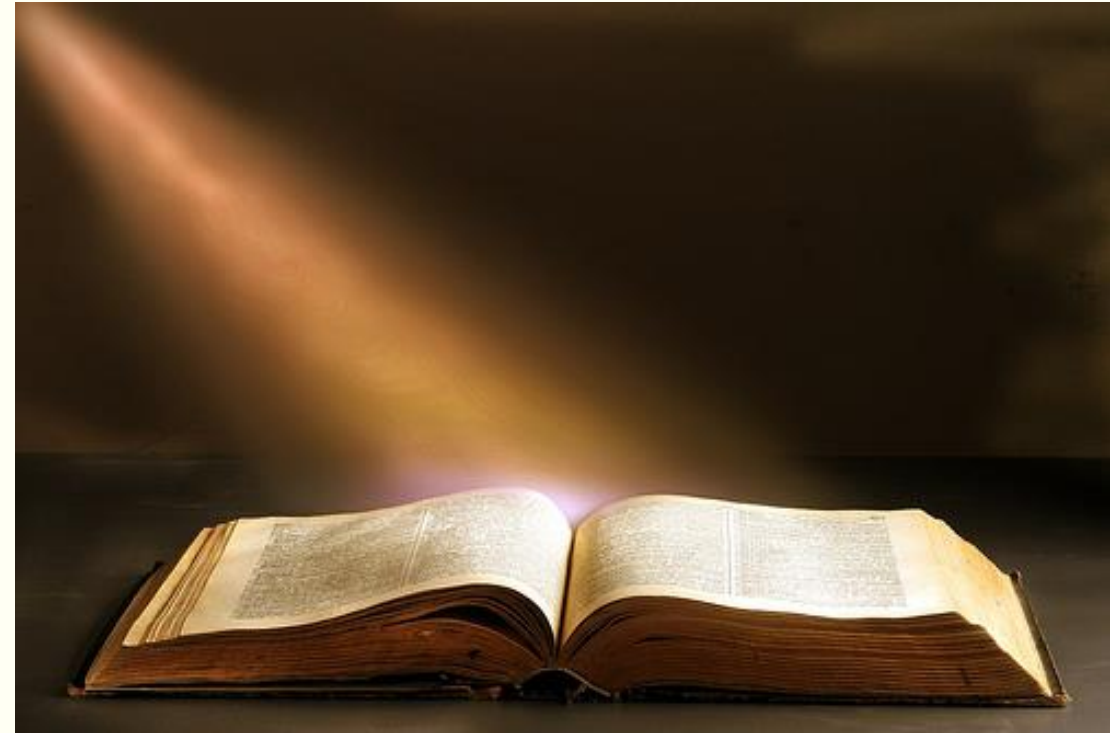




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# Exploring the Book of Revelation: Verse by Verse

## Chapter 1





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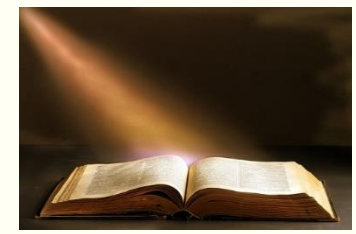
# CHAPTER 1

First Vision - Risen Christ revealed to John among the Lampstands

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# Revelation 1:1-3

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The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, **2** who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. **3** Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; **for the time is near.**

# 1<sup>st</sup> Chiastic Parallel

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Prologue	Parallels	Epilogue
1:1	“to show to his servants”	22:6
1:1	“the things which must soon take place’	22:6
1:1	Jesus sends His angel	22:6, 16
1:3	“blessed is the one who keeps..”	22:7
1:3	“the words of the prophecy”	22:7
1:3	“the time is near”	22:10
1:4	“the seven churches’	22:16
1:8	“the Alpha and the Omega”	22:10

