

Lesson 1: Revelation 1

Revelation 1 The Introduction: Scene: Earth. Time: Past (ca. 95 AD).

John introduces the book of prophecy with an explanation of the circumstances surrounding the Revelation. John was exiled on the island of Patmos when Jesus sent and communicated the vision of things which must soon take place. John is commanded to write and send the book to the seven churches in Asia.

STUDY QUESTIONS:

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,² who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.³ Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

1. List two possible interpretations of “the revelation of Jesus Christ”?
2. Trace the transmission of the revelation.
3. Why does God give the revelation to Jesus?
4. To what things does John testify?
5. Who will be blessed through words of the prophecy of Revelation?

Rev. 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. Rev. 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.

1. To whom is the epistle addressed?
2. From whom does John pray for grace and peace to come?
3. (D) To whom does “the seven Spirits who are before His throne” refer (1:4)? Is the adjective “seven” referring to seven Spirits or seven attributes of the Spirit?
4. What seven attributes describe the Spirit of the Lord in Isaiah 11:2?
5. How is Jesus described in 1:5? (D) Give a brief explanation of each phrase.
6. What has Jesus made “us” to be (1:6)? To whom does “us” refer? (See 1 Pet 2:9-10)
7. What does the phrase mean: “— to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1:6)? (A) How can you give glory and dominion to Him?
8. Who is coming with the clouds? Who will see Him? How will the tribes of the earth respond? (A) How would you respond if He appeared today? (1:7-8)
9. (D) How does Jesus describe Himself in 1:8? What is the significance of these titles?

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Rev. 1:9 I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance *which are* in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet, ¹¹ saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."

1. **Who is John? Where is he? Why is he there? (1:9)**
2. **(D) What do the phrases mean: "in the Spirit"? "the Lord's day"? (1:10)**
3. **Describe the voice that John hears. Who is speaking to John? (see 1:1)**
4. **What does the voice instruct John to do?**
5. **(D) Locate the seven churches on a map. Describe their location.**
6. **What does the location of the churches indicate about the transmission of the book?**
7. **(A) How does God communicate to you? What is He communicating to you through His Word today? How will you apply this to your life this week?**

Rev. 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; ¹³ and in the middle of the lampstands *I saw* one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. ¹⁴ His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. ¹⁵ His feet *were* like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice *was* like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

Rev. 1:17 When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. ¹⁹ "Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. ²⁰ "As for 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 are the seven churches.

1. **Why does John turn? What does he see? (1:12)**
2. **Describe the one whom John saw in the middle of the lampstands. (1:13-16)**
3. **What is John commanded (1:19)? How are the "things" described?**
4. **What interpretation is given for the seven stars and seven lampstands?**
5. **What attribute of God is emphasized in Revelation 1? How could you pray for the Holy Spirit to change your life in response to this lesson this week?**

Write a prayer response to Revelation 1.