

# The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ

## Chapter One

### *Behold He Cometh*

Focus Verse: **Revelation 1:7**

**“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”**

#### I. Chapter One - “Behold He Cometh!”

##### A. The Mission (1:1-11)

1. The Introduction (1:1-3) There are several things to note here at the beginning:

- This Book is \_\_\_\_\_ revelation (1:1) - **He** is going to be doing the revealing (not man or a church)!
- God is interested in teaching \_\_\_\_\_ (1:1), not proud “educated” theologians. Come to the Lord with a right heart attitude and God will open-up th entire Bible to you! Come to it in pride and God will be silent!
- Some things must \_\_\_\_\_ come to pass (1:1,3; Cf Rom 16:20). We are not dealing with millions of years, but with only a couple of thousand - and for that matter, as far as John is concerned, he expected all these things to have come to pass in his lifetime (22:21), as did ALL of the apostles in the first seven chapters of Acts!
- Note the emphasis on the *written* “word of God” (1:2,9; Cf John 1:1 & 1 John 1:1) - not oral tradition
- There are promised blessings upon **readers** (1:3; Cf Josh 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3) - In other words, **Do** the words, don’t just hear them. Be ***Bible practicers***, not just Bible “believers.” There are seven blessings in the Book of Revelation: 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14.

**PRINCIPLE:** Believe God here, and expect some blessings for reading and studying this Book, but don’t expect them unless you “keep” the things that are written here!

2. The Dedication (1:4-8)

- a. Notice that this Book is written to the following **7 local churches**: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea. **MEMORISE THIS LIST!**

**NOTE:** These seven were not the only churches in that area, so there must be something special about those churches to warrant them to be used in the writing of the ETERNAL word of God.

- b. Notice also that this Book is **from the** \_\_\_\_\_: (1:4,5) Grace to you churches, from Him, from the Seven Spirits, and from Jesus Christ:

- 1) From Him which is, which was, and which is to come - \_\_\_\_\_, the Almighty (Ps 90:1,2)
- 2) From the seven Spirits - a phrase pointing to God the \_\_\_\_\_ (Cf Isa 11:2). The Holy Spirit has seven different manifestations of Himself as listed in Isaiah. See also 3:1; 4:5; 5:6.
- 3) And foremost, from \_\_\_\_\_ (1:5-8): He is the \_\_\_\_\_ - Jesus is NOT a liar! The **FIRST** begotten of the dead (I Cor 15:20; Col 1:18). Note the preposition of again as in verse 1! The **PRINCE** of the kings of the earth (Col 1:18,19)



**NOTE:** John begins to worship the Lord at the very mention of His name (1:5,6).

**PRINCIPLE:** We have SO LITTLE reverence and fear for our Lord and Saviour. We need to develop our desire for this!

- c. John interjects, “*Unto Him...*” (1:5). Have you given anything back to Jesus since He gave you His life?

NOTE: Notice all the emphasis on Jesus Christ! This is a characteristic of a Bible believing church. The cults put all the emphasis on “prophets”, or some “pope”, or someone that is TRYING to be “**LIKE**” the most high (Isa 14:12-14).

- d. Notice the emphasis upon the love of Jesus Christ: “*Unto Him that loved us...*” (1:5), and how that our salvation is based upon \_\_\_\_\_, not just the DEATH of Christ.
- e. Now, here comes a tough statement: “*He hath made us kings and priests...*” (1:6; Cf 1 Pet 2:9)

QUESTION: Is Jesus “reigning” NOW? If He is not, then by all means we cannot be either, so DON’T BE TRYING TO!!!

MEANING: Positionally we are these classifications, but not “practically”. Just like our salvation: We are positionally “in Christ” (Eph 2:6), but not practically, meaning, not YET physically! Another example involves justification: as born-again Christians, we are “justified” in God’s eyes, but as far as you and I are concerned, we are still sinners!

- f. John next determines the whole direction of this Book with the phrase, “*Behold HE cometh...*” (1:7), implying that what we are dealing with is yet future!
- g. Jesus puts His own signature on the Book from the very beginning with the statement, “I am...” (1:8).

Notice how that Jesus Christ claims the title “\_\_\_\_\_” which makes Him co-equal with God, or a LIAR!!! In other words, ask your Jehovah Witness friend how God could have “created” another ALMIGHTY god, and then still remain the only one, Almighty God? Go ahead, ask them!

