

Chapter 1

Vs.1,2

A. Revelation

- a. “*apokalupsis*” – **unveiling**; taking off the cover; reveal what once was hidden
- b. **Jesus Christ**
 - i. The unveiling about Jesus
 - 1. It’s all about the person of Jesus Christ
 - 2. Then – the Lamb of God
 - 3. Now – the judge
 - 4. He is the source and the subject
- c. **Source**
 - i. God to Jesus
 - ii. Jesus to the angel (messenger)
- d. **Purpose of this letter...**
 - i. To show what must soon (quickly) take place
 - ii. Once the end-time events begin, they will occur in rapid succession. (just as written down here)

- In this book, the Holy Spirit pulls back the curtain and gives us the privilege of seeing...
 - The glorified Christ in heaven; fulfillment of His sovereign purposes in the world.

B. John – introduces himself as the author

- a. Apostle of Jesus Christ
- b. Wrote Gospel of John, I,II,III John, Revelation

Identity

- * His calling – mending their nets
- * Transfiguration; Given care of Mary
- * First at the Tomb
 - First one to “*See and believe*”
- * Became head of church in Ephesus

- c. **John testifies** (faithfully) – his report
 - i. What he saw
 - 1. Word of God
 - 2. Testimony of Jesus Christ

Note

* When Daniel received his prophecies, he was told to “...*close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.*” (**Dan.12:4**)

* John is told, “Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.” (Rev.22:10)

Vs.3

C. Blessing (God blesses those who...)

a. “makarios” – happy; fortunate

i. Reads

1. It was read aloud in the churches
2. Many back then could not read; it must be read today!

ii. Hears

1. Attentive; to consider what is being said; pay attention to;
2. It must be preached today!!

iii. Takes to heart “tereo” – hold fast; guard; keep watch over; obey

1. **James 1:22-25** READ

WHY? – The Time is Near

Vs.4

A. Greeting

a. **Author** – Apostle John

b. **Recipients** – To the seven churches (modern day western Turkey)

i. **Ex.** – Show MAP

ii. **God, the Father** (“I AM”)

1. Him who is and who was and who is to come (unchangeableness)
2. The Eternal One
3. El Olam – **Psalm 90:2** – “...from everlasting to everlasting, you are God.”

iii. **God, the Spirit**

1. Seven spirits before His throne (perfect/complete)

Point

* Picture of Tabernacle

* Candlestick – seven cups; always lit before the Holy of Holies

* **Hebrews 8:5** – “The priests serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in Heaven...”

* **Hebrews 9:24** – “For Christ did not enter a man-made sanctuary that was only a copy of the true one..”

* **Isaiah 11:1,2** – “A shoot will come up from Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit. The Spirit of the Lord will rest on Him – the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of power, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord...”

SPIRIT

Wisdom Understanding Counsel The Lord Power Knowledge Fear of the Lord

Vs.5

- iv. **God, the Son (Jesus)**
 - 1. **Faithful** (reliable) **witness** (martyr)
 - a. Prophet
 - b. Source of the revelation to be given
 - c. All He heard from the Father, He gave to His disciples
 - 2. **Firstborn from the dead** (firstborn = heir)
 - a. Priest
 - b. Resurrection – Christ rose to die no more
 - 3. **Ruler of kings of the earth**
 - a. King
 - b. After 2nd Coming
 - c. He obtained by the Cross, not by Satan’s temptation
 - 4. **Loves us**
 - a. An ever-continuing character
 - 5. **Freed (washed) us from our sins**
 - a. By His blood

Vs.6

- 6. **Made us to be...**
 - a. Kingdom
 - i. A sphere of ruler-ship with Him as the Head
 - b. Priests
 - i. We can go boldly at any time
 - ii. Only the priest could do this in the OT
 - c. Purpose – To serve (the Father)

Question: *How do we serve Him?*

- * Not to sit around; not to have our bags packed
- * But to wake up and actively serve Him

Vs.7,8 – Vision of the Son of Man

A. Exclamation

- a. **Christ’s return** (overriding theme of Revelation)
 - i. **Acts 1:6-11** READ
 - ii. **Matthew 24:30** – “*At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.*”

