

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

A scroll of Hebrew text is the central focus, partially unrolled to reveal its contents. The scroll is held by a wooden handle on the left. The background is a dramatic, low-angle shot of a sunset or sunrise over a landscape, with warm orange and red tones. The text on the scroll is in Hebrew, and the overall scene is illuminated by the soft light of the setting or rising sun.

Introduction

- The revelation of Jesus Christ
- This book 'unveils' Jesus in all His glory and majesty, in a way that had not been seen before.
- The last impression of Jesus the disciples had seen was at the ascension
- Now John sees his friend in a way he could never imagined!

Introduction

- Without this book the Bible would not be complete.
- As Genesis is the book of beginnings, so Revelation is the book of endings.
- It foretells the end of this order of things – i.e. the way the world is at present.
- It also foretells the end of Satan's rule on planet earth and the end of the false religious and political systems of the world.

Introduction

- It clearly shows the destiny of the Church...
- The destiny of the nation of Israel...
- ...and the destiny of all unbelievers.
- It ties together all the Old & New Testament prophecies and leads into eternity with Jesus enthroned as the universal KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Authorship

- Written by John the Apostle
 - The last living Apostle
- John had been exiled to the Isle of Patmos by Emperor Domitian
- Tertullian records that Domitian had exiled John to Patmos after being unable to kill him!
 - John had been place in a vat of boiling oil, but he did not burn!
 - Domitian was assassinated in 96 A.D.

Time of Writing

- c.94-96AD
- After his exile, John returned to Ephesus as pastor until his death

Dispelling The Myth

- Satan has propagated the lie that this book is not for today
 - “It just depicts a battle between good and evil, but shouldn’t be taken literally”!
- Also he has deceived many into thinking it is too hard to understand
 - “There is too much imagery and mystery”
- There is a lot of imagery in Revelation, but all of the symbols point to a literal truth.

Various Interpretations

- There are two books in the Bible that have been more attacked than any other:
 - **Genesis**, because it is the book of beginnings and exposes Satan as the deceiver of the human race, and predicts that the Saviour will be victorious over him;
 - ...and **Revelation**, the last and concluding book because it records in advance his destiny and ultimate defeat.

Various Interpretations

- There are at least four 'interpretations' of the book
- Preterist
 - This suggests that all the prophecies in the book of Revelation were fulfilled in the early church prior to 70AD when Jerusalem was destroyed

Various Interpretations

- There are at least four 'interpretations' of the book
- Historical
 - This theory suggests that all prophecies are being fulfilled throughout history, that we are in the Millennium age now
 - This view completely misses the whole point of the Tribulation – God's judgement of this Christ-rejecting world prior to His return to set up His kingdom.

Various Interpretations

- There are at least four 'interpretations' of the book
- Spiritual
 - This view doesn't take the ideas and symbols found in Revelation as representing anything literally, but rather spiritualises everything.
 - The real problem with this view is that it is then open to every individual to see what they want to see from the book! So no 'unity of the faith'.

Various Interpretations

- There are at least four 'interpretations' of the book
- Futurist
 - This view states that the most of the prophecies in the book are yet future, and will be literally fulfilled in God's appointed time.
 - This is the only view that allows the Bible to interpret itself, thus ruling out human opinion, because everything can be checked against the Bible itself.

Miscellaneous Facts

- 404 verses / 22 Chapters / 800 allusions to the OT
 - Ref Chuck Missler (see 'Cosmic Codes' for a list).
- There are more names/titles given to Jesus in this book than in the whole of the NT.
- The title most often used in this book is "The Lamb of God" 28x in 22 chapters

Miscellaneous Facts

- 17 scene changes from heaven to earth.
- 44 separate visions.
- The word 'like' appears 22 times to describe something 'like wool'
 - (i.e. not wool but resembles wool).
- The word 'as' appears 65 times, again to describe something for example 'as dead'
 - (i.e. not dead but in this case without movement).

Miscellaneous Facts

- John said 'I saw' 35 times – lots of imagery (things being seen).
- 'Behold' is found 26 times – this is important so look, or listen!
- 'Great' appears 72 times – the magnitude, overwhelming experience.
- The only book in the Bible that promises a blessing for reading it.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ



Chapter 1

Chapter 1

- Prologue vs 1-3
 - The central theme of the book announced
- Salutation vs 4-8
 - Greeting from John, and the Lord
- Vision of Jesus vs 9-18
 - Eight characteristics of the glorified Christ
- John's commission vs 19-20

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:1

2

- God gave this in order that we would know!
- We are not to be in darkness **1 Thes 5:4**
- God is not the author of confusion **1 Cor 14:33**
- This book is intended to be understood

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

2 Revelation 1:1

- **‘Servants’** = doulos (doo'-los) which means ‘bondslave’ Exodus 21:6
- Those who are identified through sacrifice, giving up the right to rule their own lives to their Master.

