

## Revelation 1 – The Vision of The Glorified Christ

### Revelation 1 Introduction:

Revelation 1:1-8 constitutes the prologue or introduction of the Book of Revelation. Here our God speaks from heaven with power and promise to His saints on the earth. Revelation is a unique book because it comprises **three different literary genres**. It is an **apocalypse** = “to reveal, unveil, uncover, or disclose” (1:10); a **prophecy** = “predicting the coming future” (1:3); and a **letter** = “practical instruction and personal guidance” (1:4). The resurrected Christ appears to the apostle John and tells him to “**write down what you see, and send it to the seven churches.**” (Rev. 1) John presents his outline for the book: “**The things that are now happening** (Rev. 2-3) **and the things that will happen later** (Rev. 4-22).”

### I. The **SERVANT** of God (1:1-10):

The apostle John receives an extended heavenly message.

#### A. The **Source** of This Message (1:1-2).

1. *From the Father to the Son* (1:1a).
2. *From the Son to an Angel* (1:1b).
3. *From the Angel to John the Apostle* (1:1c-2).

#### B. The **Promise** in This Message (1:3):

A special blessing is promised.

1. *To those who **read** and **obey** its contents* (1:3a).
2. *To those who **hear** and **obey** its contents* (1:3b).

#### C. The **Recipients** of This Message (1:4a):

It is written to the seven churches in Asia.

#### D. The **Greetings** in This Message (1:4b-5a).

1. *From the Father* (1:4b).
2. *From the Sevenfold Spirit* (1:4c). The Holy Spirit. “7” = number of perfection.
3. *From the Son* (1:5a).

#### E. The **Theme** of This Message (1:5b-8):

Jesus Christ is its grand and glorious theme.

##### 1. **Who He Is** (1:5b-5e, 8).

###### a. **God’s Faithful Witness** (1:5b).

Jesus perfectly revealed God in what He **said, did, and was**.

###### b. **The Firstborn from The Dead** (1:5c).

Although Christ raised some from the dead, and some resurrections occurred in the Old Testament era, those individuals were simply restored to normal life. Jesus became the first to receive an immortal, incorruptible, resurrection body ... thus, He established Himself as the sovereign Head of the Church (Col. 1:18).

###### c. **Ruler of The Kings of This Earth**(1:5d).

He will assert His kingly prerogatives when He returns to the earth to establish His eternal kingdom.

###### d. **The Alpha and Omega** (1:8a).

- **Alpha** = This indicates His relationship to the **Created Universe**.
- **Omega** = This indicates His relationship to **Time**.

- e. The **Eternal One** (1:8b).
  - This indicates His relationship to the Father ... **Co-Equal** (Isa. 41:4).
  - This indicates He is the **eternal, self-existent God** (Ex. 3:14).
- 2. **What He Has Done** (1:5e-6).
  - a. Christ **LOVED** Us (1:5e).
  - b. Christ **LOOSED Us** – Shed His Blood to Redeem Us From Sin (1:5f).
  - c. Christ **LIFTED Us** – Made Us a Kingdom of Priests (1:6).
- 3. **What He Will Do** (1:7):  
He will come again in the clouds.
  - a. Revealing Himself to **The Jews** ... *“those who pierced Him”* (1:7a).  
(See: Matt. 23:39 & Zech. 12:10)
  - b. Revealing Himself to **The Gentiles** ... *“all tribes of the earth”* (1:7b).
- F. The **Place** of This Message (1:9): John was on the Isle of Patmos.
- G. The **Time** of This Message (1:10a): It was on the Lord’s Day.
- H. The **Sound** of This Message (1:10b): *“A voice like a trumpet blast.”*  
(See: 1 Cor. 15:52 & 1 Thess. 4:16).

