

## Revelation 1:1-20 **Revelation of Jesus Christ**

### Introduction

<sup>1</sup> The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. <sup>3</sup> 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.

### Greeting the Seven Churches

<sup>4</sup> 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, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.

### Jesus is coming again Visibly

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, <sup>6</sup> and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

<sup>7</sup> Behold, He 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.

### Identity of the Speaker

<sup>8</sup> "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."

### Testimony of John

<sup>9</sup> I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> saying,

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

### Vision of the Son of Man

<sup>12</sup> 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, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. <sup>14</sup> His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup> His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup> 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.

19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

20 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.

NKJV

Facts Revealed:

**Introduction** [Revelation 1:1-3]

- ✠ The **Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take place. [Revelation 1:1]
  - ✧ **God the Father** gave the information in the book of Revelation to Jesus Christ to show it to His servants in all the Churches. Jesus showed it to John with instructions to pass it on.
  - ✧ This book is the revelation of **Jesus Christ**, Who He Is, how he views the Church, What He has in store for the future of His people, and the world.
  - ✧ The message has an urgency for the reader, to motivate the reader to reconsider his relationship with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, this is stated in the term, "things which must shortly take place."
  - ✧ Now, 2,000 years later we realize the importance for each past generation to hold the expectation of the imminent fulfillment of this prophecy in his time, to motivate each person who was to die during that time to be doing his best to be found well pleasing to God at the time of his death, thus assuring each generation the right to expect a place in the Kingdom of God.
- ✠ And **He (Jesus)** sent and signified it by **His angel** to **His servant John**, who bore witness to the Word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. [Revelation 1:1-2]
  - ✧ The word "signified" indicates that the message is accurate and has the seal of Jesus Himself.
  - ✧ The Angel of the Lord was sent by Jesus to bring this message to John for the world.
  - ✧ John wrote the book to bear accurate witness to the things it contains, which includes the Word of God, the Testimony of Jesus Christ, and the record of all things he saw.
- ✠ 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**. [Revelation 1:3]
  - ✧ The record includes a special blessing for the reader as well as for those who **hear** the message and **keep** (obey, apply to life and faith) the things written in it.
  - ✧ Again the sense of urgency is added with the words, "**for the time is near**."
  - ✧ It is good for each person who reads or hears the message of Revelation to view himself as the last one who may hear before it is all played out, and be fully committed to the Lord.

**Greeting the Seven Churches** [Revelation 1:4-5]

- ✠ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia:
  - ✧ The author appears to be the Apostle John, son of Zebedee who wrote the Gospel of John and the epistles 1, 2, & 3 John. In his gospel, John refers to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved.
  - ✧ It was of John that Jesus said to Peter: "If I will that he remain till I come, what is that to you? You follow Me." [John 21:22]
  - ✧ The letter is addressed to the seven Churches of Asia, which include all the characteristics of Christians of all ages and in all congregations, so the total message is universal.

- ✠ 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**, and from **Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead**, and the **ruler over the kings of the earth**. [Revelation 1:4-5, 21:24-25]
- ✧ John is writing after the vision ends, referring to various aspects of the revelation in the first chapter.
- ✧ From **Him Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come** is a reference to God on the throne Who has been and is God through all eternity past, present, and future. [Revelation 4:2 -- 5:13, 6:16, 7:10, 11, 15, 19:4, 21:5]
- ✧ **Seven Spirits before His throne** represents the seven spirits of God, characteristics of the Holy Spirit. [Revelation 4:5, 5:6, Hebrews 1:14, **Truth** John 16:13, **Holiness** Romans 1:3-4, **Faith** 2 Corinthians 4:13, **Wisdom** Ephesians 1:17, **Power** 2 Timothy 1:7, **Grace** Hebrews 10:29, **Glory** 1 Peter 4:14]
- ✧ **Jesus Christ the faithful witness** again assures us that the message is reliable and from Christ Himself. [Revelation 1:5, 3:14]
- ✧ **Firstborn from the dead** clearly identifies Jesus as the One who died on the Cross and rose from the dead to live eternally. [1 Corinthians 15:20, Revelation 1:5]
- ✧ **Ruler over the kings of the earth** indicates His role as sovereign over the earth during the Kingdom age and eternally in the New Jerusalem on the New Earth. [Revelation 11:15, 12:5, 19:15, 20:4, Luke 1:33, Romans 15:12, 1 Corinthians 15:25]

