

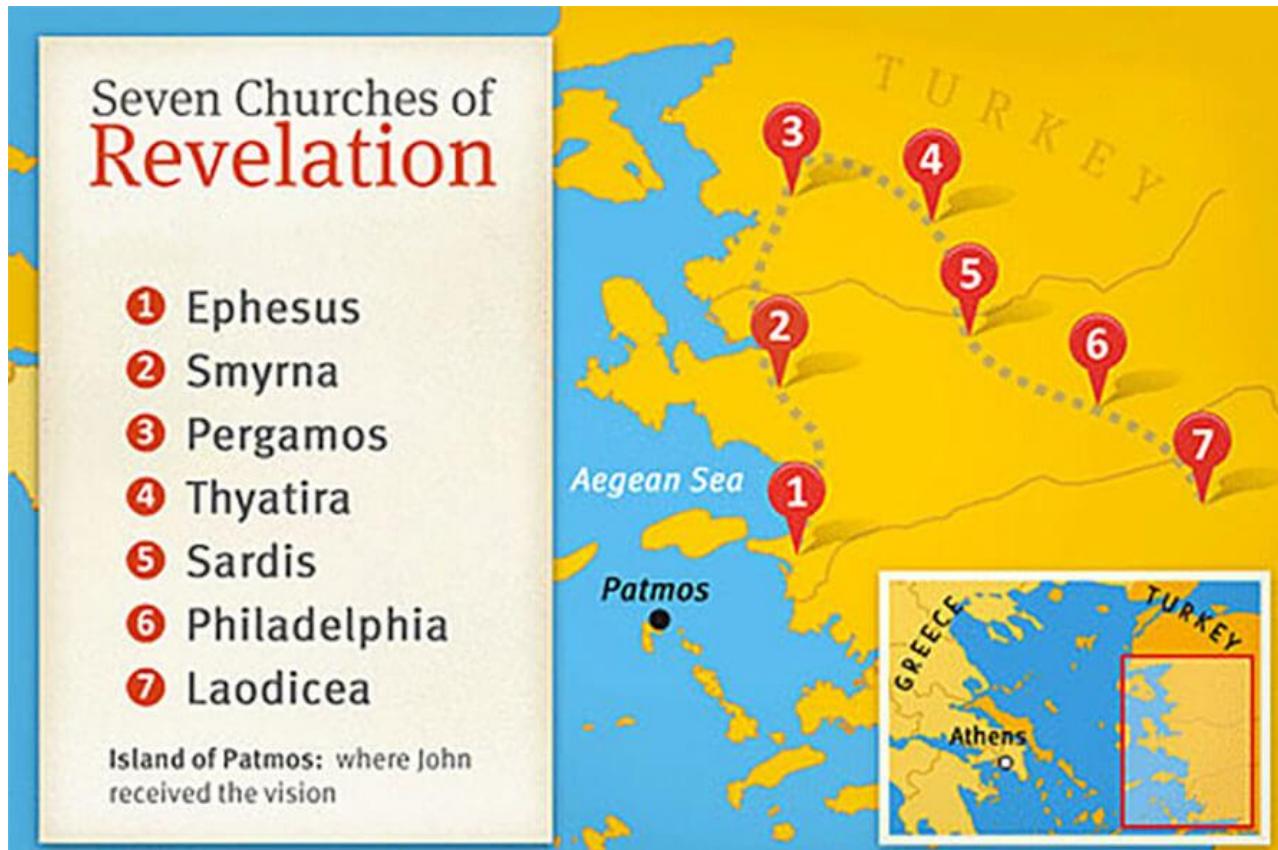
Revelation 1

Full title of the book is *The Revelation of Jesus Christ*. This is taken from verse 1 of chapter one.

It is written by the Apostle John, the only apostle to die of old age. He was the leader of the Church at Ephesus and was on the Island of Patmos.

Scholars place the writing at about 95 AD which would put John approximately in his mid-eighties. Domitian is Roman Emperor at John's writing.

Patmos is about 50 miles southwest of the city of Ephesus and was a Roman penal colony.



The word *revelation* comes from the Greek word *apokalupsis*, from which we get the word *apocalypse*.

However, the word in the Greek means *an unveiling or a disclosure*. It does not mean *a catastrophe* as we use it today.

Jesus is going to unveil or disclose the future events, culminating with His final victory over Satan and the judgment of this world.

Four interpretations to Revelation:

- 1. Historic.** Interpreters try and match events in the Book of Revelation to different eras or events in Church history. However, each new era or century requires the view to be altered.
- 2. Preterist.** Interpreters tie everything but Jesus' return to first century Rome and the early church.

