

## Revelation - Chapter 1 Summary

Imagine John's incredible surprise to see Jesus, his friend, Lord & Savior again after these 70+ years had passed by. John, who called himself, "the one whom Jesus loved", the one who leaned on Jesus's chest at their Last Supper before Jesus's crucifixion, the one whom Jesus entrusted to care for His mother as He was on the Cross at Calvary, is now in his early 90's.



John the youngest disciple of Jesus is nearing the end of his life. He is the pastor & elder at the church in Ephesus and has been exiled to Patmos because of his faithful testimony to the saving Gospel of Jesus. Patmos, the equivalent of the modern day Alcatraz, is an island off the coast of Greece and about 40 miles offshore from modern-day Turkey. All alone, John does not know that eventually he will be freed to return to his beloved church and community.

Early Sunday morning all alone, as John is probably worshiping God, Jesus appears not as the suffering lamb on the cross but in all His glory.



There stands Jesus but this time He is:

- Wearing a long robe with a golden sash across His chest signifying His role as the Great High Priest of His people.
- He is standing in the middle of 7 golden lamp stands which represent the 7 churches He has a message for: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea
- His head and hair are as white as snow depicting the Ancient of Days or God the Father and Christ's work of chastening and purifying His church.
- His eyes are like a flame of fire penetrating to the very depths of His church.



- His feet burnished glowing bronze symbolizing His sacrifice for sin and divine judgment on it.
- His voice sounded like many waters. Earlier John had heard Him speak with a trumpet like voice but now He was speaking like the eternal God described in the book of Ezekiel affirming His deity.
- He has seven stars in his right hand representing the seven churches.
- In His mouth was a two-edged sword denoting judgment against enemies from inside the church.
- His face shone brilliantly like the sun depicting the glory of God through Christ that shines in and through His church, reflecting His glory to the world with Christ being ultimately glorified.

Jesus gave John a clear charge: to write everything he saw and heard and send it to the seven churches through each church's pastor. This wide distribution of the book guaranteed that the revelation from Jesus Christ would not only address believers in John's own day, but it would continue to inform and encourage believers until Jesus returns.

Jesus commanded John to write about 3 things which is the outline for the book of Revelation:

- Past - Vision of Christ in all His current glory - Chapter 1
- Present - Message to 7 Churches which also applies to us today - Chapter 2-3
- Future - Events yet to take place - Chapter 4 -22

Jesus wanted John & future generations to know about His current glorified state, how to keep the faith, and what events would take place in the future. Through Jesus' proclamations in Chapter 1 we learn that Jesus:

- Is the first, the last, the living One
- He is the Alpha & Omega, the One Who was, Who is, & Who is to come, the Almighty - He is sovereign & transcendent over the past, present and future.
- He was dead & is now alive forevermore & has the keys to Hades & death - Christ lives forever in a union of glorified humanity and deity and has the authority to decide who dies and who lives. Those who have accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior have already been delivered from death and Hades by Christ's sacrificial death on the cross.
- He is the faithful witness - the One who always speaks and represents the truth
- The firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth - Christ is the firstborn of all creation, He is the first to receive a resurrection body which is immortal. Of all who have ever been or ever will be resurrected, He is the premier One and the the promised descendant of David
- He loves us & released us from our sins by His blood on the cross.
- He has made believers in Him to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father
- The glory and dominion are His forevermore



- He is coming back
- When He comes back:
  - He will be robed in the Shekinah glory of God (*coming with the clouds*) and the brilliance of innumerable angels and the redeemed who accompany Him will be both an indescribable and terrifying event.
  - Everyone will see Him
  - The tribes of the earth will mourn over Him prompted by their terror over their impending judgement and doom. Those who have accepted Him as Lord & Savior will enter the Millennial Kingdom with Him



- The time is near for Him to come back
- Those who read, hear & heed the words of this book that John writes will be blessed



When John first saw Jesus he was so overwhelmed with Jesus's majesty he could not even stand. He said, " I fell on my face like a dead man". John, the elder, theologian, evangelist, apostle and elite member of Christ's inner circle was instantly terrified. Jesus in all His majesty did yet another incredible thing - He touched John & said "Do not be afraid".

What an incredible picture of the cross. We could not stand before God without our friend, Lord & Savior Jesus Christ who died to save us from our sins so that we could have new life here on this earth & spend eternity with God. Believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and you too will have eternal life.