

REVELATION: THE FINAL ANSWER

The Final Answer - Pitch Perfect - Part 1

Revelation 1:4-7

INTRODUCTION **NOTES** As we continue in our study of the book of Revelation, we are going to see the perfect picture of God's messenger that is described for us in verses four through seven. You see, the Book of Revelation was a letter. It was intended to be read as a letter, a letter that John intended for all Christians to read, then and now. More than likely, the book was written around 95 to 96 A.D. John describes that God gave him this book on the Island of Patmos. As the messenger, he was responsible for simply penning what he was seeing. He wants everyone to see what he was seeing. And so as we look at this picture from John, we are going to learn not only about the message he was giving us, but about the messenger himself. **KEY POINTS** 1. Remember who he was. John was the youngest of all disciples. He was a fisherman; when he began to follow Christ, his life would never again be the same. The Bible tells us that John was the only apostle to make it all the way to the cross. You are talking about extreme faithfulness, extreme faithfulness to Christ all the way to death. But the most important thing we should understand that John was fearless. Some would say that because he was the youngest, he didn't know any better. That is why he went all the way to the cross. The other disciples were afraid they would get arrested. Like Jesus, they would be taken through a kangaroo court, and they would face the same fate as Jesus: crucifixion. That is why they ran for the hills. But John went all the way to the cross. Even though his exile on the Island of Patmos separated him from support, encouragement, and other believers, he remained faithful. It's important that we remember these characteristics of John as we continue our study of the book of Revelation. 2. Remember how he saw himself. John was a very humble man. Do you realize that in his Gospel, he rarely refers to himself by name? He refers to himself as "the one whom Jesus loved." That is why he had the moniker, "John, the beloved." He wrote that. He described himself as "the one whom Jesus loved."

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5. Remember his personal message.

Revelation is not from John; he was the conduit from God. He used John to pen His personality, and how he saw things as a first-century man would describe the future. Some people have asked the question, "Is the one who wrote the Gospel of John the same John who wrote the Book of Revelation? The way he wrote was a little bit different in the two books. Remember, John was much older when he was writing Revelation than when he wrote the Gospel of John. This was in his later years, not his formative years.

John just saw himself delivering a message from Jesus, a special message from Christ. That is why he doesn't embellish this. He doesn't make this about himself; He makes it about Christ. You and I need to shy away from people who promote themselves, especially in Christianity. That should be something that sticks in your mind. If someone is constantly telling you everything they have done and accomplished in life, you need to question, "Are they focused on Christ? Are they using Christ's church to develop their platform of influence?" John was focused on Jesus, not on himself. We should be living the same way.

6. Remember his focus.

In verses 4-7 of the first chapter of Revelation, take special note of John's focus. There are four things he focuses on specifically, so pay attention to these four things as you read through the rest of the chapter, and the book as a whole:

- 1. The Greeting
- 2.The Worship
- 3. The Message
- 4.The Benediction

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

- 1. Do you struggle with being fearful? Are you consistently worried or anxious about what's going on around you?
- 2. Would other people describe you as humble someone like John who is more concerned about promoting Christ than promoting themselves?

3. Are you plugged in and involved in a local church? If not, what's holding back from doing so?	ng you

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