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Rev 1:1

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## Symbolic forms

- Son of Man
- Lion of Judah
- Lamb
- Male child
- Word of God

- Visions of the Risen Christ after His ascension in Acts 1
- Without the book of Revelation, we would have had less information about the glory and power and ultimate victory of Jesus
- God’s revelation about Christ, also the revelation God gave to Christ as Jesus occupies the office of Mediator between God and man
- Revelation from Jesus about Jesus and His salvific activities on behalf of His faithful people
- The Bible always presents the end as near and the sure fulfillment of the purpose of God revealed by the prophets
- Signified “to show by a sign or symbol”, “to explain”, “to make known” – figurative presentation that pointed to a future event
- Preeminent purpose of Revelation – to inform God’s people the impending events that will seal their eternal destiny
- This book above all needs to be studied, explored and understood by God’s people

# The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Rev 1:2

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- John “testifies” or “witnesses” of the things he saw
- Both books John wrote were founded on the word of testimony
- Rev 12:11 – they overcame by the word of their testimony
- Rev 12:14 - Faithful saints keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ
- “The Word of God” and “The testimony of Jesus” are the things John saw
- Jesus is the Author. John is the writer.
- Three times the phrases conjoined in Revelation (Rev 1:2, 9, 20:4)
- Rev 19:10 – defines the “testimony of Jesus” as the “Spirit of Prophecy” meaning “the Spirit who speaks through the prophets”

# First of “7” Beatitudes in Revelation – Rev 1:3

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## Read

- Means “search”
- John 5:39

## Hear

- Means “listen”
- Luke 6:47,48

## Keep

- Means “accept and obey”
- Luke 8:11, 15, 21

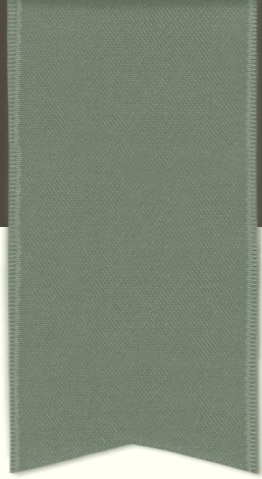
# First of “7” Beatitudes in Revelation – Rev 1:3

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- The book opens with a blessing AND a curse on those who adds or subtracts from it
- “Deep inner joy” – Beatitudes of the Sermon on the Mount
- Public reading in a church setting was common as documents were rare and expensive to duplicate and many were illiterate
- God foresaw how the unpopular truths of Revelation would be once they were fully understood
- Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and observe it (Lk 11:28)
- Chiastic structure of Revelation beatitudes
  - Rev 1:3 – Reading the book
    - Rev 14:13 – Die in the Lord
      - Rev 16:15 – Keeping the garment
      - Rev 19:9 – Invitation to the wedding supper
    - Rev 20: 6 – First resurrection
  - Rev 22:7 – Keeps the words of the book
  - Rev 22:14 – Do His commandment







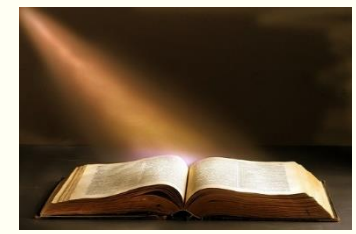
# REVELATION'S HERMENEUTICS (1: 1-3)

To correctly interpret Revelation (Historicist approach)

“Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.” Rev 1:19

# Revelation 1:4-8

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4 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, **5** and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, **6** and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. **7** Behold, He is coming with clouds, 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. **8** “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.”

# Sweeping summary to the last page of the story

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- Introduces the three Persons of the Godhead working on behalf of God's end-time people
  - Eternal existence
  - Eternal love
  - Intense involvement
- Gospel
- Second Coming
- God's people are saved and glorified
- Judgment Day for the wicked

Jesus wins!!!



# God's self-revelation of His name – Rev 1:4

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- Grace – Greek greeting “charis” meaning good will, favor
- Peace – Hebrew greeting “shalom”
- Customary greeting among the early Christians (Paul and Peter’s writings)
- God’s gift of grace in Jesus Christ gives us peace even in life’s hardest experiences



## God the Father

“Who is”... “Who was”... “Who is to come”

And God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM.” And He said, “Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ – Exodus 3:14

“I AM that I AM” or “I will be whatever I will be”

English word “LORD” is based on 4 Hebrew consonant letters “YHWH” or “Yahweh”

Close relationship to the verb “to be”

Expresses the eternal existence of God in the past, present and future

# The Plurality of the Holy Spirit – Rev 1:4

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- Seven Spirits before the throne in Rev 1:4 identical to:
  - Seven Spirits of God (Rev 3:1)
  - Seven lamps of fire burning before the throne (Rev 4:5)
  - Seven eyes sent out into all the earth (Rev 5:6)
  
- Greek translation (Septuagint) of Old Testament (Isa 11:2) show the seven designations of the Spirit of God
  - Spirit of wisdom and understanding
  - Spirit of counsel and might
  - Spirit of knowledge and godliness
  - Spirit of the fear of God
  
- Zech 4: 2,6,10 – eyes of the Lord, not by might nor by power
  
- “He who has ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches”

**Signifies the fullness and universality of activity of the Holy Spirit on behalf of God’s faithful people**

# God the Son: Jesus Christ – Rev 1:5

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- Three titles with allusions to Ps 89 (Davidic covenant)
  - Faithful Witness
  - Firstborn from the dead
  - Ruler over the kings of the earth
- “Also I will make him **My firstborn**, the **Highest of the kings of the earth**.” - Ps 89:27
- “His seed shall endure forever, and his throne as the sun before Me; it shall be established forever like the moon, even like the **Faithful witness** in the heaven.” Ps 89:37
- “Martus” in Greek meaning “martyr” one who witnessed unto death. Jesus is the true witness of God’s character
- “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.” – Col 1:18



# God the Son: Jesus Christ – Rev 1:5

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- Why these three titles?
  - Faithful Witness - Death
  - Firstborn from the dead - Resurrection
  - Ruler over the kings of the earth - Glorification
- The lordship over the kingdoms of the earth which the devil offered to Jesus in the wilderness was won through His death on the cross and resurrection (stone kingdom)
- “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.” – Matt 28:18, Eph 1:20, 21
- 1<sup>st</sup> Doxology about what Jesus has done on our behalf
- “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” – Rom 5:8
- Christ **perpetual love** (agapo – present tense) for us and our deliverance from sin (past tense)

# KINGS AND PRIESTS – Rev 1:6

...in the order of Melchizedek, **king** of Salem, **priest** of God Most High (Gen 14:18; Heb 5:6)

“...inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”(Matt 25:34)

kings

heavenly  
inheritance

Dan 7:18, 27



priests

immediate  
access to God

1 Pet 2:5, 9

“And have made us kings and priests to our God, and we shall reign on the earth.”(Rev 5:6)



# Theme of the Book of Revelation – Rev 1:7

Begins with “Amen” (vs 6). Ends with “Amen” (vs 7)

Begins with **Rev 1:7**. Ends with **Rev 22:7**

Literal and personal return of Christ to the earth

Special resurrection of those who crucified Jesus  
(Dan 12: 1,2; Matt 26:63, 64)

Marks the end of this world’s history and the  
beginning of the eternal kingdom

“Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in  
heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will  
mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming  
on the clouds of heaven with power and great  
glory.” Matt 24:30



The book of the Coming One

# Conclusion of the Prologue – Rev 1:8



**the first and the last  
the beginning and the end**

Alpha & Omega – first and last letter of Greek alphabet

Aleph & Tau – first and last Hebrew letters

Associated with the high priest of the OT temple

Urim (Aleph) & Thummim (Tau) – writings on the two stones on the high priest breastplate

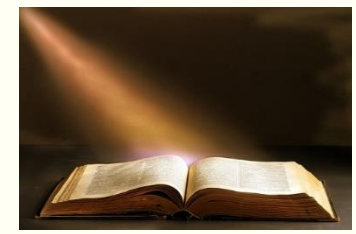
Gospel of John calls Jesus the “Word” – Medium of Revelation

The phrase ‘**the Alpha and the Omega**’ used 4 times is seen to express not eternity only, but infinite, the boundless life which embraces all while it transcends all and comprehends all

“The Almighty” used 9 times in the book of Revelation refers to God’s supremacy and Omnipotence

# Revelation 1:9-11

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**9** I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. **10** I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, **11** saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