## II. The **SON** of God (1:11-20).

- A. The **Appearance** by Jesus (1:11):
  - 1. His **Command** (1:11):  
Again John is instructed to send the message to the seven churches in Asia.
    - a. **Write** ... The Book of Revelation is the written record of what John was about to see.
    - b. **Send** ... John was then to send the finished letter to the seven churches in Asia.
  - 2. His **Countenance** (1:12-16).
    - a. He **Appears Standing Among Seven Gold Lampstands** (1:12-13a).
      - *“A son of man”* – This title designates His **Humanity** and His **Redemptive Work**. (See: Dan.7:13-14)  
It is found 70 times in The Bible.
      - *“In the middle of the lampstands”* – The seven lampstands (churches) are arranged in a circle, and in the midst of this circle stand the Son of God.
        - This is a **TRUE PICTURE** of the relationship that Jesus Christ desires with us.
        - He desires the **CENTRAL PLACE** in the church and in our lives.
    - b. He is **Wearing a Long Robe** with a **Golden Band Across the Chest** (1:13b).
      - *“Long flowing robe”* – The type of garment worn by the OT Priest/Judge (Ex. 28:2).
      - *“Golden girdle / sash”* – The high priest had golden thread within his girdle/sash, but the breastplate of Christ is solid gold. Symbolizes His **worth** and **royalty**.
    - c. His **Hair** is White Like Snow (1:14a).
      - The whiteness of His hair portrays His **eternity, purity, wisdom, and deity** (See: Dan. 7:9).

- d. His **Eyes** are Like Blazing Fire (1:14b).
  - Eyes of fire speak of **perfect discernment**.
- e. His **Feet** are As Burnished Bronze (1:15a).
  - Feet of brass / bronze represent **pure, righteous judgment**.
- f. His **Voice** Thunders Like Mighty Ocean Waves (1:15b).
  - Voice of “*many waters*” depicts the **authority and power of His spoken word**.
- g. His **Right Hand** Holds Seven Stars (1:16a).
  - “*Seven stars*” are later identified as “*the seven angels of the seven churches*” (Rev. 1:20).
  - The Greek word for “*angels*” literally means “*messengers*.”
  - Both **angelic and human (pastors) messengers** are mentioned in Scripture.
- h. Out of His **Mouth** Comes a Double-Edged Sword (1:16b).
  - “*Two-edged sword out of His mouth*” portrays **His Word** which applies to both the saved and the unsaved. (See: Heb. 4:12)
- i. His **Face** Shines As the Noonday Sun (1:16:c).
  - The shining of His countenance as the sun represents **the glory of His deity**.
  - When Jesus was **transfigured** before three of His disciples – His face did shine as the sun (Matt. 17:2).

## B. The **Reassurance** By Jesus (1:17-20).

### 1. **Comforting** (1:17-18):

He reassures the fear-stricken John.

Jesus Christ gives John **THREE REASONS** why he does not need to fear:

- a. He is the **ETERNAL GOD** – “*the living one*” / the “*I Am*”. He is in control.
- b. He is the **RESURRECTED CHRIST** – “*I was dead, but am alive forever and ever*” (1:17-18a).
  - He has overcome death, and His resurrection is our living hope.
- c. He has the **KEYS OF DEATH** and **THE GRAVE** – “*I hold the keys of death and the grave*” (1:18b).
  - The future is in His hands.
  - If you know Jesus Christ as your personal Savior – you do not need to be afraid. You are in His hands.

### 2. **Clarification** (1:19-20):

#### a. He **Outlines** the **PLAN** of the Book (1:19).

(1) The Things Which You **HAVE SEEN** (Past) (Rev. 1:1-20).

(2) The Things Which **ARE** (Present) (Rev. 2-3).

(3) The Things Which **SHALL TAKE PLACE AFTER THESE THINGS** (Future) (Rev. 4-22).

#### b. He **Explains** the **SYMBOLS** of the **Lampstands** and **Stars** (1:20).

(1) The **Seven Lampstands** are The **Seven Churches** (1:20b).

(2) The **Seven Stars** are The **Angels of The Seven Churches** (1:19-20a).