

Revelation:  
Introduction:

1 The revelation of<sup>1</sup> 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, **Revelation**

### **1:1 CSB**

- There are 3 ways I want to share with you this book
- The historical view
- The literal point of view
- The prophetic point of view
- Above all else
- This is a book about the victory of Jesus
- This book talks about how Christ wins
- These 2 words are the important things about this book
- This book isn't designed to be scary or intimidating
- This book should bring hope
- That Jesus is victorious
- The overall theme of this book is worship
- This is a worship book
- If Christ is victorious, then why turn anywhere else
- Will you worship the lamb or worship the beast
- The lamb is victorious, so why would you worship the beast
- There are 4 or 5 different views about this book
- There are also 3 or 4 views just on Chapter 20
- They can't all be wrong, but they can't all be right since they are different
- How do we use this book to bring unity beyond all the differences
- How do we bring unity in the book of Revelation

### Historical Background

- The authorship is John, who writes this to the churches
- Revelation doesn't tell us who this John is
- Traditionally, it is thought to be John the disciple, the brother of James, son of Zebedee.
- One of the 12
- One of the inner 3
- That we see in the synoptic gospels
- That is what most people think
- The reality is that we are not 100 percent sure it is him.
- All we know is that probably the author of the gospel of John and the Apocalypse of John is the same
- There are many reasons for that

### Similarities between John and Revelation

- 1) Jesus as "logos" (Jn. 1:1& Rev 19:3)
- 2) Jesus the Lamb (Jn. 1:29 & Rev 5:6)

- 3) Water of Life (Jn 7:37& Rev 22:17)
- 4) “Alethinos” (true) (Jn. 9 times; 1 Jn 4 times; Rev 10 times; rest of the NT 4 times)
- 5) Both books refer to Zechariah 12:10

#### Differences between John and Revelation

- The book of John is **good Greek**; the book of Revelation is **very bad Greek**
- So, hence why people ask, can this be the same author
- Although they have these similarities
- It could be easily done, due to the situation involved
- Revelation is written from imprisonment
- The gospel isn't
- It is very common for writers, even for educated people like Paul, to have help from scribes writing letters for them
- Like John, a Galilean or from Jerusalem
- He wasn't highly educated in the Greek
- So naturally, he had help writing the gospel
- If Paul had to do so, so did John
- There wouldn't be many scribes in prison helping him
- So, it would conclude that this is the natural Greek of John

#### Who was John

- We have 2 options
- The traditional view
- That he is the beloved disciple who is talked about in John's gospel, the son of Zebedee
- The second view from the early church would describe him as John the Elder
- Who is listed in the disciple list along with John the beloved
- So, hence 2 Johns
- So, there is this character that is talked about as being the author of Revelation and being the beloved disciple
- Probably wouldn't be John the fisherman
- He would be more likely to be John living in Jerusalem
- A part of the high priest family,
- Some people's reasons for allowing Peter into the courtyard
- Ex. (in the trail of Jesus in the high priest's house)
- So, there is a difference in opinion in which disciple He is
- John the disciple or John the elder
- He is the beloved disciple, but it's not clear if it's 100 percent that it's the son of Zebedee

#### When it was written

- There are 2 ideas about when it was written
- 60s ad or the 90s first century
- This depends on who is persecuting the church
- Who was the persecutor
- Is it Emperor Nero in the 60s or Domitian in the 90s
- Most scholars think it is Domitian in the 90s

- In more recent times, Domitian would be the correct
- Most scholars would believe that John wrote this in the 90s
- During the persecution of Domitian's reign
- Both of these 2 people are the bad guys
- If you want to say who the beast is
- Its either Nero or Domitian
- In terms of the first century
- The emperor is persecuting the church.

Who is it written to

- It is written to 7 churches (Pergamum, Smyrna, Ephesus, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea)
- In the Roman province of Asia
- We know these are not the only 7 churches in Asia
- Colosi, Throes, Myelitis
- That we know from Acts and the New Testament letters
- There are more churches than these 7
- It is unknown why John is writing specifically to these 7
- What we do know
- John is identified as living in Ephesus
- Bringing Mary, the mother of Jesus
- Why Ephesus
- Ephesus was the mother church for the region
- It's where Paul did his ministry
- Where the gospel spread all over the province of Asia
- It's like Ephesus is the mother church, then you have daughter churches
- 7 is a significant number for the Jews
- It means completion
- Or perfection
- John might be talking about the complete church by choosing 7
- What we do know
- We have 7 churches in the province of Asia that John is connected to
- Through his connection through Ephesus
- That he is writing to
- Giving his visions to

Events that happened in the 1 century

- The fire of Rome, 64 AD
- We don't know how or who started it
- A huge part of Rome burned down
- Nero, the emperor, was quickly blamed
- Partly because he wanted to rebuild Rome
- Which he did
- So, what Nero does
- He deflects the blame to an unpopular group at the time