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must **shortly** come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:1

- **'Shortly'** = Quickly/Rapidly.
- When the things mentioned in the book start they will not stop until all is done.

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:1

2

- **‘Signified’** by the use of signs
 - Hosea 12:10 says: *“I have also spoken by the prophets, and I have multiplied visions, and used **similitudes**, by the ministry of the prophets.”*
- Similitudes are what we would call ‘models’ or ‘types.’

Signified?

- *Question:* So do we interpret the book of Revelation literally or symbolically?
- *Answer:* Both!
- *Question:* How can you interpret the book of Revelation both literally and symbolically?
- *Answer:* You find out what the symbol means, then believe it literally!
- A signpost on the road is only of use if it points to something literal.

¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by **his angel** unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:1

²

- In Rev 19:10 this ‘messenger’ is shown to be a ‘brother’ (fellow believer),
 - *“And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, **See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.**”*

¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by **his angel** unto his servant John:

Revelation 1:1

²

- In Rev 22:8-9 ‘also of the prophets’

- *“And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.” Then saith he unto me, “See thou do it not: for **I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.**””*

Identity of the Messenger?

- Who is this messenger?
- Could this be Daniel?
- What do we know? (or what can we deduce?)
 - They were a fellowservant/brethren/prophet
 - Seemingly an Old Testament prophet because John did not recognise them & they were already in heaven when John receives his vision
 - Daniel is also a picture or type of the church (Dch3)
 - Daniel was given prophecies about the last days
 - Daniel is the only other individual called 'beloved'
 - as was John.

² Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Revelation 1:2

- John here adds his personal comment, that this is a true record of what he saw.
- John had previously given testimony of Jesus in his gospel

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 1:3

- 3 Blessings:
 - Those who read
 - Those who hear
 - Those who keep (an eye on) the things written.
- This is the only book in the Bible that promises a blessing simply for reading it.

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

Revelation 1:3

- It is a book of Prophecy!
 - This alone should silence those who would try to allegorise its contents!
- The whole book is prophetic (Rev 22:8)
 - This means that Ch1 is a prophecy.
 - Ch 2-3 are therefore also prophetic,
 - Ch 4-22.

3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: **for the time is at hand.**

Revelation 1:3

- *'The time is at hand'* Lit: 'ready to start'.
- Thus, that which is prophesied is to begin straight away
 - The fact that the prophecies take up to the end of this present order means the scope of the prophecy is from the 1st century to the end of the age

4 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; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Revelation 1:4

- Why seven?
- Seven in scripture denotes completeness
 - 7 days in the week
 - 7 notes in a musical octave
 - 7 Colours in the rainbow
- 7 churches represent the complete church
 - From a prophetic perspective



**THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF
THE BOOK OF REVELATION
Rev. 2-3**

4 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; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Revelation 1:4

- “*Grace and peace ...*” 17x in NT
- There cannot be real peace without God’s grace coming first.
- But when we know God’s grace, we experience His peace also

4 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;** and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

Revelation 1:4

- This greeting, is not only from John but from God Himself
- He the only one who is outside of time
- Isaiah 46:9-10 / Isaiah 57:15
- He is the same yesterday, today and forever!
- Hebrews 13:8

4 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; and from the **seven Spirits** which are before his throne;

Revelation 1:4

- Who or what are these 7 spirits?
- Once again the idea being conveyed is completeness (“seven”)
- We have this expression 4x in this book.

