

I. Introduction

Today's passage contains a greeting that wishes grace and peace, and a blessing that ascribes power and glory to Jesus forever. Within it, we see various descriptions of the Triune God.

There are three descriptions of God the Father, one of the Holy Spirit, and six descriptions of Jesus Christ.

II. Body

1. God the Father

God is "the One who is and who was and who is to come."

"Who is" — He is living and active even now, working in history.

"Who is to come" — This emphasizes that He will come again to judge.

God says, "I am the Alpha and the Omega."

God takes responsibility for us from beginning to end.

God says, "I am the Almighty."

Hannah's confession in 1 Samuel 2:6-7.

2. God the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is described as "the seven spirits who are before His throne."

The Holy Spirit works fully and perfectly, carrying out His ministry universally and completely.

3. God the Son, Jesus Christ

John introduces Jesus as the faithful witness.

Jesus fulfilled His role as a witness (Rev. 3:14; John 18:37; John 17:4).

Jesus has called us to be His witnesses (Luke 24:48; Acts 1:8).

Jesus is introduced as "the firstborn of the dead."

Jesus is the firstfruits of the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:20).

John emphasizes that Jesus has become the ruler of the kings of the earth.

Jesus is the One who has freed us from our sins by His blood.

All people of the world are slaves to sin and slaves to Satan (John 8:34).

Jesus redeemed us through His blood on the cross (Romans 3:24; Ephesians 1:7).

John introduces Jesus as the One who made us a kingdom and priests.

Kingdom = the people of God

Priests = servants of God's kingdom — our mission

John introduces Jesus as the One who will come again.

Coming with the clouds — He will come openly for all to see.

"Even those who pierced Him," and "all peoples will mourn" — Jesus comes as the Lord of judgment.

III. Conclusion

**Bible
Memori-
zation**

A VERSE FOR THIS WEEK

"If you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy, and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless." Matthew 12:7 (ESV)

**Bible
Reading**

	12/22(Mon)	12/23(Tue)	12/24(Wed)	12/25(Thur)	12/26(Fri)	12/27(Sat)	12/28(Sun)
	James 3-5, 1 Peter 1-2	1 Peter 3-5, 2 Peter 1-2	2 Peter 3, 1 John 1-3	1 John 4-5, 2 John, 3 John	Revelation 1-4	Revelation 5-9	Revelation 10-14

QT

Quiet Time Passage

	12/22(Mon)	12/23(Tue)	12/24(Wed)	12/25(Thur)	12/26(Fri)	12/27(Sat)	12/28(Sun)
	Joshua 22:1-13	Isaiah 9:1-7	Luke 2:8-20	Luke 2:25-35	Joshua 22:21-34	Joshua 23:1-10	Joshua 23:11-16

**Sharing
Questions**

1. Among today's sermon message, share one word or passage that especially touched your heart and gave you grace.
2. What kind of God is introduced in today's passage? Share any distinctive or meaningful points about how God is described.
3. In preparation for Christmas, we studied six aspects of Jesus Christ as introduced by John. Take turns sharing one of the six characteristics, and explain how it relates personally to your life.