

Revelation 1

- I. The Introduction to the Book – vs. 1-3
 - a. The Title of the Book – “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”
 - b. The Inspiration of the Book – “...which God gave...”
 - c. The writer of the Book – “...unto His servant John: who bare record...”
 - d. The blessing of the Book – vs. 3
 - e. The nature of the Book. – vs. 3 “...this prophecy...”

- II. The Salutation from the Triune God – vs. 4-5
 - a. The Addressee – vs. 4
Initially this Book was addressed to the 7 churches, from which it was to be circulated to other churches and servants of God.

 - b. The Salutation – vs. 4 “...Grace...and Peace...”
 - i. Grace
This means ‘unmerited, undeserved favour’.
“God’s Riches At Christ’s Expense”
Grace speaks of God’s attitude toward us.

 - ii. Peace
This is the result of God’s grace.
Romans 5:1 “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:”

 - c. The Addressor
 - i. God the Father – vs. 4
“...Him which is, and which was, and which is to come...”

This speaks of the Father as the eternal ONE, existing in time as well as throughout eternity past and eternity to come. Cf. Revelation 4:2-8 and Hebrews 8:1.

 - ii. God the Holy Spirit – vs. 4
Revelation 4:5 “And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.”

The 7 Spirits refer to the Perfections of the Holy Spirit.
Isaiah 11:2-3
The Spirit of the Lord
The Spirit of Wisdom
The Spirit of Understanding
The Spirit of Counsel
The Spirit of Might
The Spirit of Knowledge

The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

- iii. God the Son – vs. 5
“...and from Jesus Christ...”

III. The Portraits of the Lord Jesus Christ – vs. 5-8; 11-18

In this chapter we see two portraits of Jesus: A Doctrinal Portrait and A Symbolic Portrait.

a. The Doctrinal Portrait of Jesus Christ – vs. 5-8

- i. His Unique Name – vs. 5

Philippians 2:9-11 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

“Jesus” means “Jehovah Savior” – Matthew 1:21

“Christ” means “Anointed One”

- ii. His Unique Character – vs. 5 “faithful witness”

Isaiah 55:4 “Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.”

John 18:37 “...Jesus answered...To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.”

- iii. His Unique Privilege – vs. 5 “first begotten of the dead”

This means that the Lord Jesus is the first among those who will be raised from the dead never to die again.

I Corinthians 15:20-24

Colossians 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

- iv. His Unique Position – vs. 5 “Prince of the kings of the earth”

This is an office by right, but not yet in fact. All that was needed to vanquish Satan and his kingdom has been accomplished at Calvary, but the realization of this will not be until Revelation 19.

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Hebrews 2:8 “Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him.”

Hebrews 10:12-13 “But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.”

v. His Unique Affection – vs. 5 “Unto Him that loved us”

I John 4:10 “Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

John 15:13 “Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

vi. His Unique Work – vs. 5 “and washed us from our sins in His own blood”

Hebrews 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?”

vii. His Unique People – vs. 6

Here we see something of the Kingdom of God (and our part in it) during this present age:

1. The Kingdom of God consists of all the saved.

John 3:3 “Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

2. The Kingdom of God is intangible.

Romans 14:17 “For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”

3. The Kingdom of God is invisible.

Luke 17:20-21 “And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: Neither shall they say, Lo here! Or, lo there! For, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.”

4. The Kingdom of God is Spiritual.

John 18:36 “Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence.”

5. The Kingdom of God is Personal.

Cf. I Peter 2:9-10 "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy."

The distinguishing mark of the Kingdom of God is the "Priesthood of all Believers".

This means every believer has a direct relationship with God through Jesus Christ. – I Timothy 2:5

According to Revelation 5:10, this relationship will one day be extended to an earthly rule.

viii. His Unique Glory – vs 6

Isaiah 42:8 "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images."

ix. His Unique Future – vs.7

This verse has reference to the actual second coming of Jesus Christ to the earth rather than the 'Rapture'.

1. A personal return – "he"

John 14:3 "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

2. A certain return – "he cometh"

Acts 1:11 "...this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

3. A visible coming – "every eye shall see Him"

Matthew 24:30 "And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory."

4. A convicting coming – "they also which pierced Him"

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This will be a time of national conversion for Israel. (Zechariah 12:10)

Romans 11:26 "And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob."

5. A judgmental coming – "all kindreds...shall wall"

Matthew 25:32 "And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats"

x. His Unique Title – vs. 8 "I AM"

The use of this term for the Lord Jesus Christ is strong proof of His deity. "I Am" is the name of Jehovah God given to Moses in Exodus 3:14. It means literally the "self-existing ONE."

