

## THE BOOK OF REVELATION

### CHAPTER 1

#### Prologue Rev 1:1-3

Vs 1            The Revelation (unveiling) of Jesus Christ in His present and future glory.  
It is an unveiling of truth involving the future events surrounding, not only His Second Coming, but also the establishment of His kingdom.  
Matt 24:3  
It is the Father's plan for His Only Begotten Son.  
That which David said would occur "in the latter days", Dan 2:28, is here described as "shortly", that is, quickly or suddenly coming to pass.  
The idea is not that the event may occur soon, but that when it does, it will be sudden!  
Note that the revelation is Given by God to Jesus Christ to show to His bondservants. Christ uses His angel to deliver the revelation along with using the Apostle John as the human agent.

Vs 2            John is an eyewitness. He received this revelation, himself!  
He testifies to the truth that it is the Word of God.  
He also testifies that this book is the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Vs 3            Verse 2 is the foundation for that which is said in vs3.  
1. Blessed is he (singular) that reads  
2. Blessed are they (plural) that hear  
3. Blessed are they that heed those things which are Written. Rom 10:13-15  
All 3 statements are in the present tense – implying continued reading, hearing and heeding.

This book is the only book of Scripture containing such a promise of blessing.

There are actually 7 "beatitudes" contained in this

Book: 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7,14

Note: The above statements "imply" that not all will read, hear, or heed this book.

This book, as a whole, is prophetic and its message is important "for the time is near!"

1. Daniel mentions the "end of time" 5 times:  
Dan 8:17, 11:35, 40, 12:4,9  
There will be a time when the end arrives!
2. John says "the time is near". Rev 22:10

3. The word used indicates "a season of time", rather than a specific hour.  
The events described are near from the standpoint of prophetic revelation, rather than being "about to occur".  
It is true that one day and one generation will be facing the hour, maybe hours!

Salutation – Rev 1:4-8

Vs 4 John is writing to Seven churches located in the western half of Asia Minor.

Grace is our standing before God.

Peace is our fully submitted experience.

Grace embodies God's attitude toward us along with His loving gifts.

Peace is the experience that results from Grace realized.

Grace and Peace are from:

1. Him who is, was, is to come Rev 4:8, 11:17, 16:5
2. The Seven Spirits who are before His throne:  
each of the 7 Churches are said to have an Angel who is assigned to them.  
Rev 2:1, 8, 12, 18 3: 1, 7, 14  
God administers His Grace, using the created realm, especially angels. Heb 1:13-14

Vs 5-6 Note the source of this letter: John to...From Him....

From the Seven Spirits....From Jesus Christ

1. The faithful witness  
Rev 3:14; 1 Thes 5:24; Heb 3:1-6; 2 Tim 2:3;  
Rev 19:11
2. The first born of the dead
  - a. as to resurrection  
1 Cor 15:21-22; Col 1:18; Heb 12:22-23
  - b. as to position  
Col 1:15-16 (over creation)  
Rom 8:29 (over church)
3. The ruler of the kings of the earth
  - a. as to position  
Rom 13:1-2
  - b. as to practice  
Eph 2:2; Rev 17:18; 19:1-2, 6
4. The one who loves us (present tense) keeps on loving us.  
Rom 8:33-39

5. The one who released us (aorist tense) once for all by His own blood  
Heb 9:22-28; 10:1-18
6. The one who made us to be a kingdom  
1 Pet 2:9; Rev 5:9-10; Col 1:12-14
7. The one who made us priests to His God and Father 1 Pet 2:4-5
  - a. Rom 12:1-2
  - b. Eph 5:2
  - c. Heb 13:15
  - d. Heb 13:16

To Him belong everlasting glory and dominion.  
Amen. "So be it".

Vs 7

Behold – "See" – He is Coming with the clouds

Jn 14:3; Acts 1:9-11; Matt 24:29-31; 26:64

Every eye will see Him (There will be two responses)

1. The nations (lost) that have fought against Him will mourn. Matt 24:30
2. Israel will rejoice Rom 11:25-29 "Even those who pierced Him" – Israel – Zech 12:8-10.  
Even so, Amen – So be it – Yes, Lord!

Vs 8

The Jesus Christ of verses 5-7 is:

1. I Am
2. The Almighty
3. The Alpha and the Omega
4. The Lord God Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come.  
Note in verses 4 & 5 that God the Father is described  
Thus separate from Jesus Christ.  
They are separate yet They are One.

Proof that Jesus Christ is the God of the Bible:

1. Rev 22:12-13 The One who is coming to render to every man according to what he has done is:
  - a. The Alpha and the Omega
  - b. The First and the Last
  - c. The Beginning and The End
2. Rev 1:8 The Alpha and the Omega
  - a. is the Lord God
  - b. is...was...is to come
  - c. the Almighty
3. Rev 1:17-18 The First and the Last (the Almighty)
  - a. the Living One

- b. was dead
- c. is alive forevermore

Jesus Christ is the God of the Bible – anything less ignores the revelation which God has given to us.

