

## ***STUDIES IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION***

### Lesson One: **THINGS THAT YOU HAVE SEEN**

#### Introduction

The presence of Christ in the Church is the central theme of 1:1-3. This is evident from Christ's appearance and presence "***in the midst of***" the candlesticks (churches).

#### **I. The value of the title!**

##### **A. The Title.**

1. Revelation simply means "unveiling." It is the disclosure of that which was previously hidden.
2. Jesus Christ is revealed in glory in contrast with His presentation in the four gospels, which was in His humiliation.
3. Christ is revealed as Ruler over the kings of the earth (1:5), The Bridegroom and Head of the Church (2:1-3:22), the Lion of the tribe of Judah (5:5), the Lamb that was slain (5:6), the High Priest (8:3-6), and the King and Judge (19:11-20:15).
4. John's prophecy is the revelation of Jesus Christ, **not** the revelation of future events.

##### **A. The means of God's revelation.**

1. It also begins with God. Men never create truth – they receive it from God.
2. Revelation is from God to Christ, through an angel, to John and to the Church.

##### **B. The spiritual blessing of Revelation.**

1. Those who read it (singular).
2. Those who hear it read (plural).

3. Those who keep it (act of corporate worship).

**C. The Book is called Prophecy.**

1. Prediction is an important element in prophecy.

2. The prophetic authority of this book warns hearers to keep the things written in this book.

3. *To keep* requires obedience.

**D. The Savior of Revelation.**

1. This is the first description of Jesus Christ in glory and majesty.

2. His first coming is described in Isaiah 53:3.

3. In His next coming He is described for in Luke 21:7: "***And they shall see the Son of Man coming in a cloud, with power and great glory.***"

4. Verses 5-7 describes the past, present and future work of Christ.

**II. "Thing that you have seen."**

**A. John greets the churches (1:4-6).**

1. The book is addressed to seven churches in Asia (4).

2. The significance of seven churches represents the concept of completion or the full message of Christ to the Church of all ages.

3. The message of chapters 2-3 can have four applications:

- Churches of John's Day.
- Seven basic divisions of the Church history.
- Seven types of churches that exist today.
- Seven characteristics that can exist in any church or individual.

**B. In mentioning the seven-fold Spirit of God, the idea again represents God's completeness. It means that no Christian fellowship is left without the presence of the Spirit of God. It means that God knows what is going on in**

each assembly and that our relationship to Him determines the life and ministry of that congregation.

**C. The theme of Revelation (7,8).**

1. The overriding theme is the return of Jesus to defeat an evil world and to establish His reign.
2. It is a book of victory, and His people are seen as overcomers (2:7,11,26; 3:5 12,21; 11:7; 12:7; 15:2; 21:7).
3. The statement describing His return ***with clouds*** is different from what we refer to as the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-18).
4. His return is joy to Christians but a threat to the unsaved.

**D. The titles given to Christ in verse eight make it clear that He is able to work out His divine plans.**

1. ***“Alpha and Omega!”***
2. ***“Who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty”*** (8).

**III. John describes the presence of Christ in the Church (1:9-20).**

**A. The picture of Christ that is described here must be communicated to each church.** The only factor that makes a congregation the Church of God is the presence of Christ.

**B. The scene of John’s vision was the Island of Patmos.**

1. Mediterranean Sea.
2. John introduces himself as ***“your brother and partner in tribulation.”***
3. Steadfast endurance is the spirit of courage and conquest which leads to turning suffering into victory.

**C. John described the spiritual circumstances of his experience as being *“in the spirit.”***

1. This is a spiritual experience related to the Holy Spirit – it stands in worship and communion with the Holy Spirit.

2. He was in the Spirit on "***the Lord's Day***" (Sunday).

**D. What John heard on Lord's Day was a trumpet like voice behind him (9-11).**

1. Jesus was speaking.

2. The voice directed John to write what he was about to see and send it to the churches.

**E. What John saw was a vision of the glorified Christ (12-16).**

1. Seven lampstands. Verse twenty identifies what this represents.

2. This symbolism describes the nature of the church as the giver of light. Each church is the bearer of God's light in this dark world.

3. We give light; we do not originate it.

4. The only limitation on the brilliance of the light is the yielding of the lampstand.

5. Verse two informs us that the seven stars in His hand represent the angel or pastors of the seven churches.

**F. What John did was predictable (17-18).**

1. He fell at the Lord's feet as though he were dead.

2. We need this attitude of respect today.

3. The church needs a new awareness of Christ and His glory.

4. In verse eighteen, we are told that Christ "***holds the key.***"

**IV. The Outline (19)**

A. "***Write the things which you have seen.***"

B. "***Write the thing which are.***" When the church is raptured (chapter 4), the messages to the churches will cease to apply to the church.

C. ***“Write the things which shall be hereafter.”*** Every detail shown to John from chapter 4 to 22 takes place after the church is taken up.

Conclusion

He is a man among men.

He fulfills the vision of Daniel.

He is God.

He is the Messiah.

He is Light, Life and Lord of the Church.