

## **The Book of Revelation**

### **-Revelation Chapter 1 –**

### **The Introduction**

The first chapter of the book of Revelation is an introduction to what God intended to show his servant John the Apostle and the church about the events of the church age and beyond. He gave John the word *Revelation* which means **laying bare or making naked**; or a **disclosure of the truth of Jesus Christ**. He shows these things which are going to come to pass wrapped around the things which had happened in the past and the things which were presently happening. This is basically an introduction of the book of Revelation. **God wanted his people to understand the significance of what the past, present and future play in regard to living the Christian life.**

John was instructed to write some things specifically. He was to write **the Word of God**. He was to write **the testimony of Jesus**. The word testimony means bearing witness of Jesus. He was to write the **things he personally witnessed in this viewing that God gave Him** of the future. Wrapping all this with a blessing that God promised to **all those who would read**, and **hear the Words** of the prophecy, and **then also keep them**. It is very important to understand that God wants us to learn from this passage of scripture and keep what it is He is giving to us in this passage of Scripture. **This is not a dissertation to incite fear in the hearts of the people of God.** In fact, He wants us to learn something from this and do what it is that we are instructed; so it behooves us, **those who read this instruction**, that we **learned from what we hear** from it, and that we read it, and that **we keep the things that are written**. “The time is at hand!” and **God wants us to know that This - His Business - is a very important business.** Therefore, **we are not going to look at this with the heart of fear.** We are going to review this passage of Scripture with **an open knowledge that God wants us to know** some things so He will reveal some things to us. When it is more than we can handle, He won’t reveal that to us. **Ultimately, we should learn from everything we see in this passage of Scripture so that we can better serve our Savior.**

#### **A. The Writer (Revelation 1:1-4)**

The first thing we find here in this introductory chapter of Revelation is a description of the writer. The writer is **the Apostle John**. He uses the word the revelation to begin with He uses that term in this process to let us know that **he’s going to open some doors of Christianity** that we otherwise haven’t seen. His plan is to speak that Word as instructed and write the testimony of Jesus - what he witnessed of Jesus while He was here on earth - and then **write the things he personally witnessed in the life of Christ**. In doing so he also puts the promise and a blessing in verse three using the word “**blessed**” which means happy!

## **B. The Subject – Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:5-8)**

He then in **the second section** of this introduction starts to explain **the Subject to whom he is writing about**. That is none other than Jesus Christ. **The word “Christ” means the Anointed One or the Messiah**. It is very important that we realize that this is **Jesus the Chosen One the Anointed One** “Who is the Faithful Witness, and the first Begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the Kingdoms of the earth” as stated in verse five. John then explains **this about Jesus** - what He did for the church as far as dying, and **making it possible for us all to become kings and priests to God**. We are also able to be **a part of this family of God**. Secondly, he tells us what Jesus will do for us. **He promises He’s going to come see us in the clouds which is definitely a reference to the Rapture**. Then he explains what Jesus is going to become. **He is the Beginning!** As He stated, **“I am the Alpha”** and then He says that He also is **the Omega**. **“Omega,” means the ending or termination**. He was there at the beginning. He was there at the beginning of Creation and will be there at the end of all things. Why, because **He is “the Almighty”** as stated in verse eight. We need to receive comfort in knowing that Jesus is always there. **He truly will never leave us or forsake us! (Hebrews 13:5)**

## **C. What the Writer Saw (Revelation 1:9-10)**

The writer then tried to explain what he saw. He laid out for us a very interesting picture and testimony here for us to try to understand. He told us that **he was in the Spirit or had a vision on the Lord’s day or Sunday**. He heard a Great Voice as it were **the voice of a trumpet**. He’s telling us that Jesus is in charge of all of it, and He’s going to take care of all of it. John also sees, in addition, **Jesus in His glorified body!** He knew this because he had witnessed Jesus Transfigured in Matthew 17. He knew what Jesus would look like in His Heavenly form.

He is then instructed to send his writings to **the seven churches which are in Asia**. There’s the church that John had a part in, **the church at Ephesus**. He had been pastor there for some time. Then the **churches at Smyrna, Pergamos, Philadelphia, Thyatira, Sardis, and Laodicea were all churches that he certainly had influence over**. He is writing this document explaining to them the vision that he saw. In **verse 12 he began his vision**. He talked about **seeing a Voice**, which seems odd. How does one see a voice? I do not know, but in this vision he speaks about seeing this Voice, and **this Voice he sees has seven golden candlesticks**. He continued on in his explanation that he saw **One like unto the Son of God**. Certainly, referring to the fact that **Jesus is in charge** even during the church age of our world. He then explained what **the glorified body of Christ looked like**. His explanation is an amazing, mind-boggling description, but understand John is trying to explain something we cannot see nor have never seen before in terminology that we might understand. He is trying to explain that the beauty and the power combine together in this One we call Christ.

#### **D. The Writer's Response (Revelation 1:17-20)**

John's response to what he saw is given to us in verse 17 when **he fell at His feet as dead**. Jesus touched John, then told him not to be afraid. He told him that He is in charge. **"I am He that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore. Amen!"**. In verse 18 he carries it a bit further by explaining that **he has, "the keys of hell and of death"**. That term "keys" is referring to **the very power of death and the very power of hell is now in Jesus's hands**. He already has life and is Life! Now He is holding in his hand the keys of both hell and of death. Amazing concept when you think about it!

He then repeated that John is supposed to write the **things which he has seen, the past things**. The **things which are present**, and the **things which are shall be here after**, future events. John is going to get to see a very big picture that **humanity has never seen before**, and it's going to be mind-boggling to him and certainly as he tries to describe it to us.

The very first mystery he reveals is found in verse 20. Here it says **the mystery of the seven stars** which are in His right hand where **the angels or messengers of the seven churches**. Most theologians believe this is **a reference to the pastors or the leaders of the churches**. He then refers to **the seven churches of the seven golden candlesticks**. These candlesticks are the seven churches.

#### **Conclusion:**

There's always been a certain area of mystery and intrigue in the Book of Revelation. In reality, **God gives us the answers to the questions**. What He wants us to know He explains, but He leaves void or empty those places that He does not want us to know. **Some things we can handle; some things we cannot**. As we look into this wonderful book of a glimpse into eternity past, present and future, we need **not get frightened** as John did. We need to **realize that Jesus is in charge**. The things we don't understand **we don't need to stress over**; Jesus knows! The things that we can clearly see; **we need to adapt our lives to better serve Him through**. Those things which are here to come; we should take **those as an encouragement to continue and press forward and work** to do as Jesus did while He was here on earth – "seek and to save that which was lost". **(Luke 19:10)** We get an insight of the future! With that we should look at what is coming with **the expectation for ourselves, and a concern for those that may not know Christ!** With this knowledge we should **ready ourselves and drive ourselves to try to reach many of the lost**; to make sure they are safe so they do not have to face the judgment here to come. It's our insight to the judgment of God; and **we need to do with it as we are instructed!**