

REVELATION CHAPTER ONE

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Introduction to the Revelation (Chapter 1)

OUTLINE (CHAPTER ONE)

Prologue: The Communication of Christ

1. Introduction: The Revelation of Jesus Christ given to the Son and signified to John through “*his angel*”—***Revelation 1:1-2***
2. The significance of reading the book of Revelation—a promise of a special blessing to those who read, hear, and heed its teachings—***Revelation 1:3***
3. Greetings and blessings to the seven churches in Asia—***Revelation 1:4-5***
4. Greetings from Jesus Christ who washed us from our sins in His own blood and established us as kings and priests, and whose return will be seen by all—***Revelation 1:5-7***
5. Jesus’ self-revelation: the Almighty, Alpha, Omega, Eternal one which is, was, and is to come—***Revelation 1:8***

The Vision of the Glorified Christ

6. John on the island of Patmos for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ—***Revelation 1:9***
7. John (in the Spirit on the Lord’s day) instructed to write in a book his visions and send them to the seven churches of Asia—***Revelation 1:10-11***
8. John’s vision of the seven golden candlesticks and the Son of Man among them—***Revelation 1:12-13***
9. John’s description of the Son of Man—***Revelation 1:13-16***
10. The reassuring words from the Lord—***Revelation 1:17-18***
11. The LAYOUT of Revelation: things seen (PAST), things that are (PRESENT), things that are hereafter (FUTURE). John records the vision of the seven stars and seven golden candlesticks—***Revelation 1:19-20***

THE TITLE OF THE BOOK

The first verse of Revelation gives the book's title as it capitalizes the word Revelation. The Father gave the revelation to the Son, who gave it to John.

Revelation 1:1 *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:*

THE REVELATION: This book commences by calling it “the” Revelation, signifying that it is NOT a book of secret concealment. This 66th book is not about hidden mysteries because it explains the *mysteries*.

- The *seals* are opened.
- The *trumpets* are sounded.
- The *vials* poured out for all to understand.

God reveals what He has done, what He is doing, and what He will do. God reveals the signs and explains them through THE revelation.

Notice the chain of custody: God (the Father) gave the revelation to him (Jesus Christ) to shew his servants (believers). The revelation was given to his angel and finally to the Apostle John. The purpose of the letter is to reveal Christ's Second Coming definitively and God's destruction of His enemies.

God shows truth and reveals good and evil, like the promise to reveal Leviathan, that old serpent, and the devil.

Job 41:1 Canst thou draw out leviathan ... 12 I will not conceal his parts, nor his power, nor his comely proportion.

OF JESUS CHRIST: Some Bible subtitles say, "*The Revelation of St. John the Divine.*" No, this book is the Revelation of the Son of God GIVEN to John. While men attribute the words to the human penmen, the Bible attributes God's word to divine authorship.

2 Timothy 3:16a All scripture is given by inspiration of God...

2 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

This book is The Revelation OF Jesus Christ, meaning the book is ABOUT Him; He is the subject of the Revelation. Context determines the meaning concerning "of." In the Bible, certain phrases can have multiple meanings, depending on the context in which they appear.

For instance, the phrase "*love of God*" is a great example, as it can refer to either God's love for us OR our love for God. In Romans, "*love of God*" describes God's love for us.

*Romans 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because **the love of God** is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.*

The context of Romans focuses on God's divine love for believers, experienced through the Holy Ghost. The exact phrase can also mean our love for Him, like in the following passage.

*1 John 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, **when we love God**, and keep his commandments. 3 For this is **the love of God**, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.*

This passage in First John revolves around believers demonstrating their

love for God through obedience to His commandments. He is the object of our love; He received our love. Understanding the context of a particular passage is crucial for understanding the correct interpretation and meaning of phrases like “*love of God.*” By carefully examining the surrounding verses and the overall message of the passage, readers can discern the intended purpose and gain a deeper understanding of the biblical text. Context reveals God’s intended meaning. Chapter four refers to God’s love toward us.