- He blames the church in Rome for the fire
- The fury of the city and the Roman state fall upon the church
- Mostly in Rome
- That could then affect the rest of the region or the emperor
- We have a short 3 ½ years of violent persecution
- Many are imprisoned
- Many are Murdered
- Including Peter and Paul die during this time
- So the idea of the blood of the Martyrs
- Comes from this event
- The first great mass persecution
- Between the state of Rome and the church.
- Another Event is the fall of Jerusalem in 70 AD
- This happened because
- The zealots rebelled against Roman rule
- They started one of the longest and biggest rebellions in Roman history
- So, the Romans come back and retake the land and take Jerusalem
- While they are taking over Jerusalem
- Nero kills himself
- Then they need a new emperor
- There is a civil war happening
- Because they had 4 emperors in one year
- The last one stabilizes the empire
- Then send his son Titus to renew the empire
- This happens for 3 ½ years
- This is happening inside the city.
- The Zealots are doing terrible things inside the temple and in the city
- The Romans were attacking outside the city
- The Romans got in and it's said that they were so disgusted by what happened
- They destroyed Jerusalem and the temple
- Jesus had already prophesied this before it had happened in Mk.13; Matthew 24; Luke 21
- Jesus tells the church, if you see these signs, get out
- If 2 are in a field, go
- The entire Jerusalem church was saved because they fled

#### The emperor's cult

- This happens before the 1<sup>st</sup> century
- It's a movement that is growing through the New Testament
- In ancient times, the Roman leader were never worshipped while they were alive
- That's how they looked at it
- All this changes with Augustus
- He made himself the chief priest of Rome
- He made himself also the chief priest of all religions
- So all religions had to pray for him and thank him
- This was a new way to control people through religion

- Now this change in culture
- Makes people's idea to look at just one figure for the Roman Empire
- This shift happened in the culture
- When they stopped praying for him but now praying to him
- They began to worship him
- Creating a cult by worshipping Rome and the Emperor
- This was extremely strong in Asia
- There were multiple temples created for them
- So this shift in culture made people think that they were more than humans
- This resembles a lot to Domitian
- He is the first emperor to demand to be worshipped
- He demands that people call him lord and god
- It became a law that people would have to say Cesar is lord
- You had to worship Domitian as a god
- So, these churches easily accepted this
- Which made it difficult for people believe in God alone

#### Types of Literature in Revelation

- There are 3 types of literature in Revelation
- It's a letter
- It's a normal first-century letter
- This is one half of the communications between
- The 7 churches and John
- We don't know what kind of communications happen between them
- There is a reason why this letter is written
- They are the intended audience
- The message is to them
- We must consider them more than us
- First for them, then to us
- This is also a prophetic letter
- For us, this is a letter of hope
- It is to encourage and build up the church
- The goal is to console and comfort them
- This is an apocalyptic writing
- Apocalyptic literature was big between 200 bc and 100 ad
- Apocalypse is the revealing
- It's a revelation of what is going on
- This is written in the poetic art form
- From the Old Testament
- Isaiah, Daniel, Ezequiel, Zechariah,
- All this is the background of the book of Revelation

## Revelation is an Apocalyptic literature

- This word is used as an end-of-the-world event
- Apocalypse means unveiling
- To have your eyes open
- That's why in English it is translated as revelation
- An apocalypse is an event of unveiling
- **2 Kings 6:8-17 CSB**

<sup>8</sup> When the king of Aram was waging war against Israel, he conferred with his servants, "My camp will be at such and such a place."<sup>9</sup> But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel: "Be careful passing by this place, for the Arameans are going down there."<sup>10</sup> Consequently, the king of Israel sent word to the place the man of God had told him about. The man of God repeatedly<sup>a</sup> warned the king, so the king would be on his guard.<sup>11</sup> The king of Aram was enraged because of this matter, and he called his servants and demanded of them, "Tell me, which one of us is for the king of Israel?"<sup>12</sup> One of his servants said, "No one, my lord the king. Elisha, the prophet in Israel, tells the king of Israel even the words you speak in your bedroom."<sup>13</sup> So the king said, "Go and see where he is, so I can send men to capture him." When he was told, "Elisha is in Dothan,"<sup>14</sup> he sent horses, chariots, and a massive army there. They went by night and surrounded the city.<sup>15</sup> When the servant of the man of God got up early and went out, he discovered an army with horses and chariots surrounding the city. So he asked Elisha, "Oh, my master, what are we to do?"<sup>16</sup> Elisha said, "Don't be afraid, for those who are with us outnumber those who are with them."<sup>17</sup> Then Elisha prayed, "Lord, please open his eyes and let him see." So the Lord opened the servant's eyes, and he saw that the mountain was covered with horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha

- Elisha is in a city called Dothan
- Vs 15 says this
- The servant is confused
- All he can see is what his natural eye can see
- So, Elisha prays in verse 17
- Open his eyes
- Elisha was the only one who could see it
- So, he asked God for an apocalypse of his eyes
- This is what is happening in the first century
- Christians are being persecuted
- Domitian believed that because the Romans destroyed the temple in 70 A.D

- Yahweh caused Mount Vesuvius to erupt, destroying parts of the Romans empire
- Which now causes severe persecution
- But John says, when I got a revelation
- When I went to Heaven
- It feels like Domitian is in control
- It feels like the Roman Empire is on the throne
- Guess what happened
- When the Spirit of the Lord opened my eyes
- I saw that the lamb was on the throne
- This is to reveal that Jesus is Lord
- This is to show the Christian people that Jesus is in control
- Far beyond what we see or feel in this current time
- Apocalyptic literature is Jewish literature that relies on images and symbols to provide hope during persecution
- It is not to be taken literally
- It is to provide hope to people who read it

4 main ways that people read the book of Revelation

- 1) The historical view- revelation is being unfolded in every historical time of the church
- 2) A Preterist view- They believe that most of the prophecies happened in the first 100 years of the church.
- 3) A Futuristic View- Where people would say, the locus in revelation is a helicopter, since there was nothing close to it in that time.
- 4) An Idealist view- a spiritual application of the book

