

The Revelation of Jesus Christ - Message #1 Revelation 1:1-8 (5/3/09 PM)

This book is the last inspired book to be written and properly stands at the end of the New Testament and the whole Bible. The human author is John the Apostle.

1. The Prologue (1-3)

John's Introduction

- **The person of the book**

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ”

The word revelation is where we get our word apocalypse which has come to mean anything catastrophic. The word means to unveil or disclose. The title shows that this book is meant to be understood. Jesus is the central theme of the entire prophecy. You must not separate the person from the prophecy.

Revelation Reveals Jesus Christ in His Glory

- **The purpose of the book**

“Which God gave Him to show to His servants...”

Revelation claims to be of divine origin. This book is about Christ in His glory. The Gospels showed Christ in His incarnation and His humiliation. This book is an exaltation of Jesus Christ which is to be shown to those who acknowledge Him as Savior and Lord.

Only a Saved Person Can Comprehend This Prophecy

- **The prophecy of the book**

“things which must shortly take place”

This book is primarily about the future. These events are imminent meaning they can happen at any time. The word for “shortly” is used in this sense throughout the New Testament.

The Second Coming of Jesus Is Central

- **The pattern of the book purpose**

“And He sent and signified it”

This word means to make known by signs and symbols. Revelation contains more symbols than any other book in the New Testament. Nowhere does the book directly quote the Old Testament but 278 verses allude to it.

Symbols Convey Information and Arouse Emotion

- **The path of the book**

“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 is the only book communicated to its human author by an angel. The path is God to Jesus to the angel to John to us. Angels appear in every chapter except chapters 4 and 13.

The Word Angel Appears More Here than In Any Other Book

- **The promise of the book**

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it”

This is the first of seven beatitudes in the book. The number seven is prominent in Revelation as well. All three verbs are present participles meaning continuous action. The verb reads means to read aloud. This book was first read aloud in the seven local churches.

One Must Heed as Well as Read the Prophecy to be Blessed by It

- **The plea of the book**

“for the time is near”

The word for time is not *chronos* which is clock time but *kairos* which is seasons or periods of time. The final era of history is in view and by God's standard it is near.

James 5:9, “You also be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.” This is the message of the New Testament.

The Return of Jesus Christ Is the Next Event on God’s Prophetic Calendar

2. **The Greeting** (4-6)

Ancient Writers Put Their Names at the Beginning of Letters

“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, and from Jesus Christ”

These verses reference the Trinity. God the Father is described in terms that we can understand even though He dwells outside of time.

The Holy Spirit is depicted in all of His fullness as “the seven spirits” probably alluding to [Isaiah 11:1](#). Jesus is mentioned last because of His prominence in this book. John breaks out into a doxology of praise.

• **The offices of Jesus**

As this book is a Revelation of Jesus Christ John describes Him in His three offices.

(1) Prophet “the faithful witness”

Paul spoke of “Christ Jesus who witnessed the good confession before Pontius Pilate”, [1 Timothy 6:13](#). Jesus said to Pilate “For this cause I was born, and for this cause I have come into the world, that I should bear witness to the truth”, [John 18:37](#).

(2) Priest “the firstborn from the dead”

This does not mean the first person resurrected but the most preeminent person every resurrected.

[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 may have the preeminence.”

Jesus Christ is the most important person who has ever lived because He is God come in the flesh. This was proved by His resurrection.

(3) King “the ruler over the kings of the earth”

Christ is the ultimate ruler whether men acknowledge Him or not.

Paul describes Jesus as “He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honor and everlasting power. Amen.”

[1 Timothy 6:15-16](#)

• **The work of Jesus**

John describes Christ’s great work of redemption.

“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.”

The word “loved” is in the present tense meaning He loves us now. The proof of His love is that He died for our sins not His own, for He had no sin. [Romans 5:8](#), “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. When we are saved we become heirs and joint heirs with Christ.

John’s Praise Is Inspired Yet Personal

3. **The Theme** (7-8)

A Preview of Christ’s Second Coming

“Behold, He is coming with clouds”

This is the first of 25 times John says “Behold”. The prophecy will continue to amaze him.

This is the first of seven references to His Second Coming in Revelation. Jesus spoke words very similar to this in [Matthew 24:30](#). Clouds in scripture often symbolize God’s presence.

More than 500 verses in scripture reveal that Jesus will return. About 1 out of every 25 verses in the New Testament refers to Christ's Second Coming.

- **A worldwide revelation**

“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.”

The ones who “pierced Him” is a reference to Israel and a fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10.

“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.” A great many Jews will acknowledge Jesus as their Messiah. Their mourning is one of repentance. Many Gentiles will be saved but many more will “mourn because of Him” out of despair at His judgment.

Every Person Who Ever Lived Will Meet Jesus Christ

Those events are outlined in this prophecy.

- **A divine affirmation**

“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.”

God Himself signed His name to this prophecy. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Knowledge is conveyed through letters forming into words. God has all knowledge so this prophecy is sure to be fulfilled. He is the Eternal One who transcends time. He is “the Almighty” displaying His omnipotence.

Nothing and No One Can Keep This Prophecy from Being Fulfilled