Jesus is coming again Visibly [Revelation 1:5-7]

- ✠ To **Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood**, and **has made us kings and priests to His God and Father**, to **Him be glory and dominion forever and ever**. Amen. [Revelation 1:5-6]
- ✧ This statement of worship and praise goes to Jesus Christ.
- ✧ The sacrifice of Jesus on Calvary is the greatest expression of love for the world because it demonstrated the Love of God for us. [John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Galatians 2:20, Ephesians 5:2, 25]
- ✧ Through the blood of Jesus we have cleansing of our sins. [Revelation 5:9]
- ✧ Through Jesus we have a right to the Kingdom of God as **kings and priests** to His God and Father. [Revelation 5:10, 7:15, 21:24]
- ✧ To Him (Jesus) be glory and dominion forever and ever. [Revelation 1:5-6, (see also) 5:11-13]
- ✠ Behold, **He 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. [Revelation 1:7]
- ✧ Coming with the clouds of Heaven as spoken of by Daniel the prophet. [Daniel 7:13]
- ✧ The message to the Churches is that Jesus is coming again visibly for all to see, this is a literal public coming which no one will miss. [Matthew 24:30, Mark 13:26, Luke 21:27, Acts 1:11]
- ✧ Even those who pierced Him will see Him, when they stand before Him at the Judgment. [Revelation 20:11-14, John 5:22, 26-27, Matthew 26:64, Mark 14:62]
- ✧ All the tribes of the earth **will mourn because of Him**, as they see their people cast into the Lake of Fire on the day of Judgment, because Jesus will be the Judge Who decides the fate of each one. [Matthew 24:30, 25:31-46, Zechariah 12:10] Note: In [Zechariah 12:10] where it is commonly translated "for Him" the Hebrew word is '*aalaayw*' which also could properly be translated "because of Him" or "by reason of Him" thus being in full agreement with [Revelation 1:7]

Identity of the Speaker [Revelation 1:8]

- ✠ "**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." [Revelation 1:8]
- ✧ Jesus identifies Himself as God, speaking in the first person by using the phrase, "I am". [Exodus 3:14]
- ✧ I am the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End, This is one of the identifying titles of Yahweh God. [Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12, Revelation 1:8, 11, 17, 21:6, 22:13]

- ✧ Jesus clarifies it by saying, "Who is, and Was, and Is to come, is a reference to His position as God the Word before creation [John 1:1-3], His present status as the risen Lord, and His future eternal status as the soon coming King for all eternity. [Revelation 21:22-23]
- ✧ Jesus identifies Himself as Yahweh the Almighty. [Genesis 35:11, Exodus 6:3, Revelation 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 14, 21:22]

### Testimony of John [Revelation 1:9-11]

✧ I, **John**, both **your brother** and **companion in the tribulation** and **kingdom** and **patience of Jesus Christ**, was on the island that is called Patmos **for the word of God** and **for the testimony of Jesus Christ**. [Revelation 1:9]

- ✧ John associates himself with the persecution being experienced by the Church by indicating he is **your brother** believer, a **companion in tribulation**.
  - ✧ He also identifies himself as being in the kingdom, indicating his relationship with the Church as part of the **Kingdom** of God.
  - ✧ John is waiting expectantly in the **patience** of Jesus Christ for the Kingdom with the hope of faith, looking for its soon appearance.
  - ✧ John was on the island of Patmos **for the Word of God** and **for the testimony of Jesus Christ**. This could indicate as some teach that John was there as an exile of Rome. It could also indicate that He was there as a missionary whose purpose was to spread the Gospel message and his testimony of Jesus Christ to the inhabitants of the island.
- ✧ I was **in the Spirit on the Lord's Day**, and I heard behind me a **loud voice**, as of a **trumpet**, saying, [Revelation 1:10-11]
- ✧ It was Sunday, John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, indicating that his focus was fully spiritual, perhaps in a trance, at the time of the vision.
  - ✧ John heard a **loud voice** behind him that sounded like a trumpet, saying:
 

