

LIVING FOR CHRIST THROUGH THE BOOK OF REVELATION

PART 1: CHRIST AND HIS CHURCH – Revelation 1-3

LESSON 1: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 1:1–20 (KJV)

The Setting

- ❖ John the beloved was exiled to Patmos by the Roman emperor Domitian around A.D. 95 – Rev. 1:9; Mat. 24:9
- ❖ Domitian desired worship and persecuted Christians who refused to worship him – Acts 5:29; Dan. 3:16-18
 - Domitian was a cruel man who desired to be worshipped and when Christians wouldn't worship him, he demanded leader of the Christians be put to death
 - Believed that John the Apostle was put in boiling water or wax but did not die and afterward was banished by Domitian to Patmos
- ❖ Patmos was a barren place of isolation and suffering – Rev. 1:9; Psa. 142:4-7
 - Yet, in the middle of great trial, John heard clearly from God – James 1:2-4; Gen. 28:16
 - Many of God's greatest revelations come during difficult seasons – Exo. 3:1-4; Gen. 22:14

Understanding Revelation

- ❖ The word revelation comes from the Greek word apokalupsis meaning unveiling or disclosure – Dan. 2:28; Luke 8:17
- ❖ Revelation is not John's revelation but the Revelation of Jesus Christ – Rev. 1:1; John 1:18
- ❖ The revelation was given by God to show His servants things which must shortly come to pass – Rev. 1:1; Amos 3:7

*"Shortly come to pass?" you say. "This book is over two thousand years old!" The Greek word translated "shortly" is **en tachei**, meaning "must come to pass with rapidity." It's the same Greek word from which we get the word "tachometer"—the instrument used to determine the speed of an engine. Thus, the Lord is telling us in this verse that when end-time events begin to happen, they'll increase their rpms and happen with greater rapidity." – Jon Courson's Application Commentary – New Testament*
- ❖ God's people are repeatedly identified as His servants – Rev. 2:20; Rom. 1:1
- ❖ The revelation was communicated through signs and symbols – Rev. 1:1; Dan. 7:1-7

Revelation 1:1-2

- ❖ The revelation was given by God, through Jesus Christ, unto John – Rev. 1:1; John 3:32
- ❖ The purpose of Revelation was to show God's servants things that must come to pass – Rev. 1:1; Dan. 2:28
- ❖ "Shortly come to pass" speaks of rapidity once events begin unfolding – Rev. 1:1; Mat. 24:33
- ❖ The revelation was signified through signs – Rev. 1:1; John 21:25
- ❖ John faithfully bore record of what he saw and heard – Rev. 1:2; 1 John 1:1-4

Revelation 1:3 - The Blessing the Enemy Wants You to Avoid

- ❖ Blessing is attached to reading, hearing, and keeping Revelation – Rev. 1:3; Luke 11:28
- ❖ The blessing is not merely in hearing but in obeying – James 1:22; Psa. 19:7-11
- ❖ The time is at hand, requiring believers to remain spiritually alert – James 5:7-8; Rom. 13:11
- ❖ Many believers avoid Revelation because of fear or confusion but Revelation begins with blessing – Rev. 1:3

Revelation 1:4-6 - Greetings to the Seven Churches

- ❖ The message was directed to seven churches in Asia – Rev. 1:4; Rev. 1:11
- ❖ God is identified as:
 - Which is – Exo. 3:14
 - Which was – John 1:1
 - Which is to come – Rev. 1:8
- ❖ The seven Spirits before the throne represent fullness and perfection of the Spirit – Isa. 11:2; Zech. 4:10
- ❖ Jesus is:
 - The faithful witness – Isa. 55:4; John 8:14
 - The first begotten of the dead – Col. 1:18; 1 Cor. 15:20
 - The prince of the kings of the earth – Rev. 17:14; Phil. 2:9-11
- ❖ Jesus loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood – Heb. 9:14; Eph. 1:7
- ❖ Believers have been made kings and priests unto God – 1 Pet. 2:5,9; Rom. 5:1-2
- ❖ Glory and dominion belong to God forever – 1 Tim. 6:16; Rev. 5:13