Four interpretations to Revelation:

3. **Idealist.** Interpreters see the Book of Revelation as just a story of good versus evil. Everything is just symbolic.
4. **Futurist.** Most Pentecostals and Fundamentalists take this view as does the Assemblies of God and myself. Not because the AG tells me I have to but because I believe this is the correct interpretation.

This is the story of Revelation for the saints:

Romans 5:8-9 - 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him.

Verse 1

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, (NKJV)

This is the revelation of Jesus Christ [His unveiling of the divine mysteries], which God [the Father] gave to Him to show to His bond-servants (believers) the things which must soon take place [in their entirety]; and He sent and communicated it by His angel (divine messenger) to His bond-servant John, (AMP)

Verse 1

Must – These events will certainly happen and cannot be undone or recanted.

Shortly - we cannot measure this statement by our standards. 2 Peter 3:8

Verse 1

That word servant, bond-servant, in the Amplified is closer to the word slave than servant. It is the word John uses later to describe himself and it is the word Paul uses as well toward himself.

Verse 2

² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw

This is John confirming that everything he writes in this Book he personally bore witness of. He also established that this is God's Word and Jesus' testimony.

Verse 3

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.

There are seven blessings or beatitudes in Revelation.

1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14.

Verse 3

This first blessing is for those who read and hear the Book of Revelation.

The word read is anaginoskon in the Greek which means to read aloud.

Verse 3

But and this is important, you are to keep those things written in the Book of Revelation.

3 Blessed (happy, prosperous, to be admired) is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and who keep the things which are written in it [heeding them and taking them to heart]; for the time [of fulfillment] is near. (AMP)

Seven is seen as the number of perfection and completeness.

Seven Blessings

Seven Spirits

Seven Churches

Seven Angels

Seven Seals

Seven Trumpets

Seven Bowls

Verse 4

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,

“Without the grace of God, we would perish and without the peace of God we would be unsure of our salvation” – Daymond Duck

Verse 4

“Who was and is and is to come” – The eternal God

The Sevenfold Spirit – The Holy Spirit.

Isaiah 11:1-2 - There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 2 The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

The Seven Spirits:

The Spirit of the Lord – The nature of Jesus

The Spirit of Wisdom – The nature to make the correct decisions

The Spirit of Understanding – The nature to understand everything

The Spirit of Counsel – The ability to give perfect counsel or advice

The Seven Spirits:

The Spirit of Might – The power to accomplish anything the Father desires (Omnipotence)

The Spirit of Knowledge – The ability to know beyond human comprehension (Omniscience)

The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord – The ability to fully respect and submit to the Father's will

Verse 5

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,

Ways John Identifies Jesus

- 1. Faithful Witness – Jesus is the Word made flesh - John 1:14 & 18, John 5:31-37, John 18:37.**
- 2. Firstborn from the dead. – Jesus has defeated death and the grave - Romans 14:9, 1 Corinthians 15:20, Romans 8:17, Colossians 1:15-18, Psalm 89:20-27**
- 3. Ruler over the kings of the earth. Jesus is the King of Kings and Lord of Lords - 1 Timothy 6:15, Revelation 17:14 & 19:16**

Verses 6-7

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.

Here we begin (verse 7) to get more into the prophecy that we associate with Revelation.

Acts 1:10-11 - 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”

1 Thessalonians 4:15-18 - 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus, we shall always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.

7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes (nations) of the earth will mourn over Him [realizing their sin and guilt, and anticipating the coming wrath]. So, it is to be. Amen. (AMP)

**Why would the church mourn when it sees Jesus? - 1
Thessalonians 1:3-10**

Why would the church mourn when it sees Jesus?

The eyes of those who pierced Him. Those who rejected Him, they will wail. We will deal with this later, but this speaks of when Jesus returns in Revelation with His Church with Him to rule and reign for a thousand years.

Those who rejected Jesus and His witnesses and have taken the Mark of the Beast will wail. The Christian does not need to fear this day.

Verse 8

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.”

Verse 8

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Jesus is the beginning and the end. He was the Creator and He will be the Judge. He created the earth and will destroy it with fire and He will create a new heaven and new earth for His children to enjoy forever.

He has the final word on everything.

He is the God of the past; He is the God of the present and He is the God of the future.

Verse 9

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.

John was in prison for two reasons:

- 1. John would not deny Jesus or recant his belief in Jesus.**
- 2. John would not stop preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ.**

We must be like John regardless of the pressure that comes against us.

