

Revelations
Lesson 1
Chapter 1

Introduction:

1. Outline of Chapter I

- a. Superscription (1-3)
- b. Address and Greeting (4-8)
- c. Introductory Vision (9-20)

2. We pray that God give us direction and understand as we study this book.

I. Superscription (1-3)

1) The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: 2) Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. 3) Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

A. Title of the Book

1. This is a Revelation from Jesus to John

a. The Greek word “Apokalupsis” is used which means

i. Disclosure, or unveiling, revelation, or manifestation

ii. This Greek word is used 18 times by the New Testament writers in connection with the unveiling or manifestation of the Lord from Heaven.

1) In Luke 2:32, Apokalupsis is used to refer to the ministry of Jesus where Jesus is identified as “A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.”

2) In 1st Corinthians 1:7, Apokalupsis is used to refer to the Lord’s return when Paul made this statement to the Corinthians.

“So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:”

b. The Greek word Apocalypse

- i. Means “to reveal or disclose something not before realized.”
- ii. Movie makers and writers have used to word to mean “disaster, catastrophe, day of judgment, destruction.”
- c. This is not a revelation of Christ, but a Revelation from Christ.

Note v1 in the Nlt... This is a revelation from Jesus Christ,

2. God gave this Revelation to Jesus

Note: Why did the Father have to give this Revelation to Jesus?

a. Mark 13:30-33

30) Verily I say unto you, that this generation shall not pass, till all these things be done. 31) Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. 32) But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father. 33) Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

b. The Holy Spirit reveals understanding to us according to John 16:13-15

13) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come. 14) He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you. 15) All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.

3. Purpose of the Revelation

- a. v1...To show unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass
- b. Let us notice what is seen in the Book of Revelations
 - i. Events of the complete church age in chapters 2-3
 - ii. Events in heaven in chapters 4-5
 - iii. Events of the future tribulation of Daniel’s seventieth week in chapters 6-19
 - iv. Events of the millennium in chapter 20.
 - v. Events of the eternal new heaven and new earth in chapters 21-22.
- c. Let us notice the phrase in verse one “...Shortly come to pass...”

i. This indicates that something must come quickly, but let us notice 2 Peter 3:8.

But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

ii. Let us use this Scripture and consider the following time frame.

- 1) One day with God = One thousand years of man's time.
- 2) It has been close to 2000 years since the crucifixion of Jesus, considering that He was crucified in 29 A.D, or a little over 2000 years from the birth of Jesus, considering He was born 4 B.C.
- 3) It was approximately 2000 years from the creation of Adam to the Flood.
- 4) It was approximately 2000 years from the flood to the birth of Jesus.
- 5) Between the Rapture of the church and the Millennium reign of Christ, there is a seven year span or period of time that is called "Tribulation," which is Daniel's seventieth week.

4. Let us notice the words at the end of verse 1.

He sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

a. The word signified means

i. To show, or

ii. To point out,

iii. To announce,

iv. To make a note of.

b. Jesus wanted John to see what was coming, so he could record it for you and I, so we could see the signs of the time in which we are living.

5. John received this Revelation, and he

a. Bare record of the word of God,

b. Bare record...of the testimony of Jesus Christ,

c. Bare record...of all things that he saw.

Note: Let us understand that the Revelations that John received was give by

- i. The Father to Jesus
- ii. Jesus to an Angel
- iii. The Angel to John
- iv. John to the Church
- v. The Holy Spirit through John's writing to us.

B. A Blessing is given in verse 3

- 1. This book opens with a blessing in verse 3, and it closes with a curse in chapter 22:18-19

- a. Blessing

3) Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

- b. Curse in 22:18-19

18) For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19) And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

- 2. There are three classes of people that will be blessed according to verse 3

- a. Those who read this book.
 - b. Those who hear the words of this prophecy or this book.
 - c. Those who keep the things that are written therein

- 3. Let us notice those who are cursed.

- a. Those who add to the book...The plagues of the book will be added to them.
 - b. Those who take away from the book.
 - i. Their part of the Book of life will be take away
 - ii. Their part of the Holy City will be taken away

iii. Their part from the things written in the book will be removed.

C. Let me give you a few facts concerning the Book of Revelations

1. Do not have to understand it, but it is important to read it.
2. It is a prophetic book, not a history book. It foretells future events.
3. It is a book with symbols and a language for those with spiritual discernment
4. It deals with Daniel's seventieth week.
5. It deals with the Jews.
6. It is a book of consummation which means "the end of things."
7. It fulfills all prophecy and any prophecy not fulfilled is fulfilled in this book.
8. Genesis begins the Bible with Paradise Lost and Revelations ends the Bible with Paradise regained.

II. The Salutation (4-8)

4) John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5) And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6) And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 7) Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. 8) I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

A. This letter or book is written to the seven churches in Asia Minor

1. These churches are:
 - a. Ephesus
 - b. Smyrna
 - c. Pergamos
 - d. Thyatira

- e. Sardis
- f. Philadelphia
- g. Laodicea

2. These seven churches were seven literal churches, but they also represented all of the churches, as well as referring to seven distinctive church ages.

