

**REVELATION (CH. 1)**

**Author:** John (The Apostle)      **Location:** Isle of Patmos      **Date:** 90-96 A.D

While John was at Patmos, Jesus appeared to him and commanded him to write *"the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this"* (Revelation 1:19).

***"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place." (vs. 1)***

The word Revelation (Gk apokalupsis/apocalypse) simply means "a revealing, an unveiling."

**IMPORTANT:** Although the Book of Revelation is the revealing of future events, the main unveiling of Revelation is Jesus Christ Himself.

***"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near." (vs. 3)***

This Book of Revelation was to be read in churches, "Blessed is the pastor/teacher who teaches Revelation and blessed is the congregation who hears it." But most of all, "blessed are **those** who keep those things which are written in it."

***"John, To the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne. . . ." (vs. 4)***

Grace is God's "undeserved favor" from which everything good flows. Peace is the state of wellness of heart and soul. It is impossible to experience peace without first experiencing divine grace.

The seven (*number of perfection*) spirits refers to the perfection and completeness of all the aspects of the Holy Spirit's work in the Church and in the world.

***" . . . and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth." (vs. 5)***

Jesus Christ is "the faithful witness," because He is the truthful, reliable source of what is recorded in this revelation. Jesus conquered death and arose from the grave. He was the first to rise from the dead in a glorified, everlasting body. One day, Jesus will return to earth and reign over the nations. At that time every king will submit to His rule.

***"Behold, He [Jesus] is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen." (vs. 7)***

It is important not to confuse the second coming with the rapture. The rapture occurs just prior to the 7 years of Tribulation when Jesus comes in the sky and catches up Christians from the earth to be with Him. The rapture is a secret event, in the sense that only those who are saved will see Jesus. On the other hand, the Second Coming (at the end of the 7 years of Tribulation) is a public event where every eye (vs.7) will see Jesus at His Second Coming.

***“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” (vs.8)***

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet which means the whole of anything, from beginning to end and everything in between. Only God incarnate could make such a statement. Only Jesus Christ is God incarnate.

### **His Person is Unmatched in Revelation**

The Messiah has to be Eternal in *His Person* (vs. 8a)

The Messiah has to be Alone in *His Authority* (vs. 8b)

The Messiah has to be Revealed in *His Word* (vs. 10)

The title, "Lord God," should remind us that He is our ruler, who deserves our obedience. As God, He deserves our worship. Jesus has always existed and always will exist as the Almighty.

**Additional Verses:** Genesis 17:1; Deuteronomy 10:17; 1 Samuel 2:6; Psalm 148:2, 5; Isaiah 40:11; 43:10, 15; 44:6; 45:21-23; 60:19-20; Jeremiah 31:32; Joel 3:12; Malachi 1:6; Matthew 25:31-32; John 5:21 8:12, 24; Acts 3:14; 2 Corinthians 11:2; Colossians 1:15-17; Philippians 2:10; Hebrews 1:6; Revelation 19:16

### **You cannot truly understand the Book of Revelation with understanding the Old Testament.**

***“Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,<sup>13</sup> and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man. . .” (vss.12-13)***

**7 Golden Lampstand represent 7 Churches:** Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

As to why seven churches were chosen when other churches were in the area? It appears to be a deliberate choice, like the many other occurrences of seven (completeness) in the book of Revelation, signifies that these seven churches characterize all churches in every age in one respect or another. The instruction given to Revelation's congregations, therefore, is valuable to Christian congregations today all over the world.

***“One like the Son of Man”*** represents Jesus which is the Head (king, priest and judge) of the Churches although remained separate but in their midst.

***“He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.” (vs. 16)***

Jesus holding “seven stars” in His right hand (ultimate authority), are God's messengers. The Greek word translated "angels" may also be translated "messengers." Even the Hebrew word for an angel, mal'ak, essentially means "a messenger." It's possible the reference here is to pastors or elders. Jesus holds the "angels" in His right hand. Although their work is challenging, the omnipotent Head of the church protects His servants.

Sharp two-edged sword: The Word of God

***“I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.” (vs. 18)***

**Jesus is Alive!** He died, but death could not hold Him. He arose and is alive forevermore. The truth of the resurrection is unique to Christianity. All religions are based on a founder who died and did not come back to life. Christians know and serve a living Savior!

The Christian need not fear death or Hades, because death ushers him or her into Jesus' presence in heaven (1 Corinthians 15:51–57; 2 Corinthians 5:1–8; Philippians 1:21–23). Because Jesus possesses the keys to Death and Hades, He can open death's door at any time to allow a believer to enter heaven, and He can open and shut the gates of hell to confine unbelievers there forever.

***“Write the things which you have seen (John’s vision Jesus showed him), and the things which are (present), and the things which will take place after this (future).” The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.” (vs.19-20)***

These three components provide a good working outline of the book of Revelation:

Chapter 1 includes the things John saw to introduce his writing.

Chapters 2 and 3 include the things that are.

Chapters 4—22 describe the things which are yet to take place.

Although there are divisions in each of these main parts of Revelation, the threefold outline provides a well-organized basis for studying the book of Revelation. Although no specific dates are given for the events described in Revelation 4—22, we gain a broad awareness of what lies ahead for humanity and the earth.

The bottom line is, you want put your faith in Jesus today for salvation and to experience God’s love. You don’t want to miss the rapture; you don’t want to go through the Tribulation Period.

Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 6:2 *“now is the time of God’s favor, now is the day of salvation.”*