- iii. Not the Rapture (only church will see Him)
 - 1. But the 2nd Coming – **Revelation 19**
 - a. All eyes shall see Him
 - b. Those who pierced Him (Israel)
- iv. Mourn – *Why?*
 - 1. Those who persecuted Him down through the ages

b. The Lord God

- i. Alpha – first letter of Greek alphabet
 - 1. God is at the beginning of all things
- ii. Omega – last letter of Greek alphabet
 - 1. God is at the end of all things
- iii. Who is – present (continually)
- iv. Who was – past (at creation)
- v. Who is to come – 2nd Coming

**The Almighty
(All Powerful One)**

Vs.9-11

A. Setting

- a. Brother and companion in...
 - i. Suffering
 - ii. Kingdom
 - iii. Patient endurance
- b. Patmos
 - i. Island, 40 miles from Ephesus
 - ii. Roman penal colony
 - 1. Hard labor
 - 2. Scourging
 - 3. Scant food
 - iii. 60 square miles

Note

- * Political exiles sent here
- * Refusing Emperor worship (Domitian, Emperor)
- * Christians were to blame for the state problems
- * Loss of rights and property

- c. *Reason?*
 - i. Word of God
 - ii. Testimony of Jesus
- d. The Lord's day
 - i. Devos
 - ii. *"In the Spirit"*
 - 1. Not conscious of anything around him

- e. A voice like a trumpet
 - i. An announcement; a call to arms

B. The Message

- a. Write on a scroll
 - i. What you see
- b. Send it to 7 churches
 - i. Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea

Vs.12-16

A. A Description

- a. Seven golden lamp-stands
 - i. **Ex.** – picture of Lamp-stand
- b. Son of Man (Christ used it of himself 80 times)
 - i. **His dress** (vs.13)
 - 1. Robe – worn by prophets, priests, kings
 - a. Worn by the high priest
 - 2. Golden sash – royalty; dignity
 - ii. **Head and Hair** (vs.14)
 - 1. White like wool/snow – sinlessness, purity
 - a. **Daniel 7:9; 10:6** – similar vision
 - b. Ancient of Days
 - iii. **Eyes**
 - 1. **Daniel 10:6**
 - 2. Blazing fire (He sees all; no one can hide)
 - 3. **Hebrews 4:13** – *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from His sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”*
 - iv. **Feet** (vs.15)
 - 1. Bronze glowing in a furnace
 - 2. Bronze – judgment (brazen altar – judgment for sin)
 - a. Trample down the enemy in judgment

Note

- * First coming – the Lamb of God to bring joy/peace
- * Second coming – to bring judgment

- v. **Voice**
 - 1. Sound of rushing waters
 - a. Powerful; peaceful; awesome
 - 2. **Ex.** – Niagara Falls
 - 3. **Ezekiel 43:2**
- vi. **Right Hand** (vs.16)
 - 1. Held 7 stars

- a. Any heavenly light
- vii. **Mouth**
 - 1. Double edged sword
 - 2. **Hebrews 4:12** – “*The Word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword....*”
 - 3. **Ephesians 6:17** – “*...the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.*”
 - 4. Power of the Word of God
- viii. **Face**
 - 1. Sun shining in all its brilliance
 - 2. God always appears as light

Vs.17,18

A. John's reaction

- a. Faints
 - i. Examples

Question: *How would you respond?*

- b. His hand
 - i. Touches him
 - ii. Hasn't touched him in over 60 years

B. Identity revealed

- a. First and the last (alpha and omega)
- b. Living One
 - i. Was dead; now alive forever more (resurrection)
- c. Holds the keys of death and hades
 - i. Place of departed spirits (hell/sheol/hades)

Vs.19,20

A. The message

- a. **Write**
 - i. What you have seen (chpt.1)
 - ii. What is now (chpt.2,3)
 - iii. What will take place later (chpt.4-20)
 - 1. Have already begun to happen
- b. **7 Stars?**
 - i. Angels of 7 churches
 - 1. Literal angels (messengers) or pastors
 - ii. Seven candlesticks
 - 1. Seven literal churches