B. The greeting is “Grace and Peace”

1st. From the Father...From him which is, and which was, and which is to come

2nd. From the Holy Ghost...And from the seven Spirits which are before his throne

a. The reference to seven spirits represents the fullness and the completeness of the Holy Ghost.

b. Seven is God’s number, and it signifies wholeness or completeness.

c. This reference is not seven different spirits, but one Spirit represented by the number seven, showing

i. Universality,

ii. Plentitude, and

iii. Perfection.

3rd. From Jesus Christ, and the three fold ministry of Christ is shown.

a. He is the faithful witness

i. This demonstrates His prophetic ministry

ii. Also, He is the “logos,” the Living Word of God which continues to witness.

b. He is the first begotten of the dead

i. This references is priestly ministry

ii. He is the Lamb of God

c. He is the prince of the kings of the earth.

i. This refers to Jesus being King

ii. He is God's Lion from the tribe of Judah

4th. This greeting speaks of Christ's love for us.

- a. He loved us,
- b. He washed us from our sins in his own blood,
- c. He hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father;

5th. This greeting reminds us that Jesus is to receive glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

6th. This greeting reminds that Jesus is coming

- a. He will come with clouds;
- b. He will come and every eye shall see him,
- c. He will be seen of those who have pierced him:
- d. He will be seen by all kindreds (nations and people groups)
- e. All of the earth shall wail because of him.

Note: Even so, Amen, and the Niv says "so shall it be, Amen." It will happen.

7th. In this greeting we see the eternity of Jesus

- a. He is Alpha and Omega,
- b. He is the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord,
- c. He is the "which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty."

Note: He is God omnipotent, omnipresent, and omniscient, just like the Father and the Holy Ghost, for they are three in one even as they are distinct in themselves.

III. Let us look at the Introductory Vision in verses 9-20

A. Let us look at John

9) I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. 10) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,...

1. He was under persecution
 - a. He had been boiled in oil
 - b. He had been banished to Patmos to labor in the mines
 - c. He was the only Apostle who died a natural death
 - d. He was approximately 100 years old at the time of his death
2. The Book of Revelations was written about 96 A.D.
 - a. This book was written after his release from Patmos
 - b. He wrote the book from the city of Ephesus
3. The vision was received while he was on Patmos
4. He was in the Spirit on the Lord's day
 - a. He was not feeling sorry for himself
 - b. The Lord's day rolled around, and his mind was on the Lord
 - c. As a result, he received a Revelation from Jesus

B. Let us look at his vision in verses 10-16

10) ...and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11) Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. 12) And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13) And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14) His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15) And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16) And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

1. He heard a great voice---like a trumpet, and it said
 - a. I am Alpha and Omega
 - b. I am the first and the last

- c. Write what you see
 - d. Send it to the churches in Asia
2. Let us notice what he saw
- a. He saw seven golden candlesticks
 - b. He saw one who was like the son of man in the midst of the candlesticks
 - c. Let us look at the description of the one he saw
 - i. He was clothed with a garment down to the foot,
 - ii. He was girt about the paps with a golden girdle.
 - iii. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow;
 - iv. His eyes were as a flame of fire;
 - v. His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace;
 - vi. His voice as the sound of many waters.
 - vii. He had in his right hand seven stars:
 - viii. Out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword:
 - ix. His countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Note: He saw the glorified Christ in His majesty and power.

Note 1st John 3:2

Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

C. The effect the vision had on John (17-18)

17) And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18) I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

1. He fell as dead

Note: When we see the Lord high and lifted up, we will fall before Him, also.

2. Jesus speaks to John and identifies Himself
 - a. Fear not; I am the first and the last:
 - b. I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold,
 - c. I am alive for evermore, Amen;
 - d. I have the keys of hell and of death
3. John receives His marching orders in v19.

19) Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

- a. Write what you have seen (Chapter 1:11-19)
- b. Write the things which are (Chapters 2-3)
- c. Write the things which shall be hereafter (Chapter 4-22)

Note: Here we see a simple outline for the Book of Revelations.

D. In verse 20, we see an interpretation of what John saw.

20) The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

1. The stars in the right hand of Jesus are the angels of the seven churches.
 - a. Angel means messenger
 - b. Jesus is holding the messengers, or pastor of the churches in His right hand.
2. The seven golden candlesticks are the seven churches.
 - a. The literal seven churches in Asia
 - b. They represented all churches
 - c. It also refers to the seven dispensations of time.

Note: Jesus is walking among the churches with the pastors in His hand.

- i. Satan has difficulty getting to God's people since we are protected by the founder

of the church, Jesus.

ii. Jesus built his church on the rock, and the gates of hell cannot prevail against it.