

Big Idea: Easter isn't just about an event in the past—it's about a reigning Christ in the present and a future hope that is already breaking into our world.

1. The Risen Christ: "I Am Alive Forevermore"

Text: Revelation 1:12–18

After 60 years, John finally sees his best friend again, but Jesus, risen and reigning, looks a little different. Let's walk through John's vision step by step.

Verse 12:

"Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands..."

The seven lampstands represent the seven churches—God's people—scattered across the Roman world. This means Jesus' message isn't distant or abstract. He is among the churches. He's not far off—He's present.

Verse 13:

"...and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man..."

That phrase, *Son of Man*, echoes Daniel 7. John is seeing someone divine, radiant in glory, yet still human. He's dressed in a robe with a golden sash—priestly and kingly garments.

Verses 14–15:

"The hairs of his head were white, like white wool... His eyes were like a flame of fire..."

White hair speaks of wisdom and purity. Fiery eyes see everything—Jesus sees through appearances.

"...His feet were like burnished bronze... and His voice was like the roar of many waters."

This is majesty. Power. Authority. He's not a tame Jesus—He's glorious beyond imagination.

Verse 16:

"In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength."

The sword represents His word—true and powerful, able to cut through lies and darkness. His face radiates divine glory.

Risen. Reigning. Returning. Easter in Revelation

April 20, 2025 // DCC // page 2

Verse 17:

“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead...”

This is overwhelming. John, who knew Jesus personally, collapses in holy fear. But then—grace:

Verse 17–18:

“But he laid his right hand on me, saying, ‘Fear not, I am the first and the last, and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.’”

He touches John—this exalted, blazing Jesus is still tender. Still loving. Still personal.

He says:

- *“I died”*—He’s not unaware of suffering.
- *“I am alive forevermore”*—This isn’t just resuscitation. It’s resurrection. New creation life.
- *“I hold the keys”*—He has authority over life and death itself. He’s in control of your future.

This is Easter through the lens of Revelation: not just an empty tomb—but a risen, reigning King who is walking among His people.

- You don’t need to live afraid of death, shame, or what’s ahead—Jesus holds the keys.
- Jesus is not just a figure in history—He is a present reality.

John saw Jesus. Not in weakness—but in power. Not as a ghost of the past—but as the Living One who now holds the keys to death and Hades.

2. The Worthy Lamb: “By Your Blood You Ransomed a People”

Text: Revelation 5:6–12

After seeing the Risen Christ among the churches in chapter 1, John is taken up into heaven in chapters 4–5. There, he sees the throne room of God—and something surprising unfolds.

In Revelation 5, John sees a scroll in God’s hand—the scroll likely represents God’s redemptive plan, the unveiling of history and justice and healing and renewal for creation.

Verse 2–4:

No one is found worthy to open the scroll, and John begins to weep. Why? Because if no one can open it, then God’s plan remains unfulfilled—brokenness wins.

Verse 5:

Risen. Reigning. Returning. Easter in Revelation

April 20, 2025 // DCC // page 3

“Weep no more; behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah... has conquered...”

This builds our expectation: we expect a Lion! A roaring, mighty king.

Verse 6:

“And between the throne and the four living creatures... I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain...”

But instead of a Lion, John sees a Lamb—a *slain Lamb*. This is stunning. The Lion has conquered *by being the Lamb*.

It's a vision of resurrection: the Lamb was slain, but now He's standing.

This is how God wins: not through violence, but through sacrifice.
Not by crushing enemies, but by shedding His own blood.

Verses 8–10:

Heaven erupts in worship:

“You are worthy to take the scroll... for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God...”

This is good news:

- He *ransomed* us—paid the price to set us free.
- For every tribe, language, people, and nation—this victory is global.
- He made us into a kingdom and priests—He restores purpose and identity.

Verses 11–12:

Now, thousands upon thousands of angels sing:

“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom...”
He is worthy of all praise because He gave everything for us.

This is the heart of Easter: the cross was not a defeat—it was a *triumph*.

The Lamb who was slain is now the center of worship in heaven—and His resurrection proves that self-giving love is the greatest power in the universe.

- Jesus' resurrection validates the cross: love wins.
- In a world hungry for control and strength, Easter tells us that sacrificial love is the real power.

3. The First Resurrection & New Creation: “Behold, I Am Making All Things New”

Text: Revelation 21:1–5; 22:1–5

Risen. Reigning. Returning. Easter in Revelation

April 20, 2025 // DCC // page 4

We've seen that Jesus is risen, and that His resurrection declares Him worthy—but what now? Where is all of this going? The end of Revelation points us to the ultimate end of all things, which, in reality is actually a beginning of the New Heavens and New Earth.

Revelation 21:1–2:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth... and I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...”

Notice: the direction is *down*, not up. We're not escaping to heaven—heaven is coming here.

Verse 3:

“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man...”

This is the goal of redemption: full restoration. No more separation. God with His people forever.

Verse 4:

“He will wipe away every tear... death shall be no more... neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore...”

This is the world we long for. The world Easter guarantees.

Verse 5:

“Behold, I am making all things new.”

Jesus isn't just making *new things*—He's making *all things new*. That means *nothing* is beyond redemption.

Revelation 22:1–5:

We're shown a garden-like city with a river of life and the tree of life—just like Eden, but now expanded and eternal.

The curse is gone. God's people see His face. They reign with Him.

Easter is not just about individual salvation—it's about cosmic restoration.

The resurrection is the *firstfruits*—what God did for Jesus, He will do for the world.

- Our hope isn't just escape—it's transformation.
- Resurrection power is already at work—healing, restoring, renewing.

Conclusion

- Are you afraid? Trust the One who holds the keys.
- Are you uncertain? Worship the Lamb who is worthy.
- Are you tired or broken? Let Him begin something new in you today.