Verse 10

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

On the Lord's Day – Probably means Sunday.

In the Spirit – Indicates a special activity of the Holy Spirit.

Verse 11

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.”

What you see, write in a book – John is given this command 12 times. Only once is John told not to write something down – Revelation 10:4



Verse 12

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

Golden lampstands – The KJV had candlestands and this is a bad translation

Ancient people used lamps with olive oil and a wick for light.

Verse 12

This is important because of the fact that oil is a necessity for a lamp just as the Holy Spirit is a necessity for the Church to be a light for Jesus.

Zechariah 4:1-6

The Church is empowered by the Holy Spirit or it is bereft of the Holy Spirit. There is a warning that will come later to the churches about having their lampstand removed.

Verse 13

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.

One like the Son of Man – Because of Daniel, this term is used for the Messiah.

Daniel 7:13 - 13 “I was watching in the night visions, and behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, and they brought Him near before Him.

Verse 13

The term “Son of Man” is used approximately 80 times in the Gospels.

1 Timothy 2:5 - For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, (Hebrews 9:11-15)

But was does John say, “Like the Son of Man”?

John is finally seeing Jesus without His glory being veiled.

Verse 13

The long robe would be that of a King or of a priest. The gold sash around the chest does harken back to the fact that the Israelite priests had a breastplate.

But the gold also symbolizes Jesus' rule and right to be Judge over all creation.

In Hebrews 7, Jesus is clearly shown to be of the order of Melchizedek, who was both a king and a priest. Under the Law kings could not be priests.

Verse 14

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

Jesus' white hair does not speak of old age but rather Jesus' timelessness. Like the Father, Jesus too is the Ancient of Days.

Daniel 7:9 - "I watched till thrones were put in place, and the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, and the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

Verse 14

His eyes are like flames of fire. This speaks to Jesus' piercing gaze and righteous judgment.

Hebrews 4:13 - 13 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.

Jesus' piercing eyes are going to be turned first to His church in chapters two and three. Some praise and some judgment will be spoken, by all rooted in truth and holiness.

Verse 14

Nothing in the church is hidden from Jesus. He sees all and knows all and He will correct His people when needed.

1 Peter 4:17 - 17 For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

Verse 15

**15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace,
and His voice as the sound of many waters;**

Feet of fire refined bronze – This not only points to strength but harkens back to the sensors used in the Tabernacle and Temple and the Brazen Altar (Exodus 27 & 38:30) used in sacrifices.

Verse 15

Jesus is our perfect sacrifice.

Hebrews 13:10-12 - 10 We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle (sacred tent) have no right to eat. 11 For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest as an offering for sin, are burned outside the camp. 12 Therefore Jesus also suffered and died outside the [city] gate so that He might sanctify and set apart for God as holy the people [who believe] through [the shedding of] His own blood. (AMP)

Verse 15

Jesus' voice thundered (NLT)

Ezekiel 43:1-2 - Afterward he brought me to the gate, the gate that faces toward the east. 2 And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

Verse 16

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.

“Sharp two-edged sword” – The Word of God

Hebrews 4:12 - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

Ephesians 6:17 - ...and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

Verse 16

Jesus merely speaks and it is done.

Isaiah 11:4 - 4 But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Verses 17-18

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying [i]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.

Verse 18

“I died but I am alive forevermore.”

The Cross does not need to be repeated again and again. Once was enough.

Hebrews 10:8-14 - ...12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.

Verse 18

“I have the keys of Hades and Death”. Hades or Hell is where the wicked dead are awaiting judgment. Ultimately Hell will be thrown into the Lake of Fire. (Revelation 20:14)

Ephesians 1:20-23

Jesus alone can free us from our sins, which left unrepented of would confine us to hell and the second death.

Verse 19

19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this

John receives his commission again.

Chapters 1-3 are the things which are now happening.

Chapter 4 is the future but it pertains to the raptured church.

Chapters 5-22 is the future of the world, of God's judgment and the future home of God's people.

Verse 20

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.

Verse 20

Jesus explains that the seven lampstands are the seven churches in Asia Minor, modern-day Turkey.

The word angels can also be translated messengers in the Greek.

Some see these are angelic beings assigned to look out for each church. (Daniel 10 & 12 identifies Michael as the angel who watched over Israel.)

Verse 20

Others take the word angel to mean the overseer or pastor of that church.

Personally, given the letters written to the churches, I tend to see the angels as the overseers and pastors, some of which are failing in their responsibilities to the local church.