

# Lesson 2

## The Prologue

### Revelation 1:1-11

Invite the Holy Spirit to teach and speak to you through the Word of God as you meditate on Revelation 1:1-11 every day this week.

As you read through the verses presented this week, look for a special verse to make your memory verse for the week. We will share our verses at the end of our discussion time.

1. What was a new or interesting thought from last week's introduction to Revelation?

*“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.”*

*Revelation 1:3*

In the book of Revelation we behold the unveiled Lord Jesus Christ in His majesty and glory. In many bibles the title *The Revelation to John* is somewhat of a misnomer; perhaps a better name is The Revelation of the Lord Jesus Christ to John. The Greek word translated for revelation is *apokalupsis* which means uncovering, unveiling or disclosure. It is the word from which we derive our English word apocalypse.

2. What was veiled about the Lord Jesus Christ at his first coming according to Philippians 2:6-11 and John 17:5, 24?
3. Describe the glimpse of the Lord Jesus that was seen on the Mount of Transfiguration in Matthew 17:1-9 and Luke 9:28-36.
4. We get a few other glimpses of the unveiled Jesus in John 18:5-6, Acts 7:55-56 and Acts 9:3-5. Discuss these scenes and what you learn about Jesus from these verses.

5. The book of Revelation was given to His bond-servant John. Look up the following verses and discuss what you learn about John: Matthew 17:1, Matthew 26:3-7, Mark 3:17, Luke 5:9-11, John 19:26-27, 21:20, 24, Acts 3:1, 8:14, and Galatians 2:9.

The word “shortly” in Revelation 1:1 does not necessarily mean that the events depicted in this book will occur soon. The word “shortly” is translated from the Greek word *tachos* meaning quickness or speed. It may mean that when these things begin to unfold, they will happen quickly. It is used in Luke 18:8 where it says... “He will bring about justice for them *speedily*,” meaning that when He begins to bring about justice, He will act quickly.

6. How did John bear witness to the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ? See John 15:26-27, 20:30-31, 21:24-25 and I John 1:1-4.
7. This revelation was given to John, but he was instructed to give it to others. How are these others described in Rev 1:1 and Rev 1:11? Are you included among these?
8. What wonderful promise is given in Revelation 1:3? What are the conditions for this promise to be met? Discuss what you must do to receive this blessing.

The seven churches in the book of Revelation were not in the continent of Asia, but were actually located in Asia Minor or what we now know as Turkey. Look on the map of Paul’s missionary journeys at the back of your Bible and locate the seven churches to whom John writes.

Seven in the Bible is an important number. In the Bible seven denotes completeness, fulfillment and perfection. The number seven is also important in the book of Revelation: there are seven churches, seven spirits, seven lampstands, seven stars, seven horns, seven eyes, seven angels, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven thunders, seven heads, seven kings, and seven bowls.

9. How does John describe himself in Revelation 1:9?

Find Patmos on the map at the back of your Bible. Notice how far it is from Ephesus, the city where John probably resided both before and after his imprisonment.

10. Why was John on Patmos according to Revelation 1:9?

Eusebius, the early Christian historian, wrote that John was released from Patmos by the Roman Emperor, Nerva, who ruled from 96-98 AD.

11. According to Revelation 1:10 what day of the week was it when John received this revelation?

12. What would John have learned from Jesus in John 4:23-24 about worship.

13. How does John receive the revelation? Find words from this passage that describe this.

14. What three things is John told to write about?

15. Revelation 1:4 talks about the seven Spirits who are before His throne. This may be a reference to the Holy Spirit. How is the Holy Spirit depicted in Isaiah 11:2-3?

16. How are the three persons of the Trinity portrayed in Revelation 1:4-5?

17. In Revelation 1:5 Jesus Christ is the faithful witness. Who was He a faithful witness for according to John 24:7, Colossians 1:15 and Hebrews 1:3?

18. Revelation 1:5 may be translated ...”and the ruler over the kings of the earth.” Read Philippians 2:9-11. Do you think that every king of the earth will want the Lord Jesus Christ to be his ruler?

19. How does the last portion of Revelation 1:5 sum up the earthly ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ? See also I Peter 1:18-21. What does this mean to you personally?
  
20. As believers, what do Revelation 1:6 and I Peter 2:9 teach us about our position and purpose before God?
  
21. Look up the words glory and dominion in the dictionary and discuss their meanings. Consider Colossians 1:16-17. Why do we ascribe these concepts to the Lord Jesus?
  
22. Revelation 1:7 sums up the rest of the book of Revelation. What does it say? See also Daniel 7:13-14 and Zechariah 12:10.
  
23. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and Omega is the last. What truth is pictured in Revelation 1:8?
  
24. Consider Hebrews 13:8 and review the truths about the Lord Jesus Christ that are presented in this lesson. Write out a prayer of praise and worship to Him. See Psalm 29 for inspiration.
  
25. Share the memory verse that you found through this week's study and why you chose it.
  
26. From your meditation this week on Revelation 1:1-11, what do you want to remember?

## Lecture Notes: