

## REVEALED Special Study– The King is Bigger and Stronger

**"We serve a King bigger than our problems and stronger than our fears."**

Revelation presents **Jesus as the ultimate source of hope, security, and endurance** for believers. We see this clearly in **Revelation 1:12-18**, where John encounters the **glorified Christ**, and other passages that portray Jesus as **sovereign, victorious, and trustworthy** in the face of fear and tribulation.

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### **1. Jesus as the Glorious and Reigning King (Revelation 1:12-18)**

John's vision of Jesus **at the beginning of Revelation** is breathtaking and overwhelming:

*"I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters... When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: 'Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.'" (Revelation 1:12-18, NIV)*

Here, **Jesus' majesty is overwhelming**, and John **falls down in fear**—yet Jesus reassures him: **"Do not be afraid."** This moment echoes **throughout Revelation**, constantly reminding believers that **Jesus is greater than all earthly and spiritual forces**.

### **Michael Gorman: Jesus' Majesty Overcomes Our Fear**

Michael Gorman, in *Reading Revelation Responsibly*, explains:

*"The vision of Christ in Revelation 1 is meant to **evoke awe, but also comfort**. The **same Jesus who reigns in glory is the one who walks among His people, strengthening them for endurance**. His words, 'Do not be afraid,' are a reminder that the faithful have nothing to fear—not Rome, not suffering, not death itself."  
(*Reading Revelation Responsibly*, p. 68)*

This means that **no problem we face, no fear we experience, is beyond the power and presence of Christ**.

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### **2. Jesus is Bigger Than Our Problems**

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The churches in **Revelation 2-3** faced **real hardships**—persecution, false teaching, economic struggles, and spiritual apathy. Yet, each letter **points them back to Jesus** as their source of strength.

### **Examples of Jesus' Supremacy Over Problems:**

- **The Church in Smyrna (Rev 2:8-11):** Facing persecution and poverty? Jesus reminds them **He is the First and the Last** and has already **conquered death**.
- **The Church in Philadelphia (Rev 3:7-13):** Feeling weak? Jesus tells them He has **opened a door for them that no one can shut**.
- **The Church in Laodicea (Rev 3:14-22):** Struggling with self-sufficiency? Jesus reminds them **He is the true source of life and strength**.

In every case, the solution is **not just endurance, but worship and trust in Jesus' power**.

### **N.T. Wright: Jesus is Bigger Than Our Hardships**

N.T. Wright, in *Revelation for Everyone*, notes:

“The churches were suffering under the weight of oppression, compromise, and fear. **Revelation's response is not simply 'try harder,' but 'look at Jesus!'** The power of the risen Christ is what makes endurance possible.” (*Revelation for Everyone*, p. 32)

So when we say **"We serve a King bigger than our problems,"** we mean that **Jesus is not just powerful—He is present**. He walks **among the lampstands (Rev 1:13)**, meaning **He is with His Church in every trial**.

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## **3. Jesus is Stronger Than Our Fears**

### **A. Jesus Conquers Fear of Evil**

- **Revelation 5:5-6** – Jesus is the **Lion of Judah**, yet He conquers as the **Lamb who was slain**.
- **Revelation 12:10-11** – The saints conquer **not by violence, but by their testimony and the blood of the Lamb**.

**Fear tells us we are powerless. Worship reminds us we are not.** The One we serve **has already won the victory**.

### **B. Jesus Conquers Fear of Death**

- **Revelation 1:18** – *"I was dead, and now look, I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades."*

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- **Revelation 14:13** – “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Yes, says the Spirit, they will rest from their labor.”

Jesus **is not only alive—He holds authority over death itself**. The greatest fear humanity faces has already been **defeated in Him**.

### **Richard Bauckham: Worship as the Antidote to Fear**

Richard Bauckham, in *The Climax of Prophecy*, describes how **worship in Revelation constantly reminds believers of Christ’s supremacy**:

“The cosmic vision of the Lamb’s enthronement is not meant to be an abstract theological claim—it is the foundation for the Church’s endurance. **Fear crumbles in the presence of true worship.**” (*The Climax of Prophecy*, p. 140)

This is why Revelation is **filled with worship** (Rev 4-5, 7, 19). Worship **isn’t an escape—it’s how fear is overcome**.

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## **4. Practical Implications: What Does This Mean for Us?**

- **When problems feel overwhelming, remember who is on the throne.**
  - Jesus **isn’t surprised by our struggles**.
  - He **walks among us, sustains us, and has already won the final victory**.
- **When fear grips us, shift our focus from the problem to the Person.**
  - Fear says, “**What if things get worse?**”
  - Jesus says, “**I am the First and the Last. Do not be afraid.**”
- **Endurance comes not from willpower, but from seeing Jesus clearly.**
  - The churches in Revelation **were called to endure not because of their own strength, but because of Christ’s faithfulness**.
  - **Worship is how we see Him rightly—and seeing Him rightly is how we endure.**

### **Scot McKnight: Holding Onto Jesus in Trials**

Scot McKnight, in *Revelation: A Kingdom Vision*, sums it up beautifully:

“The greatest encouragement Revelation gives us is not a strategy, but a Savior. **Jesus is not just a figure of hope—He is hope itself**. And once we see Him clearly, we will have the courage to endure.” (*Revelation: A Kingdom Vision*, p. 90)

## **Conclusion: Why This Matters**

## **REVEALED Special Study– The King is Bigger and Stronger**

Revelation isn't just a book about the future—it's a book about faithfulness. And our faithfulness comes from knowing the One who is faithful.

So when we say **"We serve a King bigger than our problems and stronger than our fears,"** we are echoing Revelation's core message:

- **Jesus is enthroned.**
- **Jesus has conquered.**
- **Jesus is present.**
- **Jesus is coming again.**

And because of that, we can endure.

### **Final Thought: Worship Overcomes Worry**

Whenever fear rises, the response isn't just to try harder—it's to worship deeper. Because when we see Jesus for who He is, fear fades, endurance grows, and hope rises.

**"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain!"** (Revelation 5:12)