1. Jesus used this Title in John 8:58.

"Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am."

2. The Gospel of John (The Gospel of Deity) contains seven "I AM's".

6:35 – "I am the bread of life"

8:12 – "I am the light of the world"

10:9 – "I am the door"

10:11 – "I am the good shepherd"

11:25 – "I am the resurrection and the life"

14:6 – "I am the way, the truth, and the life"

15:1 – "I am the vine"

3. Note the "I AM's" in Revelation chapter 1

Vs. 8, 11, 17, 18

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Continued...

b. The Symbolic Portrait of Jesus Christ. – vs. 11-18

This section begins the FIRST SECTION of the Book of Revelation, “The things which thou hast seen” (vs. 19).

This passage gives the first of SEVEN VISIONS in the Book of Revelation.

Read vs 13-18 and compare with Daniel 10:5-6; 7:9-14.

This is the most detailed description of our risen, glorified Savior. He was recognizable (vs 13) but different.

i. The description of His garment – vs. 13

This probably speaks of His priestly garments as our Great High Priest. Exodus 28:2 “And thou shalt make holy garments for Aaron thy brother for glory and for beauty.”

Hebrews 4:14-16 “Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”

Hebrews 7:24-26 “But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens”

Hebrews 9:24 “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us”

ii. The description of His head and hair – vs. 14

From Daniel 7:9 and 13, this seems to be symbolic of His eternity.

He is called “Ancient of Days”.

iii. The description of His eyes – vs. 4

Eyes speak of perception; fire of judgement. This expression speaks of the omniscience of Christ, Who knows the thoughts of men. “Searching righteousness”

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Proverbs 15:3 “The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.”

II Chronicles 16:9 “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him...”

iv. The description of His feet – vs. 15

Brass is typical of Judgement (in connection with sacrifice for sin – see: Exodus 38:30). The feet symbolize divine judgement.

I Corinthians 15:27 “For he hath put all things under his feet...”

Hebrews 10:13 “From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool.”

v. The description of His voice – vs. 15

This is the majestic voice of divine authority.

Cf. John 7:46 “The officers answered, Never man spake like this man.”

vi. The description of His right hand – vs. 16

This speaks of the possessions of the Lord, for the stars symbolize the angels of the seven churches (vs. 20), and the churches themselves are bought by the Lord.

Ephesians 5:25-27 “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleans it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

John 10:28 “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”

vii. The description of His mouth – vs. 16

This sword symbolizes the Word of God.

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

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Ephesians 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

Revelation 19:15 “And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the wine press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.”

viii. The description of His countenance – vs. 16
This speaks of His great glory.

ix. The description of His victory – vs. 18
The great victory of Christ, and our victory, was His resurrection. We serve a living Saviour.

I Corinthians 15:57 “But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”

x. The description of His sovereignty – vs. 18
‘Keys’ speaks of authority. In His death and resurrection Christ destroyed the authority of Satan.

Hebrews 2:14-15 “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”

IV. The Seven Churches in Asia – vs. 4, 11, 19, 20

These churches are the subject of the next 2 chapters of the Revelation. They are seven actual churches. However, what was true for these churches is true of present day New Testament churches as well!

a. They are symbolized by Candlesticks.
Churches are not the Light (John 8:12), but light-bearers.

Matthew 5:14-15 “Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.”

Philippians 2:15-16 “That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the word of life; that I may rejoice in the day of Christ, that I have not run in vain, neither laboured in vain.”

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- b. They have Christ in the midst of them. – vs. 13
Christ is the Head of every true New Testament church.

Colossians 1:18 “And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.”

Ephesians 2:22 “**In whom** ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

I Corinthians 3:16 “Know ye not that ye **are** [belong to] the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

- c. They are identified with Christ despite imperfections.
There is no such thing as a “perfect church” – yet.

Ephesians 5:27 “That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

Most of these 7 churches had serious deficiencies, yet the Lord still called them churches, and was pleased to dwell in the midst of them.

- d. They had angels.
The seven stars symbolized the seven angels. These angels are either:
 - i. Some form of guardian angels with special care for the churches.
 - ii. Pastors of the churches.

The word “angel” comes from the Greek word ‘angelos’ which primarily means “messenger.”

This seems to be the interpretation. Why would John write to heavenly angels?

Pastors are entrusted with bringing God’s message to His people.