

## Revelation 1

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

2 who testifies to everything he saw-- that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

*The word Revelation means an extraordinary and supernatural disclosure made by God, whether by dream, vision, ecstasy, or otherwise, of truths beyond man's unaided power to discover. An uncovering, a bringing to light of that which had been previously wholly hidden or only obscurely seen. God has been pleased in various ways and at different times to make a supernatural revelation of himself and his purposes and plans, which, under the guidance of his Spirit, has been committed to writing. The Scriptures are not merely the "record" of revelation; they are the revelation itself in a written form, in order to the accurate preservation and propagation of the truth. This is the same John who wrote the Gospel of John and three small epistles. John is simply testifying to the things he heard and saw from a first century perspective.*

3 Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

*This is a forgotten beatitude! Matthew 5:3-11 are the beatitudes Jesus spoke in the Sermon on the Mount. This is also a promise of blessings for simply reading and believing in your heart the things written within this book of prophecy. Alas! The time is at hand. Speaks of things which will happen and are happening before our very eyes, if we have eyes to see.*

4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits {4 Or <the sevenfold Spirit>} before his throne,

*This is the Angel telling John to write this letter to seven Churches in Asia Minor. These seven Churches were established by the Apostle Paul in the area known today as Turkey. These seven Churches listed later in this chapter are found in Revelation chapters 2 and 3. Jesus is, was, and is to come. Jesus is the beginning and the ending of all things in Heaven and on*

Earth. The seven spirits before the Throne is not saying that God has seven Spirits it simply is a reference to completeness.

5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

Jesus is the sinless Son of the Living God. He is the only faithful witness. Ephesians 1:18-23 I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way. The only hope of Redemption is in the shed blood of Jesus. The Greatest reflection of God's Love is the Cross on which Jesus His Son was Sacrificed. Sinners can find forgiveness for their sins only in the Crucifixion. True Freedom is in Christ!

6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father-- to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

If we sinful men follow after Jesus Christ then we are Kingdom Priest. This is also a reference to consecration. Through the shed blood of Jesus, God the Father has separated us to be ministers in His Kingdom. All this was given to believers as to Glorify God the Father. 1Peter 2:4&5 As you come to him, the living Stone-- rejected by men but chosen by God and precious to him-- you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. Also If anyone speaks, he should do it as one speaking the very words of God. If anyone serves, he should do it with the strength God provides, so that in all things God may be praised through Jesus Christ. To him be the glory and the power for ever and ever. Amen. 1Peter 4:11.

7 Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those

who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.

To all believers on the planet the Coming of Jesus is a welcomed event. Acts 1:9-11 describes the Ascension 40 days after Jesus Rose from the dead. His second coming will be in full view of all men. With the technology of today this event will be front and center on every satellite and cable system on the planet. The phrase those who pieced Him , is a reference to the Old Testament book of Zechariah. 12:10 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. Thus saith the Lord!

8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last letter. Jesus is speaking hear that He is God Almighty. John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Jesus is the Word of God. Revelation 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

The Apostle John is our brother in Christ. Church records and secular history shows that John was Pastor of the Church in Ephesus and because of preaching the Gospel he was severely persecuted. He would have died from his persecutions but God had plans for him, namely testifying about the Revelation of Jesus Christ. The island of Patmos was a prison island just off the shore of Asia Minor (Turkey). All who follow Jesus will suffer persecution, Matthew 24:9 "Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. As our Savior suffered, so we who follow Him will suffer.

10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

I was in the Spirit-That is, in a trance, a prophetic vision; so overwhelmed with the power, and filled with the light, of the Holy Spirit, as to be insensible of outward things, and wholly taken up with spiritual and divine. What follows is one single, connected vision, which St. John saw in one day; and therefore he that would understand it should carry his thought straight on through the whole, without interruption. On the Lord's day-On this our Lord rose from the dead: on this the ancients believed he will come to judgment. It was, therefore, with the utmost propriety that St. John on this day both saw and described his coming.

11 which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

The voice that sounded like a trumpet told John to write down what he saw and then send it to these seven churchs. We see what the scroll had written on it by looking at this book of Revelation. The prophecy is written to none other than believers in Jesus Christ. All the worldlings have tried to dismiss this prophecy and other books of the Bible for millennia but it remains for a Revelation to Christians. Jesus Christ addresses these seven churches directly in chapters 2 and 3 for their knowledge and our today.

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

The golden lampstands are the seven churches verse 20. John saw the seven churches.

13 and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," {13 Daniel 7:13} dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

These verses describe the Glorified Jesus. Among the lampstands (churches) was the Son of Man who is the Son of God, Jesus Christ. Daniel 7:13-14 answers the question who is the son of man? Jesus also said in His

Gospel that when two or three gather together in His name, He is in the midst of them. This explains where the true Church of Jesus Christ gets its power. The robe of royalty reaching down with the purest of gold around His neck symbolizes Jesus as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. His hair is white like wool symbolizes purity that came about by His sinless sacrificial life. Blazing fiery eyes can only be defined as the fire of God Himself. Many verses indicate the fire of the Holy One in terms of His Holiness and Judgment. Matthew 3:11, Acts 2:3, Malachi 3:2, Isaiah 4:4, Isaiah 66:15, Hebrews 10:27, Hebrews 12:29, Psalm 50:3, and 2 Thessalonians 1:8. Rushing waters are loud and authoritative, so is the voice of Jesus. Matthew 7:28,29 When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

The right hand is symbolic of power in which Jesus holds the seven stars which we know is the seven pastors or messengers of the seven churches or lampstands. See verse 20. The mouth of Jesus speaks His Word which cuts to the hearts of men. Hebrews 4:12 For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. And this double edged sword is also a weapon of the Christian soldier. Ephesians 6:17 Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. No human can stare directly into the sun with the naked eye, so Jesus's face is so brilliant that no flesh can gaze upon His face without spiritual eyes. 2Thessalonians 2:8 And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

17 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.

John's response is to be expected. When the Glorified Jesus is talking with a man's spirit it is somewhat frightful or bittersweet. Fear not is Jesus's exhortation to John and also to believers. There is no reason to fear Jesus if you are in fellowship with Him. Jesus is the beginning and the ending.

18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Make no mistake about anything, Jesus is everything. He died on Cross for you, He rose from the dead for you and He is Eternal as are you through His Gospel. Jesus is in total control, He is Sovereign. Satan is not even in control of Hell. Jesus gave Himself for humanity so they would not have to die, not physically but spiritually. Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. Jesus holds the keys to Eternal Life and He also gave the Church the keys as well. Matthew 16:18-19 And I tell you that you are Peter, {18 <Peter> means <rock.>} and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades {18 Or <hell>} will not overcome it. {18 Or <not prove stronger than it>} I will give you the **keys** of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be {19 Or <have been>} bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be {19 Or <have been>} loosed in heaven." We the believers (Church) have the keys to the Kingdom of God. Wow what authority!!

19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels {20 Or <messengers>} of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

As was said earlier John is writing what he heard and seen. John is a first century man seeing things in our day. Lampstands are the Churches of Revelation 2&3. The stars are the messengers of the seven churches. In the Greek language the translation is pastor. Also the Churches are a Christian community of members on earth or saints in heaven or both):--assembly, church. The Church of Jesus is powerful and must be of importance in our lives to serve Jesus and our brothers and sisters in Christ. Christians without fellowship with other Christians is Christian suicide, especially in the days leading up to the Return of Christ Jesus!!!