

## The Revelation of Jesus Christ

### Revelation 1

#### Introduction

There are many phrases that are virtually important in chapter 1 that guide us and our focus through the book of Revelation.

#### Revelation 1:1-3 (CSB) – The Revelation of Jesus Christ

*The revelation of Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy and keep what is written in it, because the time is near.*

Ἀποκάλυψις – uncovering – a disclosure of truth

The book of Revelation is a massive unveiling of Jesus to the world. This is the only purpose of the book. Thus, the title. If you read the book of Revelation looking for anything other than the revealing of Jesus, you are going to completely miss the point.

We don't approach the book of Revelation to find Russia, tanks, nukes, the anti-Christ, the false prophet, the keys to understanding the times...we come to the book of Revelation to fix our eyes upon Jesus. Jesus is the main character and the focal point of the whole book. We must keep this in mind as we read this particular book.

#### Revelation 1:4-8 – The Trinity

*<sup>4</sup> John: To the seven churches in Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has set us free from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> **Look, 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. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "the one who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Father – One who is, who was and who is to come

Holy Spirit – seven Spirits

Son – Jesus Christ, set us free from sins by His blood and made us a kingdom of priest

Since the introduction of God in Genesis 1:1 with the name Elohim...we have seen a wonderful revealing of the fullness of God through the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Not only is the book of Revelation an unveiling of Jesus, it's also a coronation of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit living in perfect harmony with their people for all eternity.

## Revelation 1:9-16 – Jesus Instructs John to Write to Churches

*<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and partner in the affliction, kingdom, and endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard a loud voice behind me like a trumpet <sup>11</sup> saying, "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."*

*<sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see whose voice it was that spoke to me. When I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was one like the Son of Man, dressed in a robe and with a golden sash wrapped around his chest. <sup>14</sup> The hair of his head was white as wool—white as snow—and his eyes like a fiery flame. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like fine bronze as it is fired in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of cascading waters. <sup>16</sup> He had seven stars in his right hand; a sharp double-edged sword came from his mouth, and his face was shining like the sun at full strength.*

In verse 11 we are given seven specific churches that John is to write to: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

This reminds us that God works through the local church. This is extremely important to understand. God established the church in the book of Acts and has chosen to do His work through the church. And not a universal unregulated church but through local bodies of believers.

- Elders are given to local churches.
- Gifts are given for the building up of the local church.
- The letters in the NT are written to local churches.
- Jesus addresses the local church in the book of Revelation.

Yes, we all belong to the larger body of the church in Christ, but none the less, God has chosen to work through individual local churches.

In verse 12, John turns to see who is telling him to write to these seven churches and behold...it's Jesus. But not the Jesus that was veiled in flesh that John saw go up in the clouds in Acts, but the glorified Jesus that was on the mount of Transfiguration.

- Son of Man – robe, golden sash, white hair, eyes like flames, feet like bronze, voice like cascading waters, seven stars in right hand, sharp two-edged sword from the mouth, face shining like the sun.

## Revelation 1:17-20 – Write what you have seen, what is, and what is to come.

*<sup>17</sup> When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me and said, "Don't be afraid. I am the First and the Last, <sup>18</sup> and the Living One. I was dead, but look—I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades. <sup>19</sup> Therefore write what you have seen, what is, and what will take place after this. <sup>20</sup> The mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.*

In verse 19, Jesus outlines for John what he will be writing about. He will be writing about what he has seen (Jesus), what is (seven churches) and what will take place after (tribulation and physical return of Jesus).

Jesus also gives some understanding concerning the seven stars and seven lampstands. The seven stars in His hand are the angels of the seven churches and the lampstands are the seven churches. In this we learn that the churches are ever before Christ.