# Apostle John on Patmos – Rev 1:9

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- First section
  - Begins with the vision of the glorified Christ
  - Seven messages to the churches
- “I, John” similar to “I, Daniel”
- John identifies himself with those to whom he writes
- The church is the object of Satanic hatred
- John was summoned to Rome to be tried for his faith. He was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil
- By emperor Domitian’s decree, he was exiled because of his fidelity to the Word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ



# On the Lord's Day – Rev 1:10

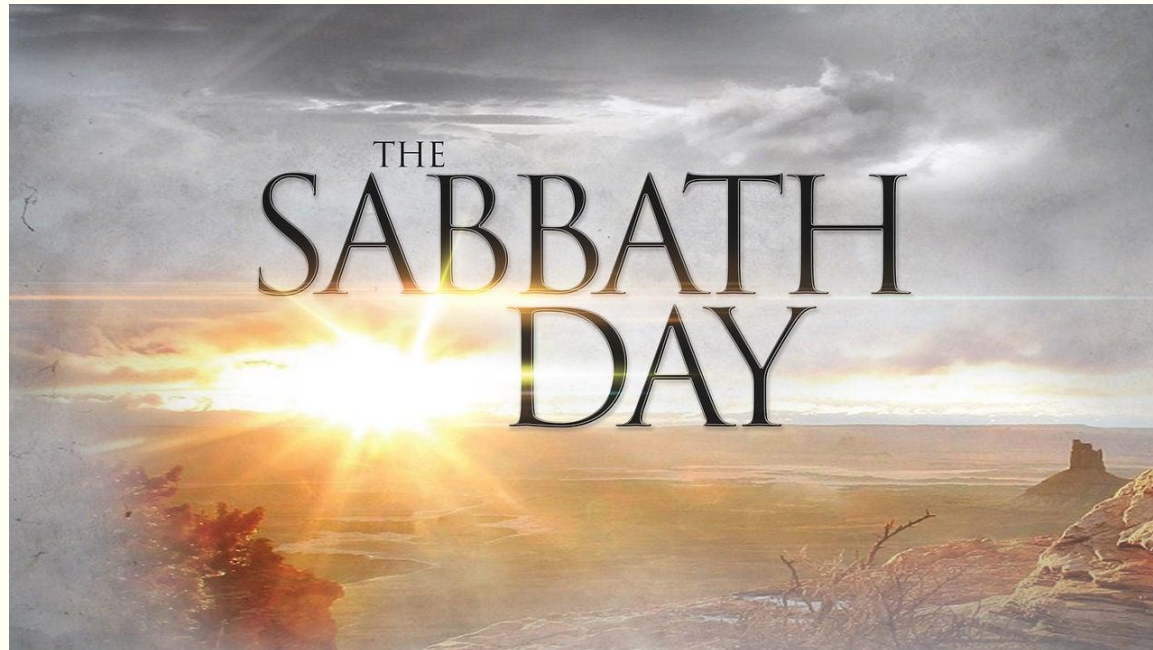
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“In the Spirit” means that John was in vision

Original Greek “the Lord’s Day” correctly rendered “the Lord’s” –

John still referred to the seventh day as the Lord’s Day 65 years after Jesus resurrection

“In the year 325 AD, Sylvester, Bishop of Rome, officially changed the title of the first day, calling it the Lord’s Day.” – Lucien, Catholic historian



“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, from doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, the holy day of the Lord honorable.”

Isa 58:13

“For the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath.”

Matt 12:8



# Letters to the Seven Churches – Rev 1:10-11

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Trumpet-like voice uttered the Ten commandments from Sinai  
(Ex 19:16)

A great sound of a trumpet will announce Jesus appearance on  
the clouds (Matt 24:31)

**Denotes the presence of God who speaks**

Jesus speaks to each of the churches individually for He knows  
them intimately

The seven churches were in seven leading cities of Asia

The individual letters to the churches were sent as a whole (in a  
scroll or book) to all the churches