Revelation 1:7-8 - Who Jesus Is

- ❖ Jesus is coming again visibly and publicly – Rev. 1:7; Mat. 24:27
- ❖ Every eye shall see Him – Acts 1:9-11; Mat. 24:30
- ❖ The clouds represent God's presence and glory – Exo. 13:21-22; Heb. 12:1
- ❖ Those who pierced Him shall look upon Him – Zech. 12:10; John 19:37
- ❖ The prophecy of Christ's return connects directly to Zechariah's prophecy – Zech. 12:10; Mat. 24:30
- ❖ Jesus identifies Himself as:
 - Alpha and Omega – Isa. 41:4; Rev. 22:13
 - The Almighty – Isa. 9:6; Rev. 19:6

Revelation 1:9-11 - John's Position and Assignment

- ❖ John identified himself as a companion in tribulation with believers – Rev. 1:9; Phil. 1:7
- ❖ John suffered because of the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ – Rev. 1:9; 2 Tim. 3:12
- ❖ John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day – Rev. 1:10; Acts 10:10
- ❖ John heard a great voice like a trumpet – Rev. 1:10; Exo. 19:16
- ❖ Jesus commanded John to write what he saw and send it to the churches – Rev. 1:11; Hab. 2:2

Revelation 1:12-16 - Vision of the Son of Man

- ❖ What John heard caused him to turn and see Jesus – Rev. 1:12; Jer. 33:3
- ❖ The seven golden candlesticks represent the churches – Rev. 1:20; Mat. 5:14-16
 - The candlestick imagery points back to the tabernacle lampstand – Exo. 25:31-37; Zech. 4:2
 - Jesus stood in the midst of the candlesticks showing His presence among the churches – Rev. 1:13; Mat. 18:20
- ❖ Jesus standing in the midst of the candlesticks reminds us that:
 - Jesus is present in the midst of His churches
 - Church activity does not hide church condition
 - A church can impress people while grieving Christ – 1 Sam. 16:7; Rev. 2:4
- ❖ Jesus was clothed in garments representing authority and priesthood – Heb. 4:14-16; Exo. 28:4

- ❖ His white hair speaks of wisdom and eternity – Dan. 7:9; Mic. 5:2
- ❖ His white hair connects Jesus to the Ancient of Days imagery in Daniel – Dan. 7:9; Rev. 1:14
- ❖ His eyes like fire reveal perfect vision and judgment – Heb. 4:13; Dan. 10:6
- ❖ His feet like brass represent judgment and endurance – Exo. 27:1-6; Eze. 1:7
 - Brass is associated with judgment and sacrifice throughout Scripture (Brazen altar – Exo. 27:1-6)
 - Endurance through fire – Dan. 3:24-25

- ❖ His voice as many waters reveals majesty and authority – Eze. 43:2; Psa. 29:3-4

- ❖ The 7 stars represent the messengers of the churches – Rev. 1:20; Rev. 2:1
- ❖ The sword from His mouth represents the power of His Word – Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17
- ❖ The church does not need entertainment more than it needs the Word of God – The sword from His mouth represents truth, authority, and correction – Heb. 4:12; Eph. 6:17
- ❖ His countenance shined like the sun in strength – Mat. 17:2; Num. 6:24-26

Revelation 1:17-20 - Assurance From Christ

- ❖ John fell at Jesus' feet in awe, but Jesus touched him – Rev. 1:17; Dan. 10:10
- ❖ Believers do not have to fear because of who Jesus is – Isa. 41:4; Rev. 1:17
- ❖ Jesus is the first and the last – Isa. 44:6; Rev. 22:13
- ❖ Jesus lives forevermore and has authority over death and hell – Rev. 1:18; Psa. 68:20
- ❖ Because Christ conquered death, believers do not have to fear death – 1 Cor. 15:54-57; Phil. 1:21-23
- ❖ The seven stars are the angels or messengers of the churches – Rev. 1:20; Rev. 2:1
- ❖ The seven candlesticks represent the churches – Rev. 1:20; Mat. 5:14-16