

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

An open scroll with Hebrew text, likely the Book of Revelation, is the central focus. The scroll is unrolled, showing two pages of dense, handwritten text in a cursive script. The background is a dramatic, fiery landscape with a bright orange and yellow glow, suggesting a sunset or a divine light. The overall composition is centered and balanced, with the scroll's edges curving downwards. The lighting is warm and intense, creating a sense of mystery and divine revelation.

Introduction

- The book begins with the Greek word 'apokalypsis' (translated 'Revelation')
- From this we get our word 'apocalypse'
- Despite it's modern cataclysmic usage the word actually means 'unveiling'
- This book 'unveils' Jesus in glory and majesty, in a way that had not been seen before.
- This book shows us Jesus as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS

The Book of Revelation

- It foretells:
 - the end of Satan's rule on planet earth
 - the end of the world's false religious systems
 - the end of the world's political systems
- It clearly shows:
 - the destiny of the Church,
 - the destiny of the nation of Israel
 - the destiny of all unbelievers

The Book of Revelation

- 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;
- Revelation:
 - the last and concluding book because it records in advance his destiny and ultimate defeat.

The Book of Revelation

- It ties together all the Old & New Testament prophecies
 - There are 800 allusions to the Old Testament in the 404 verses of this book
- Thus we find that this book interprets itself from what God has already revealed
- There is no scripture of 'private interpretation'
 - 2 Peter 1:20

Chapter Overview

- Introduction / John's vision of Jesus 1
- Letters to the 7 Churches 2, 3
- The throne room – the 'title deed' 4, 5
- *The Beginning of Sorrows (first 3¹/₂ years)* -
- The 7 seals are opened 6
- The 144,000 sealed / 'great multitude' 7
- The 7 trumpets 8, 9
- Time is up! 10
- The 2 witnesses 11

Chapter Overview

- *The Middle of the 'Week'* -

- The woman & the dragon 12
- The beast & false prophet 13
- The 144,000 raptured 14

- *The Great Tribulation (last 3¹/₂ years)* -

- The 7 vial (bowl) judgments 15, 16
-
- The Judgement of the world's false religious systems 17, 18

Chapter Overview

- The marriage of the Lamb + 2nd Coming 19

- The Millennium + Great White Throne 20
- The new heavens & earth 21, 22

“That you might believe”

- The Gospel of John seems to have been written after Revelation, when John had returned from Patmos to Ephesus
- The key word found in the Gospel of John ‘believe’, occurring 100 times.
- The Greek word *πιστεύω* (pisteuo) means to have faith (in, upon, or with respect to, a person or thing), by implication, to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ)

“That you might believe”

- Why should anyone entrust their spiritual well being to Christ?
- If he were just a man, an example to follow, there is no reason.
- However, He is not merely a man, but the Son of God, ‘an advocate with the Father’,
- The most important & most sensible thing anyone can do is to entrust their spiritual well-being to Christ,
 - He is the savior of the world (1 John 4:14),
 - The Way, the Truth and the Life (John 14:6).

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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



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapter 1:10-20

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

- 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...

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

- It wasn't a trumpet, but had the power and clarity of a trumpet
 - Jesus always speaks with clarity into our lives
 - Sometimes we don't hear because we have allowed the world to become the dominant voice
 - There is something simple about the sound a trumpet makes...and so it is with Jesus.
 - His call is simple, His burden is light,
 - The ramifications are where the complexity comes

¹¹ Saying, **I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.** and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Revelation 1:11

- Back in v8 we see God speaking
 - Ref Isaiah 41:4 / 44:6 / 48:12
- Here Jesus claims this title for Himself!
 - Good to mention to JW's

11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the **seven churches** which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Revelation 1:11

- **Seven = complete**
- **Why these seven?**
- **Why not Antioch or Jerusalem?**
- **Remember, this is a 'book of prophecy' v3**



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

The Seven Churches

Four levels of meaning

- Local
- Personal
- Message to all Churches
- Prophetic – 7 church ages

Rev 1:3

“.....the words of this prophecy”

The Seven Churches

- Ephesus ➤ Love of espousal
- Smyrna ➤ Suffering
- Pergamos ➤ Mixed marriage
- Thyatira ➤ Continual sacrifice
- Sardis ➤ Remnant
- Philadelphia ➤ Brotherly love
- Laodicea ➤ The rule of the people
- In this order these churches foretell the history of the church, and are also an echo of the history of Israel!

12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me.
And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;
13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like
unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down
to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden
girdle.

Revelation 1:12-13

- This is the first step we must take
- We must turn from what has been our focus and turn to Jesus
- We are not forced to do so

- 12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me.
And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;
- 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:12-13

- Back in the Garden of Eden man hid from this voice: *“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden”*. Genesis 3:8

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And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:12-13

- John would probably have recognised the symbolism from the Menorah
 - The seven branched Lampstand that had been made for the Tabernacle

The Menorah – Light Bearer



12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me.
And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like
unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down
to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden
girdle.

Revelation 1:12-13

- We are going now see this vision of Jesus...
- But note that He is in the midst of the 'Lampstand'
- He is in the midst of the Church!

“In the midst of the lampstands”



- 12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me.
And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;
- 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks **one like**
unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down
to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden
girdle.

Revelation 1:12-13

- *“The expression rendered “like unto the Son of man,” [simply means] “like unto a son of man”; that is, like a man, a human being, or in a human form”* **Albert Barnes**

- 12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me.
And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;
- 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:12-13

- John now tries to explain all that he notices about this man.
 - The first item that grabs John's attention is this robe or cloak, symbolising authority

The Royal Robe

- This robe indicated an exalted status, such as would be worn by a king
- Joseph's robe revealed his father's favour – 'Exalted above his brethren'
- John had never seen Jesus like this.
- John had seen the 'suffering servant', but not the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS
- Immediately John's own inadequacy begins to show!

- 12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me.
And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;
- 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.

Revelation 1:12-13

- The golden breastplate:

The Golden Breastplate

- *“This would naturally suggest the idea of one of rank, probably one of princely rank. The raiment here assumed was not that of a priest, but that of a king” - Barns*
- This also speaks of Christ’s righteousness
 - Isaiah 59:16-17
 - Ephesians 6:14
- In contrast the Breastplate of the high priest was ‘the breastplate of judgment’
 - Exodus 28:15, 29, 30

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:14-15

His Pure Head & Hair

- *“Exceedingly or perfectly white-the first suggestion to the mind of the apostle being that of wool, and then the thought occurring of its extreme whiteness resembling snow-the purest white of which the mind conceives”*. - Barnes
- Hair denotes authority (see 1 Cor 11)
- The white hair was typical of an elder statesman or Emperor and also denotes authority - Ref Daniel 7:9
- White also symbolises purity, and if the Head be pure, so will the body be

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:14-15

His Eyes of Fire

- *“Bright, sharp, penetrating; as if everything was light before them, or they would penetrate into the thoughts of people”*. - **Barnes**
- *“And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account”*
- **Hebrews 4:13**
- *“His eyes a lamps of fire”* **ref Daniel 10:6**

14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:14-15

His Feet as Fine Brass

- Brass is a metal associated with judgment in Scripture
- The fine brass possibly indicating His perfect Judgment?
- See Isaiah 63:3-6

- 14 His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;
- 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

Revelation 1:14-15

His Voice as Many Waters

- This indicates the power of His voice, not just in audible volume, but in the strength and authority
- You cannot turn back water, nor can you stand against the words of Jesus.
- He said I am the Way, the Truth and the Life.
- No council of man can stand in opposition to this

His Voice as Many Waters

⁶ And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east: and his voice was like a noise of many waters: and the earth shined with his glory.

Ezekiel; 43:2

His Voice as Many Waters

- 1 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion, and with him an hundred forty and four thousand, having his Father's name written in their foreheads.
- 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps:

Revelation 14:1-2

His Voice as Many Waters

- 28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.
- 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.
- 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matthew 11:28-30

His Voice as Many Waters

¹⁵ Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

John 15:15

16 And he had in his right hand **seven stars:** and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Revelation 1:16

- Verse 20 will tell us that these 7 stars are the 'Angels' (messengers) to the seven Churches
- These seem to be the 'pastors' of these churches as we will note in v.20
- What comfort then to find that these pastors are held in His right hand!

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars; and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword; and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Revelation 1:16

- We are familiar with the Sword of Faith in Ephesians 6 as the Word of God
- Also Hebrews 4:12 tells us that Word of God is a two edged sword.

The Two-Edged Sword

- However, as John Walvoord highlights:
- The word here is not for a short 'close-combat' sword...
- But rather a long, heavy sword (5x in this book)
- Not used for wounding, but killing
- *“The sword mentioned in Revelation has the character of a sword of devastating judgment rather than a sword uncovering unbelief”*
- Hence, as used here it is for the slaying of the wicked

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars; and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword; and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

Revelation 1:16

- Literally: as the Sun without clouds
- Natural eyes cannot bear the wonder and brilliance of His face
- Paul ends up with permanent eye trouble
- John will here fall down as dead
- The Antichrist will be consumed by the brightness of His coming – 2 Thess 2:9

A Glorious Appearing

- *“The appearance assumed is, evidently, in accordance with various representations of God as he appeared to Ezekiel, to Isaiah, and to Daniel-what was a suitable manifestation of a divine being-of one clothed in the majesty and power of God”*

- *Albert Barnes*

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet **as dead.** And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Revelation 1:17

- John was evidently so overwhelmed that he falls to the ground – as dead
- Maybe he dare not move?
- Maybe he suddenly thought of all the times he walked and talked with Jesus without realising just who He was!

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Revelation 1:17

- The seven stars were in His right hand...
- And it is with this hand that He comforts John and reveals Himself
- It is through the Church (**itself in Christ's hand**) that He comforts those who have ears to hear
- ...and it is through the Church He has chosen to reveal Himself

17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Revelation 1:17

- What a comfort to know that Jesus was there before the beginning began, and will be there after the end had ended!
- He has already seen tomorrow, so we need not be afraid.

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen;

and have the keys of hell and of death.

Revelation 1:18

- He is sovereign over physical death
- He came to meet our greatest need – death
- He has the keys over hades & death
 - Hades is the place for departed souls
 - Believers were set free from Hades at the time of the Resurrection
 - Eventually all the unbelievers in Hades will stand before Him at the Great White Throne

John's Commission

19 Write the things which thou hast seen and the things which are and the things which shall be hereafter;

Revelation 1:19

- We are given a divinely inspired outline for the book
 - Thou hast seen > Chapter 1
 - The things which are > Chapter 2-3
 - Which shall be hereafter > Chapter 4-22

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:20

- *“The churches are represented by these lamps; they hold the oil and the fire, and dispense the light. A lamp is not light in itself, it is only the instrument of dispensing light, and it must receive both oil and fire before it can dispense any; so no church has in itself either grace or glory, it must receive all from Christ its head, else it can dispense neither light nor life”. – Adam Clarke*

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To be continued...