Seven Spirits

- We are told:
- 1) these spirits are before the throne **Rev 1:4**
- 2) Jesus has the seven Spirits of God **Rev 3:1**
- 3) in heaven there are seven lamps burning before the throne which 'represent' the seven Spirits of God **Rev 4:5**
- 4) the Seven spirits have seven horns (complete strength) and 7 eyes (complete vision) **Rev 5:6**

Seven Spirits

- So are these a form of angelic being?
- Or a manifestation of the Holy Spirit?
- Remember the context:
 - John is giving us an introduction and blessing from God the father (v4), and Jesus Christ (v5),
 - The blessing is ‘Grace and Peace’
 - An angelic being is not able to give this blessing
- So we must conclude that the Holy Spirit is the third person in view here, seen in his ‘unveiled’ form

Seven Spirits

Isaiah 11:1-3 tells us:

- *“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch [Jesus] shall grow out of his roots: And the*
- *[1] spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, [comfort]*
- *[2] the spirit of wisdom and*
- *[3] understanding, the spirit of*
- *[4] counsel and*
- *[5] might, the spirit of*
- *[6] knowledge and of the*
- *[7] fear of the LORD;*

4 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; and from the **seven Spirits** which are before his throne;

Revelation 1:4

- Is there a connection between the seven churches and the seven Spirits?
- Each one of the Seven churches is only one of the whole!
 - Today we have many different types of churches, where the LORD works in different ways. There is no 'one church suits all'

4 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; and from the **seven Spirits** which are before his throne;

Revelation 1:4

- Prophetically, the LORD has worked in different ways throughout the history of the church through His Spirit
- In Ch. 2 & 3 7x *“Hear what the Spirit saith to the churches”*
- And the Church has been given the Spirit as an eternal companion **John 14:16**

- John continues the salutation...

- 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is **the faithful witness**,
and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of
the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and
washed us from our sins in his own blood,
- 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his
Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and
ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:5-6

- Jesus came to show us the Father **John 14:9**

Faithful Witness

37 Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice

John 18:37

- 5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and **the first begotten of the dead**, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,
- 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:5-6

- Just as Jesus was the *'firstfruits'* of them that *slept'* **1 Cor 15:20**
- So he is the first one 'born' from the dead to never die again

The Grace of our LORD

The fivefold Grace of Jesus unto us:

- He loved us
- He washed us from our sins
- Purged our conscience
 - So that now we are a new creation
- He has given us the position of kings
 - He had placed us above every other power
- He has ordained us priests unto God
 - So we have the privilege of the Levites to minister to the LORD

5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness,
and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of
the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and
washed us from our sins in his own blood,
6 And hath **made us** kings and priests unto God and his
Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and
ever. Amen.

Revelation 1:5-6

- John, who is writing this greeting, borrows this statement from Chapter 5:10
 - **Note: the vision John saw begins in verse 10**
- It is clear that John is speaking to the church

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Revelation 1:7

- Matthew records:
- *“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”* **Matt 24:30**

7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

Revelation 1:7

- At the time of the Second Coming
- Jesus will return to defeat the armies of Antichrist who will be about to destroy Israel
- Israel will then realise that Jesus is the Messiah and will mourn on account of the fact that they rejected and crucified him

Israel's National Mourning

- 9 And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations **that come against Jerusalem.**
- 10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, **and they shall mourn** for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.

Zechariah 12:9-10

8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Revelation 1:8

- As John is about to record his vision, he is here instructed to record Jesus' own comment for all who are about to read this book of prophecy!
- Because of Isaiah 41:4 / 44:6 / 48:12 some would argue this is God speaking...
- But as we will see in v11 – Jesus claims this title for Himself

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9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:9

- John had served faithfully, and by now, outlived the other Apostles – see [John 21:21-23](#)
- But now it seemed his was to live out his days in solitude as a slave to Rome on account of his witness for Christ
- But it is in this darkest of times God speaks

Alone With God

- David must have wondered what had happened to God's promises!
- Forced to flee from family and home
- Yet burning with this call to serve God in a greater way...
- When suddenly God speaks in the midst of his trial
- David utters some of the most incredible prophecies during his darkest days

Alone With God

- Elijah had loved the LORD from his youth
- Yet the nation had turned away from God
- God raises up this man and uses him mightily...
- But then he finds himself fleeing for his life!
- Alone at Sinai, after the earthquake, wind and fire, comes the still small voice of God!

Alone With God

- Consider also:
- Daniel
- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Ezekiel
- God revealed incredible prophecies to these men in their darkest times
- “Pain is a megaphone” that allows us to hear God’s voice!

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on **the Lord's day**, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:10

- Not 'Sunday' – 'the first day of the week'
- This is the equivalent to the phrase 'the Day of the LORD' found in the OT
- Historians tell us that in Rome they celebrated 'Emperor's Day', to proclaim the might of the Emperor and celebrate his reign (Moulten & Milligan)
- John is here moved forward in time to see this vision he now records...



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

To be continued...



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chapel
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