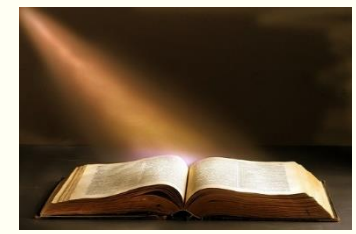
Message to a specific church was also intended for others

Different descriptions of Christ portray different aspects of His  
ministry to the churches. Relates to their specific situation and  
the need of each church



# Revelation 1:12-16

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12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. 14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; 15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; 16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

# The Seven Golden Lampstands – Rev 1:12

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- Jesus is the light of the world (John 8:12)
- “You are the light of the world” set on a lampstand to give light to all (Matt 5:14-16)
- Lampstand made of hammered gold (Num 8:4) signifying purity, refinement through fire, precious value and holy purpose
- In the Holy Place Sanctuary, seven lamps was placed on the golden lampstand fed with oil represented by the Holy Spirit (Zech 4:2,12; Ex 25:31-40)
- John saw seven separate golden lampstands and Christ walking among them
- Parable of the ten virgins (Matt 25)

The church as a lampstand represent its essential role as instruments to convey the light and truth of the gospel and as God’s witness in the world





# “I HEARD” AND “I SAW” PATTERN

John sometimes first hears something in the vision and what he subsequently sees is essentially the same thing, yet in some way different  
(Rev 5:5-6; 7:4,9; 17:3,15; 21:9-11)



1<sup>st</sup> introductory sanctuary scene – Rev 1:12

# Vision of the Glorified Christ “Son of Man”

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## Daniel 10: 4-12

By the Tigris river

Clothed in linen (white)

Waist girded with gold of Uphaz

Body like beryl

Face like lightning

Eyes like torches of fire

Arms and feet like burnished bronze

Sound like the voice of a multitude

Fell with his face to the ground

Hand touches Daniel

“Fear not!”

## Revelation 1:12-18

On the Isle of Patmos

Clothed with garment to the feet

Girded about chest with golden band

Head and hair like wool (white)

Eyes like flame of fire

Feet like fine brass

Voice as the sound of many waters

Countenance like the sun shining brightly

Fell at His feet as dead

Hand laid on John

“Fear not!”

# Christ Divinity no longer veiled by humanity

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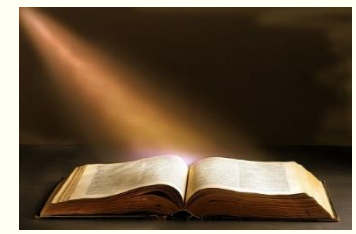
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Garment to the feet	Typical of both priestly and kingly attire
Head and hair white like wool	Like the Ancient of Days (Dan 7:9) represents age, glory, antiquity and wisdom. Same characteristics as God
Eyes like flame of fire	Penetrating gaze – Eyes of the Lord scan to and fro the earth. Seven eyes of the Lamb (Rev 5:6)
Voice - sound of many waters	God speaks with majesty and power. His voice is to be heeded and obeyed
Mouth - sharp two-edged sword	Symbol of the Word of God (Eph 6:17; Heb 4:12,13) Battle against the enemies of God (Rev 19:15,21)
Feet of brass	Greek word “chalkolibanoo” – famous metal made by Greeks and Romans, mixture of copper, silver and gold
Stars in His right hand	Right hand – symbol of power and authority
Shone like the sun	Glory, brilliance and brightness

“Son of Man” was Jesus’ favorite title in the gospels which He often used to refer to Himself

# Revelation 1:17-20

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17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. 18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death. 19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

# Commission to send messages to the 7 churches

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7  
stars

· Angels (angelos)  
· Messengers/Ministers

7  
lampstands

· Churches  
· Light (gospel) to the world

- “First and the Last”: **Divine nature** (Isa 44:6)
- “Hades” in Greek or “Sheol” in Hebrew
  - Grave (not eternal burning place – hell) Acts 2:31
  - Demonic powers of death
  - Realm of the underworld
- Greek depiction of god Hades and Hellenistic goddess Hekate believed to possess key of death
- Jesus has overcome both Death and Hades
- He holds the keys – **The Resurrection and the Life**
- Both will be cast in the lake of fire (Rev 20:14)



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