John is writing from Ephesus, and to understand Revelation, we must understand what was happening at that time

- The first church in the 7 churches is Ephesus
- Ephesus is the 2<sup>nd</sup> most important city in the Roman Empire
- Ephesus is also the home of the largest gymnasium in the Roman Empire
- There are some similarities between the book of Revelation and the Olympic Games
- This is how the opening games would start during **Domitian's rule**

- 1) The presentation of the emperor, Ch. 1. The emperor would enter the arena
- 2) A herald would give announcements, but he would give the achievements of all the things Caesar did

- 3) Caesar would start making some pronouncements. Ex. to this city or to this region, saying I've heard you have done a good job, but I think you can do better in these areas, and this is what I'm going to do if you don't do better
- 4) There were 24 legal religions in the Roman Empire, which means there were 24 priests who represented those religions. There was then an empirical song that was sung led by a chorus of 24 elders
- 5) Another herald would open the scroll to officially open the games
- 6) We would get chariot races with 4 horses, not a competitive race, but of ceremony, a black horse, a white horse, a red horse, then a pale or spotted horse.
- 7) The trumpet would sound, and the games would begin
  - All John is doing is taking the opening format of the ceremony of the Olympic Games and formatting it to the first 7 chapters of Revelation
  - The presentation of the emperor is the first half of Chapter 1 of Revelation
  - The herald that gives announcements and achievements is the second half of Chapter One of Revelation.
  - The pronouncement of Caesar to the 7 churches is found in Ch. 2 and 3.
  - The chorus of 24 priests had to wear white robes; they would sing the emperor song Ch. 4
  - A herald would open the games with the scroll Ch. 5
  - Chariot race Ch. 6
  - The trumpets would have the games begin in Rev. Ch 7

The church at this time is not trying to see how the world would end

- John is sharing the similarities because
- John is trying to have the church remain faithful during persecution
- John is using the Olympics because
- In the Olympics, you weren't representing yourself when you ran the race
- You are representing the strength of the god that you are running on behalf of
- So, in today's Olympics, you run to represent your country
- In the original Olympics, you're running to represent the God of your city
- the God of your region
- Here's what John is saying he's saying
- You need to run this race called life in such a way that you represent Yahweh well
- That you represent Jesus well, you need to be faithful in the midst of persecution
- You need to run your race in the arena of life so that God will be displayed

- So that the empire will get an apocalypse of the person of Jesus

### Hebrews 12:1-3 CSB

Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, <sup>2</sup> keeping our eyes on Jesus,<sup>□</sup> the pioneer and perfecter<sup>□</sup> of our faith. For the joy that lay before him,<sup>□</sup> he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

### 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 CSB

<sup>24</sup> Don't you know that the runners in a stadium all race, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way to win the prize. <sup>25</sup> Now everyone who competes exercises self-control in everything. They do it to receive a perishable crown, but we an imperishable crown. <sup>26</sup> So I do not run like one who runs aimlessly or box like one beating the air. <sup>27</sup> Instead, I discipline my body and bring it under strict control, so that after preaching to others, I myself will not be disqualified.

When we look at the Book of Revelation, we must understand that there's a certain outline that the book takes

- Chapters 1:1-8- Prologue
- 1:9-20 - The call of the prophet by the first and last, the living one who holds the keys of death and hades
- 2:1-3:22- Letters to the seven churches
- 4:1-5:14- The vision of God and the Lamb
- 6:1-8:1- Opening of the seven seals
- 8:2-11:19- 7 trumpets
- 12:1-14:20- Visions of the dragon, the beast, and the lamb
- 15:1-16:21- 7 plagues and 7 bowls
- 17:1-19:10- Judgment of Babylon and the harlot
- 19:11-21:8- Transition from Babylon to the new Jerusalem
- 21:9-22:5- The new Jerusalem and the bride
- 22:6-21- Epilogue

**1** The revelation of<sup>□</sup> 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, **Revelation 1:1 CSB**

## 1:1 Who are his servants

- Acts 2:18- Those who have the Holy Spirit
- Romans 6:19- Those who are slaves to righteousness, then sanctification
- 1 Peter 2:16- Free people
- Revelation 22:6- his servants (under submission to his lordship)

## 1:1 What must soon take place

- Daniel 2:28- 29- The dream of Nebuchadnezzar (the mysteries)
- Daniel 2:45- The stone breaking off the mountain (Iron, Bronze, fired clay, silver, and gold)
- Revelation 2:6 – The practices of the Nicolaitans

The Nicolaitans were an early Christian sect, mentioned in Revelation 2:6, 14-15, criticized for teaching a doctrine of compromise, including participating in pagan idolatry and sexual immorality. They advocated for a lifestyle that blended Christian freedom with pagan practices, likely encouraging believers to attend pagan festivals and eat food sacrificed to idols.

