

Jesus Revealed

Studies in the Book of Revelation — Chapter 1

I. A Greeting to the Churches

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 (Revelation 1:4)

The Writer: John, the Apostle (vv. 1-2)

- “the disciple whom Jesus loved” (Gospel of John)
- “your brother and companion in tribulation” (v. 9)

The Recipients: Seven Churches in Asia Minor (v. 4, 11)

- These churches are representative of all churches throughout the Church Age (from Pentecost until the Rapture).

The Message: “Grace and Peace” (vv. 4-6).

- From God the Father (v. 4)
- From the Holy Spirit (“seven Spirits” — see Isaiah 11:1,2)
- From Jesus Christ (v. 5)

- 1) “Faithful Witness”: His past role as Prophet
- 2) “First Begotten of the Dead”: His present role as Priest
- 3) “Prince of the Kings of the Earth”: His future role as King

The Theme of the Book: Reclaiming the Kingdom (vv. 7-8)

- The central teaching of Scripture is Jesus’ exaltation as King of kings; the story of Redemption is not the end goal, but a critical piece in the broader theme of Christ’s Millennial Reign.

For it became him, for whom *are* all things, and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. (Hebrews 2:10)

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II. A Glimpse into the Future (vv. 9-20)

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet....And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; And in the midst of the seven candlesticks *one* like unto the Son of man.... (Revelation 1:10, 12-13)

How does John receive the revelation?

- John was supernaturally transported in his spirit to see and hear the events of the future in real time (v. 10).
- The phrase "Day of the Lord" is used throughout Scripture to refer to period of time that likely extends from the Rapture until the end of Christ's Millennial Reign (i.e. Joel 1:15; Acts 2:20; 1Cor. 5:5; 2Pet. 3:10)

Who does John meet?

- 1) An Awesome Revelation
John meets Jesus as Judge (vv. 10-16).
- 2) An Appropriate Response
John falls at Jesus' feet as dead (v. 17).
- 3) An Approving Reassurance
Jesus comforts John with the words, "Fear Not" (vv. 17-18).

Throughout the Book, John is given the command to "Write"

Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; (Revelation 1:19)

- 1) *"the things which thou hast seen"* — the events narrated in chapter 1
- 2) *"the things which are"* — the present state of the church (chapters 2-3)
- 3) *"the things which shall be hereafter"* — the events unfolded in chapters 4-22

I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending....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. (Revelation 1:8, 18)

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