Isa 9:6-7; 26:19-21

(If we had the Old Testament only, we would think that it is the God of Israel – Father - ?? No, Not Correct – Jesus was also the God of Israel – That was coming after “indignation runs its course.” The New Testament is clear that it is Jesus Christ Who comes to earth at the end of the Tribulation. See my notes: “Christ in the Old Testament”

Isa 43:3; 44:6-8; 45:21-22; 49:26

The Things Which You Have Seen 1:9-18

Vs 9

I John

1. your brother
2. your fellow partaker (sharer)

2 Pet 1:1

a. in the tribulation

1 Pet 1:6-9; Jas 1:2-8;

b. in the kingdom

Col 1:12-14

d. in the perseverance – the hope of faith that results in endurance

Rom 5:1-5

Which are in Jesus Heb 13:12-13

The Island of Patmos is a rocky island 10 miles long and 6 miles wide in the Aegean Sea, southwest of Ephesus.

The early Church Fathers record that John, who was very old at the time, was exiled to work the mines there by Domitian.

It was under these difficult conditions that God revealed to John the end of the world that now is.

Note:

1. Moses wrote the Pentateuch in the wilderness while the generation he led out of Egypt all dropped dead.
2. David wrote many of his Psalms while being pursued by Saul.
3. Isaiah lived in the worst of times for Israel and ended

up dying a martyr's death.

4. Ezekiel wrote in exile while his nation remained in captivity.
5. Jeremiah's life was one of trial and persecution.
6. Peter wrote his two letters shortly before martyrdom.
7. Paul ended his life early awaiting execution.

All of the above, because of the word of God and the world's dislike and intolerance of it, John experienced in his life for the testimony of Jesus.

Vs 10-11 John was taken beyond his normal state into a state where God could reveal the contents of this book.

1. Ezekiel Ezk 2:2; 3:12, 14, etc
2. Peter Acts 10:10-17
3. Paul Acts 22:17-21

Such an experience was not common, but did occur.

John entered "the Lord's day" which is that which is described in the book.

Isa 13:6,9; Ezk 30:3; Joel 1:15; 2:1-ff, etc.

He heard behind him – a loud voice – like the sound of a trumpet.

"Write in a book"

Rv 1:11,19 (2:1, 8, 12; 3:1,7,14) 14:13; 19:9; 21:5

This message is to be written and sent to each of the Seven churches.

The message for each generation is the same.

Churches and ages differ – the message stands forever.

Vs 12 The voice came from behind John, when he turned, he saw seven golden lampstands.

Each church, represented by a lampstand is to shed light to the world in which it has been placed.

Matt 5:14-16; Rev 1:20

Vs 13-16 In the middle of the churches, John sees "the Son of Man".

Heb 2:17-18; 4:15-16

His clothes are that of a high Priest.

1. robe reaching to the feet Ex 28:2-4
2. a golden girdle across His breast Ex 28:29

3. hair whit like white wool, like snow  
may signify age – Ancient of Days Dan 7:9  
(and/or purity)
4. Eyes – a flame of fire  
Judge as well as priest  
1 Cor 3:10-15  
Jn 5:22-23  
Rom 14:10  
2 Cor 5:10  
Rom 2:16
4. Feet – burnished bronze  
The altar and utensils of the  
Tabernacle were all of bronze or  
overlaid with it.  
Ex 38:1-7ff  
Its quality is stressed!
5. Voice – like the sound of waters.
6. His right hand – seven stars  
Rev 12:1  
The angels assigned to stand for  
The seven churches ( or representative  
Of the churches)
7. His mouth – a sharp two edged sword  
Heb 4:12  
Rev 19:15

God has spoken – man has chosen not to listen –  
Man Will Hear!!!

8. His face – the sun shining in its strength.

Vs 17-18

When John saw Him – John’s response

Not like Jn 13:22-25 – BUT LIKE:

Abraham Gen 17:3

Manoah Judges 13:20

Ezekiel Ezk 3:23; 43:3; 44:4

Daniel Dan 8:17

Jesus’ glory was veiled when He walked the roads of  
Palestine in John’s day.

At the time of the writing of the book of Revelation,  
Jesus has returned to the glory He had with the Father  
before the world was. Jn 17:5

Jesus responded:

1. He laid His right hand upon John.
2. Fear not “I am” the first and the last  
Isa 41:4; 44:6; 48:12-13  
The God of the Old Testament, the God of Israel.  
Rev 2:8; 22:12-14
3. The Living One – present tense, lives continually

4. who in time died, rose from the dead, is alive forever
5. As the One who conquered death, He has “the keys of Death and the place of the departed dead”. Rev 20: 13  
He will release the souls of the departed dead to judge them.  
He also has the key to Gehenna and no being will ever leave it. Heb 2: 14-15  
Note: Having the keys of death – no man dies but by Divine decision.  
Having the keys of Hades – Jesus Christ is Sovereign over the life to come.

Vs 19

Write therefore:

1. the things you have seen
2. the things which are – the present church age – chapters 2 & 3
3. the things which shall take place after the church age

Vs 20

The seven stars – the messengers of the church  
The seven lampstands – the seven churches themselves