

HANDOUT PART ONE: Revelation 1: 1-20 Introduction

The Book of Revelation was written toward the end of the first century when the emperor Domitian began a Period of Severe Persecution of the Church. *Under the intense persecution, knowing that many will be tortured and die, this group of Believers Knowing that Jesus will Come Again is their Only Hope. The beleaguered church needed a reminder of God's plan for the world.*

- All History is Under God's Control. As they live in an evil world their will be persecution. Christ will Return. Now He has all authority, and is working all things through the Grand Purposes of God.
- A time's coming when God will have a Confront and judge Evil and He Will Win. **KEY: Heaven is the Ultimate Reality Therefore Stand Firm. Remain Faithful...Endure Until Christ Returns!**

This message given to the 1ST century church is Extremely Relevant and Important for the Us Today!

We Must Keep Our Eyes Focused on Eternity trusting God is working our His perfect plan for His Church.

- **KEY:** Whether You have a Passion & Anticipation of What God is doing In and through your life, or you're feeling discouraged The message of Revelation is, Live in Victory placing your Hope in Him!

Vs 1-3 Introduces the "Central Theme" of the book of Revelation...Jesus Christ, our Hope in days ahead!

In Verse Three We are Given a 3-Fold Blessing! **Blessed** is the one who "Reads Aloud the Words of this Prophecy". **Blessed** are those who "Hear It". (Receive Grace-Saved) 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!**

Verse 4: Begins with the Words, "**Grace and Peace**" **Grace** Equals Our *Standing* IN Jesus Christ! **Peace** Equals Our *Experience* IN Jesus Christ! If you have Peace "with" GOD...You'll have the Peace "of" God!

- The Seven Spirits are the 7 angels in Place of High Privilege Standing Before the Throne of God.

Vs 5-6 speak of What Jesus Has Done and is Doing for Us! He is a "Faithful Witness"; First Begotten of the Dead; Prince of the Kings of the Earth; Unto Him who Loved Us; To Him who Washed Us; Him who made Us Kings and Priests (Millennial Kingdom); Jesus Christ alone is due Glory.

VS 7 Gives an Announcement of Christ's Second Coming! "*Every Eye Shall Behold Him*"

- Zech 12:10 {Speaks to Mourning for the One They Pierced} Those who Pierced Christ Will Behold Him...*One Day...Every Knee Will Bow and Every Tongue Will Confess that Jesus Christ Is Lord!*

VS 8 tells Us that Christ is God...The Alpha & Omega (Eternal) Christ Is Central to all things!

- Jesus Christ is Our HOPE and HOPE is the Central Focus of Revelation!
- However, Like the 1st century Church, *Even Born-again Christians Can Lose Hope...Today.*
- **KEY: When A Christian Takes Their Eyes Off Jesus and Looks at their Problems then Fear and Disappointment, will cause them to Lose Hope!**
- **Point:** Christ is "Central" to All God's Plans. *Christ Will Return, But Until then He has Sovereign Authority over everything He Allows in Our Lives! And He Uses even the difficulties for Good!*
- **Heaven is the Ultimate Reality...SO...Stand firm...Endure...God Is On Your Side!**

VS 9-18 We See Christ in His Glorified Eternal State! John describes himself as a "Brother and Companion of the Seven Churches in their Suffering and Kingdom and Patient Endurance!"

- The phrase, "Kingdom and Patience in Jesus" uses the Greek Word {hypomore} which connotes the "HOPE" of Faith" which Yields Patient Endurance. Many times God Allows Suffering and Separation in Our Lives, to Get Our Attention, so that He can speak to Us about important things!

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

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

- **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. **Point:** Jesus is In Our Midst...He Never Leaves or Forsakes Us...He’s A Friend that Sticks Closer than a Brother!

- Vs 13 2 Symbolic Attributes of Jesus Christ: “**Clothed to His Feet**” His Clothing Was that of a Priest-Judge “**Golden Sash around His Chest**” Like Priests, binds Garments higher on the body.
- **NOTE: Earthly Priests had a “golden thread” in the sash...But Christ’s Sash is 100% Gold which Signifies God’s PURE NATURE.**

Vs 14-16 portrays Various Aspects of Christ’s Deity. >>Head of Hair was White as Wool: (Speaks of Purity...Not Age.) >>Eyes as Flame of Fire: (Searching Divine Judgment upon “All” that is Impure!)>>Feet as Burnished Brass/Bronze Glowing in a Fire which Symbolizes Divine Judgment >>“*Voice like the sound of Rushing Waters*”: Signifies the Majesty and Power before which “All” Human Authority Must Bow!

Verse 16 3 Additional Aspects of the Glorified Eternal Christ.

- “**Right Hand Held 7 Stars**” {Defined in Vs 20 as the 7 Angels (Spiritual Leaders) of the 7 Churches.}>> As the Churches were to Emit Light as a Lamp Stand...The Leaders of the Churches are to Project Light as Stars! {A Tremendous Pastoral Responsibility}
- “**Sharp Double Edged Sword Coming out of Christ’s Mouth!**” Represents Divine Judgment (Rev 19:15) “*Out of His Mouth will go a sword that will smite the nations*” The Greek word used connotes “a sword of Devastating Judgment” rather than uncovering unbelief as the sword in Hebrews.
- **Lastly, “Face like the Sun” God’s Glory!** In our Sinful state We would Die if We Saw His Glory. However, 1 John 3: 2 Guarantees someday we will see Christ in all His Glory!

Vs 17-20 Personal Remarks and Christ Final Words:

- Vs 17a “*When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead.*” In the Gospels John laid his head on Christ’s bosom...But here John Falls at Christ’s feet as a Dead Man! The Difference is that for the first time John See’s the Glorified Christ! His Power and Majesty are “No longer Veiled”

Question: How do You See Christ today? Fearful? Loving, Trustworthy, Sovereign?

Verse 18 says, “*I Am the Living One*” >>Christ was Dead (3 Days) Behold I am Alive Forever! >>Christ Holds the Keys of Life and Death! >>In Christ’s Death and Resurrection, He Wrested He Took Power & Control from Satan and Any Authority he had over Death!

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.*”

CHRIST ALONE Possesses the Key (Authority) Over Death! God is Sovereign! No Person can Die Apart from His Divine Permission! In Vs 19 John is Commanded to Write what he sees.

“LIFE” 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** is that We Will Listen Carefully to Christ’s Last 7 Messages to the Church and then Commit to Applying them to our lives!