- In Ch 22-24
- Balak hires Balaam
- At that time, the people of Israel had rebelled 7 times out of 10
- 7 times in the book of Numbers 3 in the book of Deuteronomy
- Balak saw what had happened to the Amorites, Numbers 2:2
- Balak was one of the Moabite kings at the time
- He sent to get a man named Balaam
- Balaam
- Balaam was a Mesopotamian Baru
- A sorcerer
- Basically, someone who would persuade the gods
- Balaam was a famous oracle
- So, God Yahweh is talking to Balaam
- He tells him you must bless Israel
- In Ch. 23
- Balaam asks Balak to build 7 altars
- Prepare 7 bulls and 7 rams
- So instead of cursing the people of Israel
- Balaam blesses the people of Israel

- They were set up on a barren hill
- Since they believed the closer you were to heaven, the closer you were to the gods
- Now we only see 4 oracles happen
- Since they believed that depending on the region,
- That is the god who would have control of the territory
- Now something supernatural happens on the 3<sup>rd</sup> oracle

<sup>5</sup>How beautiful are your tents, Jacob, your dwellings, Israel.<sup>6</sup>They stretch out like river valleys, <sup>[a]</sup>like gardens beside a stream, like aloes the Lord has planted, like cedars beside the water.<sup>7</sup>Water will flow from his buckets, and his seed will be by abundant water. His king will be greater than Agag, and his kingdom will be exalted.<sup>8</sup>God brought him out of Egypt; he is like<sup>[b]</sup> the horns of a wild ox for them. He will feed on enemy nations and gnaw their bones; he will strike them with his arrows. **Numbers 24:5-8 CSB**

- Balaam sees a garden in the desert
- From the hilltop, he would have seen
- The tabernacle in the middle
- Then the symbol of the cross
- 3 tribes to the west
- 3 tribes to the east
- 3 tribes to the north
- 3 tribes to the south
- With the Tabernacle facing the east
- On the 4<sup>th</sup> oracle, we see a prophecy of Jesus

<sup>17</sup>I see him, but not now; I perceive him, but not near. A star will come from Jacob, and a scepter will arise from Israel. He will smash the forehead<sup>[c]</sup> of Moab and strike down<sup>[d]</sup> all the Shethites.<sup>[e]</sup> **Numbers 24:17 CSB**

- Since Balak couldn't destroy the people of Israel
- Balaam advised Balak to have them open doors
- As Christians, we are covered by the blood of Jesus
- We have the full armor of God all around us
- That means no matter what the enemy throws against us
- It will not prevail
- Just like the people of Israel
- We are blessed

- No weapon formed against us will prosper
- But this is what Revelation is talking about
- Of the things that will come
- To those who compromise
- Numbers 25 tells us the advice Balaam gave to Balak was this

## Israel Worships Baal

**25** While Israel was staying in the Acacia Grove, <sup>[a]</sup> the people began to prostitute themselves with the women of Moab. <sup>2</sup> The women invited them to the sacrifices for their gods, and the people ate and bowed in worship to their gods. <sup>3</sup> So Israel aligned itself with Baal of Peor, and the Lord's anger burned against Israel. <sup>4</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Take all the leaders of the people and execute <sup>[b]</sup> them in broad daylight before the Lord so that his burning anger may turn away from Israel."

<sup>5</sup> So Moses told Israel's judges, "Kill each of the men who aligned themselves with Baal of Peor."

## Phinehas Intervenes

<sup>6</sup> An Israelite man came bringing a Midianite woman to his relatives in the sight of Moses and the whole Israelite community while they were weeping at the entrance to the tent of meeting. <sup>7</sup> When Phinehas son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, saw this, he got up from the assembly, took a spear in his hand, <sup>8</sup> followed the Israelite man into the tent, <sup>[c]</sup> and drove it through both the Israelite man and the woman—through her belly. Then the plague on the Israelites was stopped, <sup>9</sup> but those who died in the plague numbered twenty-four thousand.

<sup>10</sup> The Lord spoke to Moses, <sup>11</sup> "Phinehas, son of Eleazar, son of Aaron the priest, has turned back my wrath from the Israelites because he was zealous among them with my zeal, <sup>[d]</sup> so that I did not destroy the Israelites in my zeal. <sup>12</sup> Therefore, declare: I grant him my covenant of peace. **Numbers 25:1-12 CSB**

- A side note, Phinehas was the first zealot
- Simon was a Zealot, one of Jesus disciple
- The people of Israel allowed sin to enter their camps
- Since we are covered by the blood of Jesus
- The only way the enemy can get into your camp will be through the doors you open

<sup>14</sup> But Moses became furious with the officers, the commanders of thousands and commanders of hundreds, who were returning from the military campaign. <sup>15</sup> "Have you let every female live?" he asked them. <sup>16</sup> "Yet they are the ones who, at Balaam's advice,

incited the Israelites to unfaithfulness against the Lord in the Peor incident, so that the plague came against the Lord's community. **Numbers 31:14-16 CSB**

- Who are the Midianites
- Midian is the leader of the Midianites
- Cousins to the Israelites, Gn. 25:1
- From Abraham's wife Keturah
- This is what will soon take place
- The purification of the body of Christ

**1** The revelation of <sup>[a]</sup> 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. **Revelation 1:1 CSB**

1:1 **Sending his angels**

- Genesis 24:7- When Abraham sent his servant to get a wife for Isaac, his angels went beforehand)
- Matthew 1:24- The angel telling Joseph to marry Mary
- Acts 12:11- The angel rescues Peter from prison

### Start here week 3

**1** The revelation of<sup>f[a]</sup> 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<sup>[b]</sup> of Jesus Christ, whatever he saw.<sup>[c]</sup> **3** 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<sup>[d]</sup> what is written in it, because the time is near.

