



# A STUDY IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION



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REVELATION

CHAPTER 1B

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY









# Last week...

- Introduction to the book
- Background material
- Methods of interpretation
- Verses 1-4





## Revelation 1:5-16

*Verse 5- and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—*

*Firstborn of the dead- Prōtotokos means the chief one, the primary one, the heir, the who receives the full inheritance. Jesus Christ risen from the dead is the one who will receive the full inheritance of all that God possesses. He is the first one who rose from the dead with a glorified body.*



# People in Scripture Who Were Raised from the Dead

The widow of Zarephath's son (1 Kings 17:17–24)	Elijah
The Shunammite woman's son (2 Kings 4:18–37)	Elisha
The man raised out of Elisha's grave (2 Kings 13:20–21)	Elisha's bones
The widow of Nain's son (Luke 7:11–17)	Jesus
Jairus' daughter (Mark 5)	Jesus
Lazarus of Bethany (John 11)	Jesus
Various saints in Jerusalem at Jesus' resurrection (Matthew 27:50–53)	Jesus



# People in Scripture Who Were Raised from the Dead

Tabitha (Dorcas) (Acts 9:36–43)

Peter

Eutychus (Acts 20:7–12)

Paul

Jesus (Mark 16:1–8) Why was his resurrection different? He didn't die again!



*Verse 6- and He made us into a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

He makes us kings and priests. We represent Him as priests, and later in verse 13 we will see him as our High Priest.

He has given us access to God as our High Priest

*“Baptists cherish and defend religious liberty and deny the right of any secular or religious authority to impose a confession of faith upon a church or body of churches. We honor the principles of soul competency and the **priesthood of believers**, affirming together both our liberty in Christ and our accountability to each other under the Word of God.*

Committee

Report on the submission of the Baptist Faith and Message 2000



*Verse 7- Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.*

There is a shift from the past to the present tense. The process of His coming is underway now!  
(cf. Daniel 7:13)

The “Coming One” is a messianic title (cf. Hebrews 10:37)



# The Second Coming of Jesus is a major theme in Scripture...

- There are over 1,500 Old Testament passages that refer in some way to the second coming of Jesus.
- One out of every 25 New Testament verses directly refers to the second coming of Jesus Christ.
- For every time the Bible mentions the first coming of Christ, it mentions the second coming 8 times.



## Acts 1:9-12

*And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were watching, and **a cloud took Him up**, out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, then behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them, and they said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”*



## Zechariah 14:4

*On that day **His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives**, which is in front of Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives will be split in its middle from east to west forming a very large valley. Half of the mountain will move toward the north, and the other half toward the south.*





Mount of Olives



*Verse 7- Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.*

Clouds- At least three possibilities:

- Natural clouds
- Clouds of witnesses
- Clouds of glory- a symbol of God's presence *Shekinah*- pillar of cloud in the wilderness, in the tabernacle (Exodus 40), and temple (1 Kings 8:10)



*Verse 7- Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.*

*Every eye will see Him- Possible with current global technology*

*Tribes of the earth- Genesis 6- Tower of Babel, Genesis 10-  
Table of nations*

*Those who pierced Him- the Jews (but really all of us)*



*Verse 7- Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.*

*Will mourn-* They will realize Jesus is the Messiah. A fulfillment of Zechariah 12:10



Zechariah 12:10- *“And I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and of pleading, **so that they will look at Me whom they pierced; and they will mourn for Him,** like one mourning for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.*



Verse 8- *“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”*

- *the Alpha and the Omega- (Present tense)* First and last letters in the Greek alphabet. This speaks to His **omniscience**- He knows all since He is eternal.
- *who is and who was and who is to come-* This speaks to His **omnipresence**
- *the Almighty-* This speaks to His **omnipotence**.



*Verse 9- I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

This verse begins John's first vision in a series of visions. It is the third time he has identified himself in nine verses (vv. 1:1, 4, 9). He is speaking as a witness.

*Patmos*- one of about 50 islands in the area. It served as a Roman penal colony. John was sent to Patmos in 95 A.D.



*Verse 9- I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

John was condemned to a life of hard labor- He was a criminal prisoner. He lost his possessions and civil rights as an enemy of the state. Political prisoners had it easier.

Fortunately, after Domitian died (assassinated), according to Eusebius (church historian), Nerva became emperor and freed John after he served 18 months on Patmos.



*Verse 9- I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

John is a fellow-believer with other believers in three ways:

- In the tribulation- He as on Patmos
- In the kingdom of God- A subject of Jesus Christ
- In the perseverance of Jesus- Enduring in difficult times





The Cave of the Apocalypse



The Isle of Patmos



*Verse 10- I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet,*

John received this vision on Sunday while he was “in the Spirit.” An experience beyond his normal senses.

Much of what he sees and hears is “like” something because it is new.

It had been about 60 years since John had seen Jesus at his ascension (cf. Acts 1:9-12).



*Verse 11- saying, “Write on a scroll what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”*

After every vision, John is commanded to “write it down” except for the vision in 10:4 when he is told, “Do not write.”

The seven cities formed a postal route in Asia Minor



# 7 CHURCHES IN REVELATION

Ephesus  
Smyrna  
Pergamon  
Thyatira  
Sardis  
Philadelphia  
Laodicea





*Verse 12- Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And after turning I saw seven golden lampstands;*

The seven golden lampstands are the seven churches (v. 20)

Golden- the most precious and beautiful metal

Seven- the number of completeness

The lampstands (churches) aren't the light but contain the light (Jesus) that should be given.



*Verse 13- and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like the Son of Man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and wrapped around the chest with a golden sash.*

The Son of Man- Jesus' favorite title for himself- Messianic

This represents a promise. He is with us today in our midst!

Robe and sash- kings (Jesus' kingly role) and prophets (Jesus' prophetic role) and high priests (Jesus' high priestly role) wore these types of robes (*podaras*- reached down to the ground)



Verse 14- *His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire.*

First, John describes his clothes, and now his person

White- a symbol of purity

White hair- (cf. Daniel 7:9)

Eyes- flame of fire (holy intelligence that sees everything)

Revelation gives us the only description of Jesus' appearance



## Isaiah 53:1-2

*Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For He grew up before Him like a tender shoot, And like a root out of dry ground; **He has no stately form or majesty That we would look at Him.***

**(KJV)- he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him.**



*Verse 15- His feet were like burnished bronze when it has been heated to a glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.*

Feet- burnished bronze (red hot burning brass). A reference to judgment.

Jesus moving through his church with chastening judgment.

Voice- with authority and power (cf. Ezekiel 43:2) The rustling of leaves on a tree is 10 decibels; human conversation is normally 65, a dog is about 75; the roar of Niagara Falls and the roar of a lion are both about 87.



*Verse 16- In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.*

Right hand- represents authority, power, and strength

Seven stars- messengers of the seven churches (verse 20)  
Maybe pastors?

Two-edged sword- (*rhomphaia*) Judgment (verse 19:15). He means to protect his church from within and without.





## Rhomphaia

The severe damage inflicted by this weapon on the Roman legionnaires forced them to make modifications to their armor, including the addition reinforcing bands across their helmets, extra shoulder and waist armor, greaves and armor for the sword arm.

Known for its cutting power. The one described in verse 16 is double-edged as it is able to discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart (cf. Heb. 4:12)



*Verse 16- In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.*

Face- Not only does Jesus shine **on** his church, He shines **through** his church. A lamp serves no purpose without light.

The language derives from Judges 5:31, where Deborah and Barak conclude their song by saying: “So may all your enemies perish, O Lord! **But may those who love you be like the sun when it rises in its strength.**” Matthew writes that **Jesus’ face shone like the sun** at his transfiguration (Matt. 17:2).



First verse of the *Battle Hymn of the Republic*...

*Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of  
the Lord; He is **trampling out the vintage**  
where the grapes of wrath are stored; He hath  
loosed the fateful lightning of His **terrible swift  
sword**; His truth is marching on.*

Julia Ward Howe





John's Vision  
of the Son of  
Man in the  
Middle of the  
Lampstands

Revelation 1:13



# Next week...

- Finish Chapter 1
- Begin Chapter 2
- Homework: Read Chapter 2