*1 John 4:9 In this was **manifested the love of God toward us**, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.*

So, The Revelation of Jesus Christ is not something Jesus received but a revelation OF Him. The book is all ABOUT Jesus Christ. He is the subject of the revelation.

UNTO HIM: This perspective of the book covers what the Father gave to the Son. The revelation is NOT given to John but given to Jesus Christ. Everything in Revelation is secondary, including the plagues, the judgments, the tribulation, the Anti-Christ, the Beasts, the vials, the trumpets, etc. This book is about what the Father gave the Son as promised in Hebrews.

*Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who **for the joy that was set before him** endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

One aspect of the crucifixion involved the prophesied joy set before Christ. The Second Psalm promises that He will inherit the people and the planet.

*Psalm 2:8 Ask of me, and **I shall give thee the heathen for thine inheritance**, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession.*

When Christ died on the cross to save souls, He was also promised a reward from the Father. Revelation reveals this reward—the portion promised to Him. The revelation of Jesus Christ is the actual theme of the book.

*Isaiah 53:11 He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. 12 **Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great**, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*

TO SHEW: This does not necessarily mean that John visually saw everything. He made things known to John by giving him a mental understanding. Matthew uses “*shew*” in the same context when Jesus

shewed His crucifixion to His disciples.

Matthew 16:21 From that time forth began Jesus to **shew** unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.

Matthew 8:4 And Jesus saith unto him, See thou tell no man; but go thy way, **shew thyself** to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them.

To “shew” infers God speaking truth to the recipient's mind using verbal or visual revelation. The events shown are not always explained. These things seen are not a simple narrative, but a revelation. Sometimes meanings are obscured from the lost or those who are not Bible believers.

1 Samuel 9:27 And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, **that I may shew thee the word of God.**

The text's narrative was initially SHOWN to John, not given to him in writing.

UNTO HIS SERVANTS: The Revelation is not written for sinners (the lost) or the saints (all saved people), but for God's servants—the faithful believers.

SHORTLY: “*Shortly come to pass*” expresses John's understanding that the events he saw would soon occur. For John, they did take place right away. John was caught up in the Spirit in verse 10 (see comments) and transported INTO THE FUTURE, where these prophecies unfold. John fulfills the prophecy as he is transported into the future at the beginning of Daniel's Seventieth Week and watches as the Week and Eternity unfolds. He fulfilled the prophecy that the events would shortly “*come to pass*” because he witnessed them.

Another aspect concerning the shortness of time: “*One day is with the Lord as a thousand years*” (**2 Peter 3:8**). From God's perspective, two thousand years for man is a mere two days with the Lord. Romans mentions God bruising Satan under the believer's feet SHORTLY.

Romans 16:20 And the God of peace shall **bruise Satan under your feet shortly**. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

We must consider the Bible from a God-centric position and not man-centric. God is never in a hurry, and His viewpoint is entirely different from His creation. God has forsaken Israel and divorced her “*for a small moment*” (**Isaiah 54:7-8**), lasting almost 2,000 years thus far—the whole Church Age.

SIGNIFIED: indicates signs which the book of Revelation contains, including symbols, signs, and pictures throughout the book.

HIS: “*His*” angel implies that Christ has His own angel. We know Him as “*the angel of the Lord.*” This angel is His spiritual representative. God used angels in the Old Testament to impart truth (deliver His revelation) to the nation of Israel (*Acts 7:53, Hebrews 2:2*) and preach the “*everlasting gospel*” in Daniel’s Seventieth Week (*Revelation 14:6*). This signifies a return to Jewish modes of communication (*Revelation 22:16*).

HIS SERVANT JOHN: Pay particular attention to the order of the transmission. The Father gave the revelation to His Son, who gave it to His angel (Christ’s angel), who gave it to His servant (John). Christ is the sole mediator.

1 Timothy 2:5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;

God the Father speaks through His mediator, the WORD—Jesus Christ. The last chapter of Revelation contains the same order of process: God to Christ; Christ to an angel; the angel to John, and John to his servants (the readers of Revelation).

Revelation 22:6 And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. 7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book. 8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.