<sup>4</sup> John: To the seven churches in Asia. Grace and peace to you from<sup>[e]</sup> the one who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits<sup>[f]</sup> 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<sup>[g]</sup> from our sins by his blood, <sup>6</sup>and made us a kingdom,<sup>[h]</sup> priests<sup>[i]</sup> 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<sup>[j]</sup> of the earth<sup>[k]</sup> will mourn over him.**<sup>[l][m]</sup>

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.” **Revelation 1:1-8 CSB**

- A lot of the writers in the N.T spoke about the end times event
- As something that was happening in their time

<sup>20</sup> The God of peace will **soon** crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you. **Romans 16:20 CSB**

<sup>2</sup> **In these last days**, he has spoken to us by his Son. God has appointed him heir of all things and made the universe<sup>[a]</sup> through him. **Hebrews 1:2 CSB**

<sup>7</sup> The **end of all things is near**; therefore, be alert and sober-minded for prayer. **1 Peter 4:7 CSB**

- Everything points to
  - 1) God's final victory
  - 2) The establishment of HIS kingdom
- Since Genesis, God has been establishing His Kingdom
- The Bible is showing us 6 steps throughout scripture
  - Chaos (Tohuvavohu)
  - Water (Tehom)
  - Wind (Ruach)

- Order

- Test

- Genesis 1:1-2; Gn. 6-9; Exodus (The Red Sea); Joshua 3; Matthew 3:13-4:11

- All this is God establishing His Kingdom
- He tried to bring redemption through bringing order and testing their faithfulness
- Only Jesus was able to pass the test
- Since he is the One who is, who was, and who is to come
- Since Jesus breaks the Chaos cycle
- Now a new cycle begins
- This is known as the grace period
- Where Jesus has now died and been resurrected for our sins
- We now must choose to follow the chaos cycle or
- Follow the one who broke the cycle on the cross
- If someone told you following Jesus would be easy
- They are mistaken
- Since the establishment of the church
- There has been conflict
- Spiritual warfare
- Oppression
- Not everyone lives in a free country like ours,
- We must remember that Christians were being persecuted
- Just like today
- All around the world
- Christians are being persecuted
- Some are even being killed for our beliefs

<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<sup>[d]</sup> what is written in it**, because the time is near. **Revelation 1:3 CSB**

- Revelation has 7 Beatitudes in Revelation

- Rev.1:3 (Who reads aloud the words) (and those who hear)
- Rev. 14:13 (The dead who die in the Lord)
- Rev.16:15(Alert and remains clothed)
- Rev. 19:9 (Invited to the marriage feast of the Lamb)
- Rev. 20:6 (Shares in the first resurrection)
- Rev. 22:7 (Who keep the words of the prophecy)
- Rev.2:14(Who was their robes)

<sup>4</sup>John: To the seven churches in Asia. Grace and peace to you from<sup>[a]</sup> the one who is, who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits<sup>[b]</sup> before his throne, **Revelation 1:4**

### **CSB**

- John uses the number 7 for many reasons
  - 7 is used as completion or fullness in the O.T
  - Gen 2:2; God finished his work
  - Lev 26:18; Discipline 7 times for sin
  - Josh 6:4; 7 priest, 7 trumpets, 7<sup>th</sup> day
- John uses the same similarities as the O.T
  - 7 bowls
  - 7 trumpets
  - 7 churches
  - The number 7 would resemble that it would be for the entire world
  - The letter to the 7 churches is not just from Jesus
  - It is also from the 7 spirits
  - Or the sevenfold Spirit
  - So what is the sevenfold spirit
  - We can find the sevenfold spirit of God in Isaiah 11:2

<sup>2</sup>**The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him— a Spirit of wisdom and understanding, a Spirit of counsel and strength, a Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord, Isaiah 11:2 CSB**

- These are the sevenfold spirits
  - The Spirit of the Lord
  - The Spirit of Wisdom

- The Spirit of Understanding
- The Spirit of Counsel
- The Spirit of Strength
- The Spirit of Knowledge
- The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord
- The number 7 indicates the fullness of the Holy Spirit's work
- Just like the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are one
- The Holy Spirit carries itself in seven
- When we look at the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit is not a thing or an object
- The Holy Spirit is God
- When we receive the Holy Spirit in our lives
- The Spirit of the Lord comes upon us, and the Spirit himself
- In the time or in the moment that we need
- Wisdom, understanding, counsel, strength, knowledge, or the fear of the Lord
- The Holy Spirit intervenes in our lives and helps us navigate through this life
- That is why Jesus said that when he left this world, he would send a helper
- That helper is the Holy Spirit
- The spirit of the living God
- He is not just here for us to experience him in a spiritual way
- The Holy Spirit is here to help us in our day-to-day lives
- That is why when we are speaking to the Holy Spirit
- We can ask him for wisdom
- We can ask him for understanding
- We can ask him for counsel
- We can ask him for strength
- We can ask him for knowledge
- We can ask him to show us how to fear the Lord
- When we acknowledge that we need the Holy Spirit
- In all of our day-to-day actions
- We can truly function as the church of the 1st century

- We should rely on the Holy Spirit every day
- No matter how tough a day we've had
- No matter if we are going through problem situations, persecution
- We can trust wholeheartedly that our God is with us
- He is not only with us, but he lives inside of us
- That means that I carry the identity of the father in my life
- I carry the anointing over my life and
- The mantle that God has placed over me is because the seven-fold spirit lives inside of me.
- This letter to the seven churches is not just John writing it
- It is Jesus and the Holy Spirit

#### Week 4

**<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<sup>[d]</sup> of the earth<sup>[e]</sup>  
will mourn over him.<sup>[f][g]</sup>**

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.”

