.sg/missions.
4. **RiverLife Cares Opportunities.** Signup: <http://rlc.sg/serve-rlcar>
5. **SuperLife Ministry: Call for Volunteers.** If you have a heart for children and a desire to disciple them in their spiritual journey, come be a part of the SuperLife team. Sign up at rlc.sg/serve. Immediate needs:
 - *SuperLife Primary Teacher* (Serve twice a month. Facilitate small group discussions after each Bible lesson, connect and pray with the children, be involved in SuperLife Ministry events, etc.)
 - *Special Needs Chaperone.* (Serve twice a month. Provided 1-1 support to children with special needs and help facilitate an inclusive environment between children with and without special needs.)
6. **Technical & Production (TAP): Ministry Recruitment.** The TAP ministry comprises five teams – audio, graphics, lighting, sound and video – and they all work as one in partnership with the Holy Spirit to support an atmosphere that allows the congregation to encounter God. We are now opening up recruitment for this ministry. If you desire to take the next step in your walk with God through starting to serve, we invite you to sign up to explore serving in one of the five TAP teams. You may sign up online at rlc.sg/serve or refer to our digital bulletin for more details.
7. **Prayer Ministry.** If you require prayer ministry for any issues you face (eg. fear, worry, etc), you can sign up for RLC's RTF ministry: <https://bit.ly/rlcrtf>

RESOURCES & CONNECTING WITH US

1. **Bible Reading Plan.** The church has provided 3 undated Bible Reading plans that will serve as a resource for those who wish to follow a Bible Reading plan. Link: rlc.sg/brp
 - 2 Year Chronological Bible Reading Plan.
 - 3 Year Bible Reading Schedule (Alternating readings between Old and New Testament passages)
 - Redemptive Historical Bible Reading Plan (At your own pace, focusing on the redemption story)
2. **RiverLife Podcast.** The RiverLife Podcast allows you to listen to RiverLife content anytime, anywhere! The link to go to is rlc.sg/podcast or simply search '**The RiverLife Podcast**' on Spotify.

3. **Spiritual Growth Resources.** We have put together a curated list of recommended resources for the RiverLife family. These resources (books, articles, podcasts and videos) are recommendations for the various spiritual growth stages as you seek to grow deeper in the River of God this year. You can access them at rlc.sg/resource. This list will be continually populated throughout the year.
4. **Testimony.** If you have a testimony to share, you can write to us at stories@riverlife.org.sg to share with us your testimony as an encouragement to others.
5. **Stay Connected with RLC.** Follow us to stay updated on latest church news and happenings.
 - **WhatsApp Broadcast:** Text 'Subscribe' to 8923 1939
 - **Telegram Channel:** t.me/RiverLifeChurch
 - **Facebook & Instagram:** [@riverlifechurchsg](https://www.facebook.com/riverlifechurchsg)

GIVING LINKS & QR CODES

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