### 3. The Commission (1:9-11)

- a. John is in exile on an island called *Patmos* which is located off the coast of Asia Minor, and is only 25 square miles in area.
- b. John finds himself “\_\_\_\_\_” on the Lord’s day (1:10; 4:2) - this statement is either charismatic, or something very special (Cf I Cor 12:13; Acts 8:39,40). Here, you are going to have to know something about *dispensations*, or you will get all messed up:
  - 1) Note: The “Lord’s day” here is NOT Sunday (Cf Rev 4:2) because of the phrase “in the Spirit” (1:10; Ezek 37:1), as opposed to being “in the body” (2 Cor 12:2).
  - 2) It is contextually, “the Day of the Lord” that we are dealing with.
    - a) The “day of the Lord” is 1,000 years long (see 2 Peter 3:8)
    - b) John is projected (transported) into the beginning of the Tribulation (the beginning of the Lord’s day). We will explain more about this when we get to Chapter 4.
- c. John hears *a voice* like a “trumpet” (a-hah! This trumpet will help us later) coming from heaven.
- d. John is told to write “what he sees in a BOOK,” and send it to seven churches (1:11), not just to pass on verbal traditions (Cf 2 Pet 1:20, 21; 2 Tim 3:15,16)

### B. The Vision (1:12-20) - John sees three things here:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:12-18; Cf Matt 17:1-8)
  - a. First saw the light of seven candlesticks. We will discern what these are in a moment.
  - b. Then saw “one like unto the Son of man” (Cf Dan 3:25; Heb 7:3). John knows that there is something familiar about this One person!

DOCTRINALLY: Jesus before His incarnation (before His birth) was likened unto *the Son of God* (with form, but not a physical body). After His birth, He has a body and was referred to as the Son of Man. After His death, and resurrection, He now has a glorified body and is still referred to *as the Son of “man”*. All of this never diminishes His deity, just establishes God’s presence WITH US (Emmanuel, Isa 7:14), as one of us!

- 1) Clothed in a white robe, and a golden girdle His head and hairs were white as snow (as our High Priest, Heb 2:17; 4:15; Dan 7:9; Isa 11:5; 2 Cor 5:18,19)
- 2) His eyes were as a flame of fire (See Dan 10:6). Piercing anger! The Lord sees all!
- 3) His feet as fine brass (See Dan 10:6). Judgment!
- 4) His voice as thundering water - He is not a WIMP! A very masculine voice
- 5) His hands have control of the stars
- 6) Out of His mouth went a sword (Heb 4:12; Rev 19:15)

His overall countenance was “as the sun shining”, therefore, no more is he meek and gentle, but the Lion of the tribe of Judah! (Cf Dt 4:24; 9:3; Heb 12:29). John sees Christ as our High Priest here, as he did on the mount of Transfiguration (Cf Matt 17).

- c. John then falls down to worship (1:17)

John remembers that “mountain top” experience in Matt 17.

QUESTION: If Jesus walked right into this room right now, would you fall down and “worship him”? If you wouldn’t, you need to get right with God, if you would, do you have to wait for Him to appear before you do (see Jude vs. 25)?

- d. Jesus holds up some “keys” (1:18) - of literal “HELL” and death

NOTE: I sure wouldn’t mess around with anybody who had THOSE keys, and I sure wouldn’t trust anyone who DIDN’T have those keys!!! Notice that Jesus Christ not only has the keys, HE IS THE DOOR!!! (John 10:9)

- e. Jesus next tells John to specifically *divide-up* what he is writing into three sections (1:19):

- 1) What thou hast seen - dealing with the past
- 2) The things which are - present
- 3) The things which shall be hereafter - future. This is the “key” to understanding the Book of the Revelation!

2. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:12,20) are defined as Churches. Get the picture: an oil-powered lamp is used to represent New Testament churches that are filled and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Each church has *its own light* that it is responsible for, but the power behind that light is the Holy Spirit. Each time a light goes out, the world gets a little bit darker!

3. \_\_\_\_\_ (1:16,20) are defined as Angels, not balls of hydrogen fission as Carl Sagan would take it to mean. Angels, by definition are messengers, footmen with a message. Either they are from heaven to man, or on earth, but still to man. Here, these angels are the messengers of God in churches that are authorities in those churches - pastors!!! The Lord is not speaking or writing to denominational headquarters, or to parachurch organizations. God deals with local churches through their pastors!!! God holds the pastors responsible for what He tells them also!!!

PRINCIPLE: The Bible is its own interpreter (2 Pet 1:20)! Angels (1:20) are defined as Pastors, or something up in heaven that is a representative of each of the seven local churches. We will discover more about angels as we go along (Rev 9:1).

**II. Conclusion - Some Questions**

- A. Give a clear cross reference for the words in 1:3 (There were two listed) \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Is the word “trinity” found in the Bible? Yes No (Circle one)
- C. John is in exile where? \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Why is John in exile? (Give the verse reference as well) \_\_\_\_\_
- E. What is the “Lord’s day” in 1:10? \_\_\_\_\_
- F. What are those “keys” for in 1:18? \_\_\_\_\_
- G. List the “three-fold division” of Revelation: 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
 2) \_\_\_\_\_  
 3) and the \_\_\_\_\_
- H. What are the seven candlesticks defined as? \_\_\_\_\_
- I. What are the seven stars defined as? \_\_\_\_\_