<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<sup>[h]</sup> on the Lord’s day, and I heard a loud voice behind me like a trumpet <sup>11</sup>saying, “Write on a scroll<sup>[i]</sup> 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,<sup>[i]</sup> 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<sup>[k]</sup> 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.<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, **Revelation**

### **1:7-17 CSB**

**<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<sup>[d]</sup> of the earth<sup>[e]</sup> will mourn over him.<sup>[f][g]</sup> So it is to be. Amen. **Revelation 1:7 CSB****

- Look, he (Jesus) is coming in the clouds, **Is19:1**;

A pronouncement concerning Egypt: Look, the Lord rides on a swift cloud and is coming to Egypt. Egypt’s worthless idols will tremble before him, and Egypt will lose heart. **Isaiah19:1CSB**

- Remember, it can’t mean to us what it didn’t mean to them
- John is writing from a Jewish perspective
- Pointing people back to the Old Testament
- The New Testament didn’t exist back then
- John starts referencing Isaiah in Rev. 1:7
- What better way to tell Christians not to lose hope
- Egypt lost hope, and its idols trembled before him
- So how can Isaiah be referring to things that are already passed
- We must remember,
- Isaiah talks about the promise of **HIS** coming judgment
- Meaning, Isaiah is also a prophetic book

- The prophetic is described in 2 ways
- **Fourth telling**- It's about speaking God's truth to a specific situation. This involves calling people to repentance and warning against moral decay.
- **Foretelling**- At times, prophets revealed God's plan, such as predicting the coming of the Messiah (Jesus), the impending judgement, or the end-time
- When we see prophecy, it doesn't necessarily mean the future
- It could mean the correction of the heart
- So, when you call people repentance, or even warn them of their moral life
- You are being used in the prophetic
- John and most of the apostles had a habit
- They would use a certain number of words to refer to a passage
- Not to confuse you
- To bring revelation (unveiling) to you, the scriptures

<sup>26</sup> An angel of the Lord spoke to Philip: "Get up and go south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is the desert road.<sup>[a]</sup>) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. There was an Ethiopian man, a eunuch and high official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to worship in Jerusalem <sup>28</sup> and was sitting in his chariot on his way home, reading the prophet Isaiah aloud.<sup>29</sup> The Spirit told Philip, "Go and join that chariot."<sup>30</sup> When Philip ran up to it, he heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you're reading?"<sup>31</sup> "How can I," he said, "unless someone guides me?" So, he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. **Acts 8:26-31 CSB**

- Unless the Spirit reveals the scripture, we won't understand its real meaning
- This Ethiopian man had read this passage in Isaiah
- But it didn't make sense and bring conviction until it was revealed
- **They will mourn for the pierced one Zch 12:10;**

<sup>10</sup> "Then I will pour out a spirit<sup>[a]</sup> of grace and prayer on the house of David and the residents of Jerusalem, and they will look at<sup>[b]</sup> me whom they pierced. They will mourn for him as one

mourns for an only child and weep bitterly for him as one weeps for a firstborn. **Zechariah**

**12:10 CSB**

- Everyone who did not believe that Jesus died and was resurrected from the dead
- John is showing us that people
- Will weep bitterly as someone who weeps for a firstborn
- John is making this comparison to what happened to Pharaoh
- John is connecting the dots from Isaiah and Zachariah
- Showing them or showing us
- Jesus will come on the clouds and bring judgment, the way he did to the people of Egypt
- And that judgment will be as severe as what happened to Pharaoh when he lost his firstborn

<sup>11</sup> "I watched, then, because of the sound of the arrogant words the horn was speaking. As I continued watching, the beast was killed and its body destroyed and given over to the burning fire. <sup>12</sup> As for the rest of the beasts, their dominion was removed, but an extension of life was granted to them for a certain period of time. <sup>13</sup> I continued watching in the night visions, and suddenly one like a son of man was coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was escorted before him. <sup>14</sup> He was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, so that those of every people, nation, and language should serve him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will not be destroyed. **Daniel 7:11-14**

**CSB**

- In Revelation chapter 1: 7
- The people will see Jesus coming in the clouds
- That is, after the beast and his dominion are removed
- Now, as we look at the beast
- Daniel 7:10 says
- Thousands upon thousands served him
- 10,000 upon 10,000 stood before him

- Now, there's something I need to add to make you understand a little bit of how the Jewish people read the Bible or the Torah
- In our Western society, we tend to look at a storyline with the climax towards the end
- For Jewish people, the climax of a story is in the middle
- This is an eastern perspective
- Meaning that they mirror the beginning and the end of the book
- So, what John is trying to explain
- Is Jesus wins, it's that simple
- John takes us from Jesus coming in the clouds
- To the mourning of the tribes
- Since they had an opportunity to choose Jesus
- All within one verse
- Referencing what God is going to do as he judges over creation

#### All the tribes of the earth;

- Genesis 12:3; The descendants of Abram
- Genesis 28:14; The descendants of Jacob
- Zechariah 14:17; The chosen ones of the Lord

#### Will mourn over him (because of him)

- Daniel 7:13; Son of man coming on the cloud
- Zechariah 12:10; The scripture being used for mourning for the one pierced

#### V8. I am the Alpha and Omega

- Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet

This is what the Lord, the King of Israel and its Redeemer, the Lord of Armies, says: I am the first, and I am the last. There is no God but me. **Isaiah 44:6 CSB**

- The Lord and His Redeemer (Jesus)

<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.