**"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,"** and, **"What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."**

 [Revelation 1:11]
  - ✧ Jesus repeated His identity as **"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last."**
  - ✧ There can be no doubt that He is claiming the identity of God Almighty.
  - ✧ With full divine authority, He gives the command to **write a book and send it to seven specific Churches located in Asia**.
- ✧ Then I (John) turned to see the voice that spoke with me. [Revelation 1:12]

### Vision of the Son of Man [Revelation 1:12-20]

✧ And having turned I saw **seven golden lampstands**, and in the midst of the seven lampstands. **One like the Son of Man**, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His **head and hair** were white like wool, as white as snow, and

His **eyes** like a flame of fire;

His **feet** were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and

His **voice** as the sound of many waters;

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. [Revelation 1:12-16]

- ✧ Lampstands are the center from which the Light is sent forth as in the Tabernacle in the Wilderness, the light is to be burning always. [Exodus 27:20]
- ✧ Jesus said, "You are the Light of the World. [Matthew 5:14]

- ✧ **One like the Son of Man in the midst of the seven lampstands** represents the presence of Jesus in the midst of His people. [Daniel 7:13, Revelation 2:1]
- ✧ Garment down to His feet represents robe of **power and authority**.
- ✧ The girdle with a golden band represents His **Divinity**.
- ✧ His head and hair as white as snow represents the **Ancient of Days**.
- ✧ His eyes like a flame of fire represents His **omniscience knowing and discerning all truth**.
- ✧ His feet like fine brass stands for His **authority in judgment**.
- ✧ His voice like many waters represents the **voice of God**. [Ezekiel 43:2]
- ✧ His right hand holding seven stars represents **Christ upholding the stars**. [Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 18:35, 63:8, 138:7, 139:10, Revelation 1:16, 2:1]
- ✧ Sharp two edged Sword represents the spoken **Word of Christ to execute judgment** used to destroy His enemies. [Revelation 2:16, 19:15, 21, Hebrews 4:12]
- ✧ His countenance like the sun shining in its strength represents the **Glory of God** as seen on the Mount of Transfiguration. [Matthew 17:1-13, Mark 9:2-13, Luke 9:27-36, 2 Peter 1:17-18, 1 John 1:5]
- ✠ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. [Revelation 1:17]
- ✠ But **He laid His right hand on me**, saying to me, "**Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore**. Amen. [Revelation 1:17-18]
- ✠ And I have the **keys of Hades and of Death**. [Revelation 1:18]
  - ✧ Humanity can not stand in such awesome presence. Fear and dread is overwhelming.
  - ✧ Blessings and strength are in the right hand of God. [Psalm 18:35, 63:8, 139:10, Isaiah 41:10]
  - ✧ The assuring voice of Jesus was familiar to John as He said, "Be not afraid." [Matthew 14:27, 17:7, Mark 6:50, John 6:20]
  - ✧ This is the third time Jesus identified Himself as **the First and the Last**, but this time He defines the meaning by adding, "**I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore**," speaking of His life, death, and resurrection, making it distinctly Jesus and not the Father.
  - ✧ The **keys of Hades and Death** speak of His authority to control both. [Revelation 20:14]
- ✠ Write the **things which you have seen**, and the **things which are**, and the **things which will take place after this**. [Revelation 1:19]
  - ✧ Write the **things you have seen** refers to this vision of the Glorified Christ.
  - ✧ The **things which are**, is a reference to the Churches and the scene in Heaven addressed in chapters 2 through 5.
  - ✧ The **things which will take place after this**, refers to the rest of the book of Revelation.
- ✠ 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**. [Revelation 1:20]
  - ✧ The Greek word *aggelos* is translated *angel* defined as *messenger*, therefore the angel of the Churches is the messenger or leader of the Church.
  - ✧ Each lampstand represented one of the seven Churches which were representative of the characteristics of the Churches of the world throughout the time of the Church.
  - ✧ The **seven lampstands** and **seven stars** in the vision are called a **Mystery** because they are symbolic.

The Book of Revelation is primarily straight forward and the meaning is clear. Symbols are used occasionally and are always explained.