

HANDOUT Revelation 1: 1-20 Introduction

The Message of Revelation is that God Wants YOU to See His Glory, His Plan, His Protection and Provision...As He Reveals to YOU His Son, Jesus Christ!

The Beleaguered Church needed a Reminder about what is going on in the world. This Pastoral letter was written to this 1ST Century Church to Remind them that:

All History is Under God's Control. {Unmistakable Emphasis of Revelation.}

- You Live in an Evil World. This was Nothing New, But it was a Good Reminder that as People Living in a Fallen World...YOU WILL BE PERSECUTED!
- **Christ is “Central” to All God's Plans.** Christ will Return, But right Now He is in the place of All Authority, and He is the Focal Point of the Grand Purposes of God.
- **Evil Will be Judged.** It will Not be allowed to continue to run rampant in this world.
- The time will come when God will have a confrontation with Evil and He will Win.
- Heaven is the Ultimate Reality: Stand Firm. Be Faithful. Endure. God's On Your Side
- We Must Keep Our Eyes Focused on Eternity and Stand Firm...As we Anticipate Christ's Return and Our Eternity with Him!
- We need to Remember that NO Matter what's Going On In the World...That God IS Working Out His Purpose for Each of Us! **Romans 8:28**
- Do You have a Passion and Anticipation of What God Wants to Do In and Through Your Life? OR...Do YOU Feel Discouraged, Tired, Disillusioned?
- The Message of Revelation is this...God Wants YOU to See His Glory, His Plan, His Protection and Provision...**As He Reveals to YOU His Son, Jesus Christ!**

READ VERSES 1-3 In Verse 3 **We are Given a 3-Fold Blessing:** Blessed is the one who “reads aloud the words of this Prophecy”. (Evangelize) Blessed are those who “Hear it”. (Receive Grace) and Blessed are those who “take it to heart” (Obey what is Written in it). All 3 Blessings are “Present Participles” Implying with Continued Reading, Hearing and Observing the book of Revelation *We Receive a Direct Promise of Blessing!* **KEY:** Fulfillment of These Promises Requires WE Take Revelation Literally...The End Result of Reading, Hearing & Obeying this Prophecy Is the Blessing of HOPE!

READ VS 4-8 **Grace Equals Our Standing IN Jesus Christ...Redeemed! Peace Equals Our Experience IN Jesus Christ...When You have Peace “With” God...You will have the Peace “Of” God!** Matt 24:30

VS 4: “Grace and Peace” Grace Equals Our Standing IN Jesus Christ! *We Stand Righteous Before God because of What Jesus Christ did for Us on the Cross and Through His Resurrection!*

- **Peace Equals Our Experience IN Jesus Christ!** When You have Peace “With” God, You will have the Peace “Of” God! From Him... (The Eternal Omni “Everywhere” Present God!)
- **Alpha-Omega!** Christ who has been with the Father since Creation Is Coming Back for Us! **Seven Spirits:** These are the 7 angels in Place of High Privilege Before the Throne of God.

Vs 5-6: speak of What Jesus Has Done and is Doing for Us!

- **Faithful Witness:** Fulfilled the role of Prophet (**Past**) and Priest (**Today**)
- **First Begotten of the dead:** First born of the dead (**Past**) Because He Lives We Will Too. **Prince of the Kings of the Earth:(Future)** Came as a Servant, Next He Comes as King!
- **Unto Him who Loved Us:** (Past-Present & Future) From Creation to Glory!
- **To Him who Washed Us:** (Past-Done Forever!) **Him who made Us Kings and Priests:** (Future Glorified State Millennial Kingdom) **Jesus Christ Alone is Due All Glory.**

VS 8 tells Us that Christ is God...The Alpha & Omega ETERNALLY...Christ Is Central!

- Jesus Christ is Our HOPE and HOPE is the Central focus of Revelation!

READ VERSES 9-18 In the Midst of Gods Revelation we learn some important things about God! Many times God allows suffering and separation in our lives, to get our attention, so that He can speak to Us!

- David wrote many Psalms while being pursued by Saul seeking to Kill him.
- Here...John Received the Revelation while Suffering for Christ and the Gospel.

God Uses Adversity to Get Our Attention so that He can Grow Us and Use Us for His Kingdom Plan!

John Makes Meaningful Statements in Verses 10 & 11: When John says, *"I was in the Spirit"* he's saying he was Carried Beyond a Normal Sense into a State where God Supernaturally Revealed His Message.

- *"I Heard a Loud Voice as of a Trumpet"* This is a Reference to The Glorified Christ.

Vs 12 John turns to see 7 Golden Lampstands (candlesticks) In the Temple there were 7-branched candle stands. Here we have 7 Candle Stands. Vs 20 says the 7 Candle Stands Represent the Seven Churches.

- **Application:** *The "Function of the Church" is to give forth Light to the World!*
- The **"Implied" Olive Oil is Symbolic of the Power/Witness of God the Holy Spirit!**

Vs 13 *"Among the Lampstands"* Christ is Portrayed as being in the Midst of the 7 Churches. Jesus is In Our Midst...He Never Leaves or Forsakes Us...He's A Friend that Sticks Closer than a Brother!

Vs 13 offers 2 Symbolic Attributes of Jesus Christ: *"Clothed to His Feet"*: The clothing of a Priest or Judge. *"Golden Sash around His Chest"* Like Priests, binds Garments higher on the body. **NOTE:** *The Earthly Priests had a "golden thread" in the sash. Christ's sash is 100% Gold which signifies God's Pure Nature.*

14-16 *"The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held 7 stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance."*

Verse 16 Gives Us 3 Additional Aspects of the Glorified Eternal Christ. *"Right Hand Held 7 Stars"* {Defined in verse 20 as the 7 angels (leaders) of the 7 churches.} A Tremendous Pastoral Responsibility

- *"Sharp Double Edged Sword Coming out of Christ's Mouth!"* Represents Divine Judgment
- *"Face like the Sun" God's Glory! Christ is His Glorified State!*

VS 17-20 John Concludes with Personal Remarks and Christ Final Words: *When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. 19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. 20 The mystery of the seven stars that 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.*

- Verse 17a, *"When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead."* How do YOU See Christ today?
- Verse 18 says, *"I Am the Living One"* Christ Holds the Keys of Life and Death!
 - In Christ's death and resurrection, He wrested from Satan Any Authority the devil may have had over death! (Wrested: He took power & control from Satan!

Hebrews 2: 14-15, *"Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."*

POINT: HOW YOU SEE JESUS...WILL DETERMINE HOW YOU LIVE!

As we Move through Christ's messages to the 7 churches of Asia and Asia Minor, You Will See Christ as a Supreme Authority and that His Words Must be Obeyed.

My Prayer for each of us at LifePoint Church is that We Will Listen Carefully to Christ's Last 7 Messages to the Church and then Choose to Apply it To Our Lives!