Revelation 1 Pt 1 vv1-8

All about Jesus

- **Author** **Apostle: John.** Pastor of Ephesus. Gospel of John, 1,2,3 John, Rev
- **Date: AD 81-96** After the destruction of Temple/Jerusalem AD70
- **Place: Island of Patmos:** Prison Exile for the Word of God…

Revelation 1:9 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**.

Purpose of the Book of Revelation
To Live/Think/Act with an Eternal Perspective…

2 Peter 3:10 But the **day of the Lord** will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat both the earth and the works that are in it will be **burned up. 11 Therefore,** since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in **holy conduct and godliness**, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the **day of God**, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? **13 Nevertheless we**, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which **righteousness dwells**.

- **Day of the Lord:** 7 Yrs of God's Judgement/Wrath on unrepentant sinful man
- **Come as a Thief:** Unexpected…Business as usual as in the Days of Noah

Things of this earth are all gonna burn…Now what?
Live a Holy Life in Joyful Expectation of Eternity

We desire Change
A New Paradigm where Righteousness Dwells

Revelation helps us to focus on what matters
Cultivating that which has Eternal Significance

Matthew 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he **gains the whole world**, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? 27 For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works.

Luke 12:20 [Farmer stored for himself w/no thought of God/others] …God said to him, '**Fool!** This night **your soul will be required of you…**

Serious Study of Revelation produces a Healthy Fear of God
The Beginning of all Wisdom

Luke 12:5b… Fear Him who, after He has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I say to you, **fear Him!**

Purpose of Book of Revelation
Eternal Perspective

Titus 2:11 For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, 12 teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the **present age**, 13 looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, 14 who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from **every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people**, zealous for good works.

- Read vv 1-8

I. Title/Transmission/Blessing vv1-3

1 The **Revelation** of Jesus Christ…

- **Revelation:** gr. *Apokalypsis* lit. The Unveiling of Jesus the Messiah. E.g. Statue

God desires us to understand His Word.
As this Dispensation Winds Down…Knowledge of God's Word will Rev Up

Daniel 12:4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book **until the time of the end**; many shall run to and fro, and **knowledge shall increase**."

Jeremiah 23:20b …In the **latter days** you will **understand it perfectly.**

Revelation: Unveiling of Jesus Christ
His Plan for both Saints/Sinners

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

Line of Transmission from God to us

From **God the Father**	**> Jesus Christ God the Son**	**> His Angel**	**> John**	**To Us**

God's Revelation to His Servants
Things which must *shortly take place*

- **Seems long:** To God 1000 yrs is as a day to us

Scoffers/Mockers: Where is He?

2 Peter 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, **not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.**

1 Timothy 2:4 [God] **desires all men to be saved/**come to the knowledge of the truth.

Revelation 22:12 "And behold, **I am coming quickly**, and My reward is with Me, to give to every one according to his work. 13 **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last." …16 "I, Jesus,** have sent My angel to testify to you these things **in the churches…** [Sealed Book?]

Things which must shortly take place
Shown by signs to John by an angel attendantTtour guide

- **Angel shows John**: God employs Symbols/Visions for our greater understanding

This same angel will close the Book of Revelation

Revelation 22:6 …And the Lord God of the holy prophets **sent His angel** to **show His servants the things which must shortly take place.**

Transmission/Communication of the Message of Revelation from God to us
God the Father to God the Son to the Angel to John us

3 **Blessed is he who reads and those who hear** the words of **this prophecy**, and **keep** those things which are written in it

First of 7 Beatitudes/Blessings in Revelation
[14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7, 22:14]

- **Tri-fold Promise of Blessing…**

1. …for those who **Read**
2. …for those who **Hear**
3. …for those who **Keep** [Carefully attend to i.e. Hear *and* do]

God Guarantees a Blessing for Taking this Book Seriously
Read it, Listen to it, Do it…

3b…for **the time is near.**

2 Peter 3:8 …beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord **one day *is* as a thousand years**, and a thousand years as one day. [Context is End times]

- **2000 years closer than when written:** In light of eternity the time is near
- **Time is near to what?** For the things in this book to begin…

As we observe the de-evolution of sinful man as displayed in scientific genetic manipulation and acceptance of infanticide, gender confusion/mutilation of children, other acts of brazen evil in the sight of God [Jer. *Not knowing how to blush*] and of course the exponential dangers of AI in conjunction with fulfilled prophesy; e.g. Re-establishment of Israel in 1948/US Re-locating of the US Embassy in Jerusalem in 2018] we know we are truly at the door. [NJC]

SUMMARY Apocalypse [unveiling of Jesus], **Transmission** [Father to us] and **Blessing** for taking book seriously as the time draws near

II. Greeting vv 4-8

4 John, to the **seven churches** which are in Asia…

John begins by Revealing the First Letter's Recipients

- **Seven Churches:** The churches of John's day AD 81-96
- **Seven Church Ages:** History of the Church/Christendom. Jesus to Rapture

The Recipients of Revelation are the Seven Churches
Every individual who was/is or will be part of the Church*

- *And warning to those who think they are but are not…

4b… Grace to you and peace **from Him** who is and who was and who is to come…

- **God the Father**

1. **Now is** Always Operating in Present tense
2. **Always was** From Eternity past; i.e. Never a time when He was not
3. **Always will be** To Eternity Future; i.e. Never a time when He will not be

Psalm 90:1 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations. **2** Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even **from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God.**

Psalm 93:2 Your throne *is* established from of old; **You *are* from everlasting.**

Blessing to the Churches on behalf of God the Father

It seems that John searched for a phrase to communicate the Old Testament idea of **YHWH**…it seems that John focused on God the Father with this title because he specifically mentioned God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in the words that follow [Guzik]

- John greets the church on behalf of **God the Father, And the Spirit…**

4c… [Grace and peace] from the **seven Spirits** who are before His throne…

Revelation 3:1 [To the Dead Church] "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says He who has the **seven Spirits of God…**

Seven Spirits before the Throne of God
Does God have 7 Individual Spirits?

- **Seven** Used **608X** in total. [**38X** in Revelation alone]

1. Number signifying "completeness, wholeness, fullness" sometimes perfection
2. In contrast to number of man i.e. 6. [Falling short, imperfect] Rev. 13:18

Seven Spirits before God's Throne
IOWs The Fullness of the Holy Spirit

Blessing to the Churches on behalf of God the Father
Blessing to the Churches on God the Spirit…

5 …and [Grace and Peace] **from Jesus Christ**

Greetings from the Holy Trinity: One God Revealed in Three Persons
Godhead: God the Father. God the Spirit. God the Son…

1. **V 5a** Begins: Greeting from **Jesus to the Church**
2. **V 5b** Continues Blessings from the **Church to Jesus**

IOWs Now John speaks on behalf of the Bride of Christ/We all agree…

5b… [Jesus] the **faithful witness…**, the **firstborn from the dead**, and the **ruler over the kings of the earth…**

1) Jesus the Faithful Witness of Who He Is: Messiah and the Son of God

John 8:18 I am One who **bears witness of Myself**, and the Father who sent Me **bears witness of Me."**

- Jesus is a Faithful Witness of Himself as Messiah/Son of God
- **Testimony Validated:**

1. His Life/Death
2. Resurrection/Ascension
3. Baptism/Transfiguration
4. All other fulfilled OT prophesy 300-350 and counting

Validated/Vindicated as Faithful Witness by both Himself and Father
This is My Son in whom I am well pleased at Baptism/Transfiguration

1) Jesus the Faithful Witness of Who He Is: Messiah the Son of God
2) **Jesus the Firstborn from the dead**

- Jesus was not the first to rise from the dead… OT prophets brought some back to life

Jesus was *not the first* to rise from the dead
Jesus *was the First* to Rise in a Body Built for Eternity

There is a difference between resurrection and resuscitation, or reanimation. Resurrection refers to **putting on a new**, glorified body, while re-animation, or resuscitation, mean **raising the person in the old**, mortal body in which they died. [Don Stewart]

Jesus was the firstfruits of all who will rise with new Forever Ready Bodies

1 Corinthians 15:20 …. Christ is risen from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 23…Christ the **firstfruits**, afterward those *who are* Christ's at His coming.

Jesus was the first to rise in a body built for Eternity
Jesus was also first/only to *raise Himself* from the dead …

John 2:19 … "Destroy this temple, and in three days **I will raise it up**." 20 Then the Jews said, "It has taken forty-six years to build this temple, and will You raise it up in three days?" 21 But **He was speaking of the temple of His body**.

John 10:17 "…My Father loves Me, because **I lay down My life** that I may take it again. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. **I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again**. This command I have received from My Father." [cf. Acts 13:33, Col. 1:18]

1) Jesus the Faithful Witness of Who He Is: Messiah the Son of God
2) Jesus the Firstborn from the dead
3) **The Ruler over Kings of the Earth**

Philippians 2:10 … at the **name of Jesus every knee should bow**, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

5c …To Him who **loved us** and **washed us** from our sins in His own blood, 6 and has **made us** kings and priests to His God and Father…

Jesus the Faithful Witness, Firstborn from dead, Coming King of Kings and yet…

1. The One who **loved us:** [lit *Loves* us; i.e. present tense in orig.]
2. The One who **washed us**…with His own blood
3. The One **who made us** kings/priests to God: Ch. 20 Millennial Kingdom

The One who made us [Creation] and then Made us again [Re-Creation]
Then Made us Again to be Kings and Priests to God His Father

- **Made us Kings:** Governing Nations**/**Judging Angels

1 Corinthians 6:3 Do you not know that **we shall judge angels?**

- **Made us Priests:** Proclaim Praises to God/Salvation to the lost

1 Peter 2:9 …you are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may **proclaim the praises of Him** who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light…

- Priests now able to enter the Holy of Holies…

Matthew 27:51 Then, behold, **the veil of the temple was torn** in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split…

- **Temple Veil:** 16 inches thick

1. **Illustration**, Symbol, and **Type**, reality found in the body of Jesus
2. **Prevented** access to God the Father **until Jesus flesh was torn…**

Hebrews 10:19 [**We now have…] boldness to enter the Holiest** by the blood of Jesus, 20 by a new and living way which He consecrated for us, through the **veil, that is, His flesh…**

Faithful Witness/Firstborn from the dead/ Ruler over the kings of the earth.
The One who loved us/Washed us in His own blood/Made us Kings and Priests…

Revelation of Jesus: The Unveiling of Who He is

6b… to Him [Jesus v5] be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Jesus already possesses all Glory and Dominion
John representing the church enthusiastically yields to the facts

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.**

- No highlighters for emphasis only repetition

Even So/Amen: Double Affirmation at the end
IOWs The Previous Statements are Very Important!

Jesus is coming back with the clouds. Every eye will see Him as pierced
When the tribes who pierced Him see Him they will Mourn

1) **Jesus is coming back with the Clouds**

Daniel 7:13 "I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the **Son of Man**, **Coming with the clouds of heaven**!

Psalm 18:9 He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under His feet.10 And He rode upon a cherub, and flew; He flew upon **the wings of the wind**. 11 He made darkness His secret place; His canopy around Him was dark waters **And thick clouds of the skies.**

1) Jesus is coming on the clouds!
2) **Every eye will see Him as pierced**

Psalm 22:16 For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. **They pierced My hands** and My feet…

Revelation 5:6 [Jesus stood] a **Lamb as though it had been slain**

1) Jesus is coming on the clouds!
2) Every eye will see Him as pierced
3) **When the tribes who pierced Him see Him *they will Mourn***

Matthew 24:30 [To the Jews]… sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the **tribes of the earth will mourn**, and they will see the **Son of Man coming on the clouds** of heaven with power and great glory.

Zechariah 12:10 "… I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then **they will look on Me whom they pierced**. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for ***his* only *son,*** and **grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.**

- 12 Tribes of Israel back in Ch's 7 and 14

Two Purposes of The Seven-Year Tribulation Period/Day of the LORD
1) He is coming to Unleash Wrath. 2) He is coming to Redeem Israel

- John representing the Church proclaims Jesus…

He is coming back with the clouds. Every eye will see Him
Jesus now speaks of Himself

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**."

I Am the Alpha and Omega.
I Am the Beginning and the End

- **V 4** Indicates the Father
- **V 7** Indicates Jesus [Also Rev 22:12-13]

Isaiah 44:6 "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, **And** his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the **First and I am the Last**; **Besides Me there is no God.**

- Title/Transmission/Blessing vv1-3
- Greeting: From John and Trinity vv4-8

Next time: Jesus the Alpha Omega
Revealed as Judge of the Earth beginning w/God's People