- **Affliction-** is something all Christians will endure or are enduring ( Jn 16:33; Ac: 14:22; Rm 5:3; 2 Tim 2:12; Rev 2:9)
- **Kingdom-** The inheritance set before us ( Mt 25:34; Jms 2:5)
- **Endurance-** The ability to remain steadfast in faith and patiently withstand hardship without losing hope (Rms 5:3-4; 8:25; 15:4; Col 1:11; 2 Th 1:4; Heb 10:36; 12:1; Jms 1:3-4; Rv 2:3; 3:10; 13:10; 14:12)

<sup>10</sup>I was **in the Spirit**<sup>[h]</sup> on the Lord's Day, and I heard a loud voice behind me like a trumpet

- **In the Spirit;** (in spirit or I became in the spirit) (1 Kg 18:12; Ezk 3:12; 2Co 12:2; Rv 4:2; 17:3; 21:10)

<sup>11</sup>saying, "**Write** on a scroll<sup>[i]</sup> what you see and send it to the seven churches: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

- **Write** (Ex 34:27; Dt 31:19; Is 8:1; 30:8; Jr 30:2; 36:2,28; Hab 2:2; Rv 2:1; 8,12,18; 3:1,7,14; 14:3;19:9;21:5)
- When the Spirit speaks, it is important to write down the dreams and visions
- Do not neglect the importance of writing the information

## Week 5

<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, <sup>14</sup>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<sup>[k]</sup> 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. <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, **Revelation 1:12-17 CSB**

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see whose (voice) it was that spoke to me. When I turned, I saw seven golden lampstands, **Revelation 1:12 CSB**

- The voice that John was hearing was the voice of God (Exod. 20:18)
- More than likely, this is the same voice that Moses was hearing as he was receiving the 10 commandments
- When we look at Revelation, and we study Revelation
- The Bible gives a clear understanding of where we are going
- In the Eastern perspective, the Bible is just loops
- The Word is referencing everything that we've already read or heard
- That is why John is referencing this “whose voice is that spoke to me.”
- The same voice the Israelites heard while Moses was coming down from the mountain is the same voice John was hearing during the writing of Revelation.
- John is given a command to view what is around him, which is why
- He starts giving us the example of what is being viewed before his eyes
- He starts with
- The 7 golden lampstands.
- This is found in many places in the Bible
- These golden lampstands stood in the Holy Place

- Of the tabernacle and at the temple
- (Exod. 25:31-37; 1 Kings 7:49)
- Revelation 1:20 tells us that the seven golden lampstands are the seven churches
- Something profound is happening in Revelation 1:12
- We can find the answer in Zachariah chapter 4
- In Zachariah chapter 4 verse 2, there is significance in the lampstand, and that is the 7th sprouts of each of the lamps
- The 7th sprouts can be known as the eyes of the Lord
- Something profound that we can understand about the lampstand
- According to Zachariah, we can conclude that the church should be shining its light across the region
- Having the seven eyes of the spirit of God
- Across the whole earth
- Giving us the expression or understanding that the Holy Spirit is with the church
- In Zachariah chapter 4 verse 6, the Lord tells Zerubbabel
- It's not by strength or by might but by my Spirit

**4** The angel who was speaking with me then returned and roused me as one awakened out of sleep. <sup>2</sup> He asked me, "What do you see?" I replied, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top. The lampstand also has seven lamps **at the top with seven spouts for each of the lamps.** <sup>3</sup> There are also two olive trees beside it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left."<sup>4</sup> Then I asked the angel who was speaking with me, "What are these, my lord?"<sup>5</sup> "Don't you know what they are?" replied the angel who was speaking with me. I said, "No, my lord."<sup>6</sup> So he answered me, "**This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by strength or by might, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord of Armies.**"<sup>7</sup> "What are you, great mountain? Before Zerubbabel, you will become a plain. And he will bring out the capstone accompanied by shouts of: Grace, grace to it!"<sup>8</sup> Then the word of the Lord came to me: <sup>9</sup> "Zerubbabel's hands have laid the foundation of this house, and his hands will complete it. Then you will know that the Lord of Armies has sent me to you. <sup>10</sup> For who despises the day of small things? **These seven eyes of the Lord, which scan throughout the whole earth, will rejoice** when they see the ceremonial stone<sup>Ⓜ</sup> in Zerubbabel's hand. **Zechariah 4:1-10**  
**CSB**

- John is encouraging the church
- That the church will prevail with the Holy Spirit

<sup>13</sup> and among the lampstands was one like the **Son of Man**,<sup>[a]</sup> dressed in a robe and with a **golden sash** wrapped around his chest. **Revelation 1:13 CSB**

- Among the lampstands
- Is Christ
- Jesus is next to his church
- John draws on the vision of Dan 7
- Giving us the picture of the Ancient of Days
- Describing his clothing and hair
- Telling us about the four beasts
- Describing the one world currency
- Describing how the beasts will try
- To create religious festivals
- Change laws
- And how the holy ones
- Meaning the believers will be handed over to him
- For a period of 3 1/2 years
- During Chapter 7 of Daniel, he describes the Ancient of Days dressed in a robe with his head white as wool
- And his eyes were like fiery flame
- Now, if we remember in Matthew Chapter 9, verse 6, Jesus is referencing himself as the Son of Man
- Telling us that he has authority on earth to forgive our sins
- He also mentions in Matthew chapter 10, verse 23
- That they will persecute us, that we will flee to another city until the son of man comes
- Now talking about how the Son of Man is dressed in a robe
- Some versions of the Bible even say that it goes all the way to his feet
- This could give us an understanding that Jesus is dressed as a high priest
- Exodus 20 gives us the perfect example of what the priests would wear
- With the ephod
- the breast piece
- The robe
- The turban
- The tunic
- Daniel chapter 10 verse 5 even gives us the description of the golden belt that the Son of Man has on

