



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Chapter One

- **"It will be vain to become occupied with 'sevens,' 'hundred forty-four-thousands,' 'six-sixty-sixes,' the restoration of the Roman Empire, the person of the antichrist, the two wild beasts, the 'millennium,' or even the new Jerusalem; unless, along with God the Father, who has subjected all things unto Him, Christ is ever before our eyes!"**

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Forty-four times in this book, John wrote "I saw" (1:12-13; 4:1, 4; 5:1, 2, 6, 11; 6:1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 12; 7:1, 2, 9; 8:2, 13; 9:1, 17; 10:1; 13:1, 3, 11; 14:1, 6, 14; 15:1, 2, 5; 16:13; 17:3; 18:1; 19:11, 17, 19; 20:1, 4, 11, 12; 21:1, 2, 8).

John actually wrote to seven Churches, but the very completeness of the number seven indicates that his message is to the whole Church, and is still meant for us today.

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It is primarily as Judge that Jesus Christ appears in Revelation (Matt. 3:11): He judges the churches (chs. 2—3), the whole earth (chs. 4—16), Babylonianism (chs. 17—18), world rulers at Armageddon (19:19-21), and Satan (20:1-3, 10). He also judges the earth during the Millennium (20:4-6), the rebellious earth at the end of the Millennium (20:7-9), and all the unsaved dead (20:11-15). The first 20 chapters of the book deal with judgment, and the last two with the new creation.

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- **The first (4) words of the book provide the theme for the book, “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”.**
- **We should also think in terms of Jesus being the subject and focus of the book. If He is not elevated in our thinking, we will have missed the point!**
- **In fact, many believe that all (66) books of our bible focus on Jesus and God’s redemption plan.**

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- Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, *the things which must soon take place*; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John.
- Dan 2:28 However, there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and *He has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will take place in the latter days.*
- What Daniel prophesied as the latter days, John moves into the present when he writes, *“must soon take place”*.

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- **The angel who speaks to John is not identified, but three times in Daniel the angelic messenger is Gabriel, and in Luke 1 the angel messenger to Mary is Gabriel.**
- **In verse #2, John says specifically that what he is writing was told to him by an angel, and through visions he was also testifying to things he had seen, heard, smelled, and experienced. (what a witness does)**
- **Revelation is the only book of the bible with a direct pronounced blessing on hearing, reading, and obeying. (Psalm 1:1-3 comes very close)**

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- **Verse #3 tells us that this book is prophecy and needs to be understood as such. This type of prophecy is future; not to be confused with “prophesying” which is to declare the truth that has been revealed. (preaching, as in 1st Corinthians 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part)**
- **Verse #3 moves the time of what will be revealed from ‘soon’ to ‘at hand’. Perhaps just semantics, but the change in time could also be to infer immediacy and urgency. (be careful here – if the Lord waits a million more years before His return should we assume a sense of nearness now?)**
- **Verse #4 tells us that the message is for the (7) churches in Asia.**

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Modern Day Turkey

Chapter One

- **1:4 John to the seven churches that 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 of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— 6 and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

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- Perhaps as plainly here as anywhere in the Bible, we see the words that are being penned as coming directly from Godand even more exactly, *from the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.*
- We also see a threefold presentation of Jesus as the past, present, and future Savior of the world.
- In verse #5 we see Jesus described in three colorful ways – faithful witness, first born from the dead, and as Ruler of the kings of the earth. (again the same threefold projection as verse #4)

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- **In verse #6 we find that those who belong to Christ form a kingdom of priests – so just what is a priest?**
- **In simple terms, a person set apart to serve God. In O.T. times and even to some degree today, when we think of priest, we think professional. (Melchizedek, Aaron, Jesus, and today all believers)**
- **In practical terms, when we come to Christ we are sanctified, (set apart) for God's service and purposes; the church forms a kingdom of priests.**

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- **Since there were resurrections prior to Jesus', what are we to think about the term "first born from the dead" to describe Jesus?**
- **While others were brought back to life before the resurrection of Christ, all of them eventually died again.**
- **Jesus is the first to be resurrected with a new and immortal body – never to die again.**

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- In verse 7 we read, “Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him”
- So the question is asked, “how will the 1st century Jews and Romans who pierced Him, see his second coming”?
- They won’t, but their offspring will – and I do not hesitate to take verse #7 in a literal fashion. Maybe 100 years ago teachers would have a different explanation, but with today’s technology having His return be a world-wide event is not hard to fathom at all.

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- **Math 24:30** And then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with power and great glory.
- This stands in stark contrast to His ascension from the Mount of Olives.
- **Acts 1:9** And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. (only a relative few who had believed saw Him leave)

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- He left in relative obscurity, but will return in great glory, power, and with a spectacular presence.
- Zac 12:10 “I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn.”
- When He ascended, few noticed or cared – when He returns in glory He cannot be missed. (think 1st coming to Bethlehem as a baby versus His 2nd coming as King of kings.

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- **1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**
- **Jesus is the subject of this book – here he self discloses as the first and the last, and we should also understand that apart from Him, nothing between the beginning and end matters much.**
- **Much of our world gives little thought to Jesus today – what a pity that the one who gives meaning to every thought is so meanly regarded.**

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- So far, all that John has written has been descriptive words about Jesus that most of us have familiarity with, but not so much starting in verse #9.
- Starting in verse #9 the gentle Jesus meek and mild, is harder and harder to find.
- From His voice, to His clothes, to His appearance, to His actions we will see not a different Jesus, but a complete Jesus. (John 16:12 I have many things to tell you, but you can't receive them now)

Glorious Jesus



Questions / Comments