<sup>14</sup>The hair of his head was **white as wool**—**white as snow**—and his eyes like a fiery flame. **Revelation 1:14 CSB**

- Now as we see the comment of white as wool, the scripture refers us to **Isaiah chapter one, verse 18**, where it says
- Even though your sins are like scarlet, they will be white as snow; even though they are red like crimson, they will become like wool
- John is doing the comparison of the Ancient of Days clothing is white like snow, and the hair of his head is compared to pure wool
- His eyes are like a fiery flame, giving us the same comparison as Daniel chapter 10, verse 6

<sup>15</sup>His feet were like fine bronze as it is fired in a furnace, and his voice like the sound of cascading<sup>[k]</sup> waters. **Revelation 1:15 CSB**

- In Daniel Chapter 7, verse 9, and Daniel Chapter 10, verse 6,
  - We see the resemblance of his feet, like fine bronze, and
  - When John mentions it is fired in a furnace
  - He is more than likely talking about the wheels on the throne of the ancient of days, which were burning fire
  - Now, where he says a voice like the sound of cascading waters
  - John is taking us to the book of Ezekiel, chapter one, verse 24
  - In Ezekiel, we see that the sound of the wings was like the sound of water
  - The voice of El Shaddai
  - Now, chapter 1 of Ezekiel is giving us the vision of the glory of the Lord, and it describes in chapter one verse 10
- 
- That their faces look like something like the face of a human, and each of the four had the face of a lion, their face looked like something like the face of a human, and each of the four had a face of a lion on the right, the face of an ox on the left, and the face of an angel, **Ezekiel 1:10 CSB**
- 
- Now I want to give you some insight
  - We are going to be seeing this in the near future
  - Of the four living creatures
  - We will see the lion's
  - The ox
  - The man's
  - And the flying eagle

- I want you to pay attention to how the Lord is describing his glory descend in Ezekiel's
- He is describing how the wings I like the sound of many waters of the Almighty
- But in Ezekiel chapter 1, he starts describing the faces of these living creatures
- These living creatures portray the gospel
- In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus is portrayed as a lion, meaning he is the king
- In the gospel of Mark, Jesus is portrayed as an ox, a faithful servant
- In the gospel of Luke, Jesus is portrayed as human
- In the gospel of John, Jesus is the eagle flying above all of it, in other words, being like a superhuman

<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. **Revelation 1:16 CSB**

- Now Jesus is holding the seven stars in his right hand
- The right hand represents strength and spiritual blessing
- Throughout scripture, every time and would give their blessing to their son to the eldest son
- They would use the right hand as a representation of the strength and authority they carried
- It says that a double-edged sword came from his mouth
- This indicates that it is the word of God
- This gives us a remembrance of John chapter one, verse one through 5
- Where it says that in the beginning was the word, and the word was with God, and the word was God
- **Revelation 2:16** tells us
- that he will make war with the sword of his mouth
- **Revelation 19:15** says that out of his mouth came a sharp sword to strike the nations
- **Revelation 19:21** says that the rest were killed by the sword of the one who is seated on the horse, the sword that comes out of his mouth
- The authority and the power that Jesus has over what he speaks it's important for us to understand
- **Revelation 1:16 his face was shining like the sun at full strength**
- He gives us the comparison of Daniel chapter 10, where he says that it is an angelic figure like lightning
- John could also be giving us the description of the encounter he had in Matthew chapter 17, verse 2
- Of the transfiguration

- If we remember,
- The transfiguration is where Christ appeared in his splendor and divine glory

<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<sup>Ⓜ</sup> of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands<sup>Ⓜ</sup> are the seven churches. **Revelation 1:17-20 CSB**

- Now John falls like a dead man
- Because this was the common real action that someone would have when they encountered the divine
- Meaning, when they would greet or see an angel
- Genesis 15:1 Abraham, when he has a conversation with Yahweh
- Daniel 10:12, when God has a conversation with Daniel
- Luke 1:30, when an Angel visits Mary
- Now, in **verse 18**, the one who lives is Jesus
- The one who conquered Death through resurrection
- Now the keys of Haiti represent authority
- Christ has the authority both to confine and release from death
- **John 5:25-29**; God has given Jesus the ability **to carry out judgment**
- **Matthew 16:19**; God has also given him the ability to bind things on earth and in heaven and to release things on earth and in heaven
- Verse 19
- When Jesus says right
- This verse is often viewed as an outline of the Book of Revelation
- Chapter 1 contains what John saw
- In Chapters 2 and 3, John talks about what is
- Chapters 4 through 22 talk about what will take place later
- Verse 20
- The angels of the seven churches could refer to an angelic being or human leaders
- In Greek, the word Angel is Angelos
- **Matthew 11:10; Luke 7:24; 9:52; James 2:25**
- Now, as John is writing, and he mentions the angels of the seven churches, this could represent
- The leaders or pastors of the seven churches
- However, the term is used about church leadership

- Which is a plural
- These may be angelic representatives of the churches
- Another alternative is that this is a metaphor
- Speaking about the spirit of each church
- Since each letter is addressed to the Angel of that church