

Revelation Chapter 1

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So far in our study, we did an overview of the book of Revelation, so now we'll actually begin with chapter 1.

Revelation 1:1 [NIV] The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

Revelation 1:1 [KJV] 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 word --> revelation*

The Revelation = "Apocalypsis" = Unveiling (18X in NT) [Note:singular, not plural.]

1) a laying bare, making naked

2) a disclosure of truth, instruction

Who is being revealed? To whom was this Revelation given? Can Jesus "learn"? Can the Father reveal to the Son?

Luke 2:52 And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

Mark 13:32 "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Acts 1:6 So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

Acts 1:7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority.

Jesus received this revelation from God for the purpose of showing His bond-servants what will happen.

- *The word --> servant*

"servants" = doulos: yielded bondslaves (Ex 21:6; Deut 15:17).1) a slave, bondman, man of servile condition

1a) a slave

1b) metaph., one who gives himself up to another's will those whose service is used by Christ in extending and advancing His cause among men

1c) devoted to another to the disregard of one's own interests

2) a servant, attendant

Exodus 21:5 "But if the servant declares, 'I love my master and my wife and children and do not want to go free,'

Exodus 21:6 then his master must take him before the judges. He shall take him to the door or the doorpost and pierce his ear with an awl. Then he will be his servant for life.

Note that this book is for devoted disciples, servants of Jesus, and not unbelievers. It is to "show" = This is not a sealed book

Revelation 22:10 Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near.

It is to be understood, in contrast to Daniel:

Daniel 12:4 But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

This is not "dream" stuff: it is real and tangible.

- *The word --> shortly*

"shortly" = en taxei: rapidly in execution .

The Greek word here is where we get our word tachometer from. The idea is that once the things described in this book begin to happen, they will happen in quick succession, like the engine of time revved up to high speed.

- *The word --> signified*

Next it states that He "signified" = rendered into signs (codes). Symbolic of reality; However, no prophecy is of private interpretation but can only be properly interpreted by the Holy Spirit.

2 Peter 1:20 Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation.

2 Peter 1:21 For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

--> **semaino** {say-mah'-ee-no}

1) to give a sign, to signify, indicate

2) to make known

The Greek word root here is where we get our English word semaphore from, such as used on railroads to indicate whether a train should stop or be allowed to proceed.

Where in our world today do we use many symbolic signs?

These words, coded into signs were sent by His "angel" = angelos: a messenger.

Revelation 1:2 (NIV) who testifies to everything he saw--that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:2 (KJV) Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw

• The word --> testified

martureo {mar-too-reh'-o} 1) to be a witness, to bear witness, i.e. to affirm that one has seen or heard or experienced something, or that he knows it because taught by divine revelation or inspiration

1a) to give (not to keep back) testimony

1b) to utter honourable testimony, give a good report

1c) conjure, implore

"Who bore witness" (90 times in John's writings). Epistolary aorist tense: he's projected to where we are, looking back. His frame of reference is from our time frame looking back. The Book of Revelation was written about A.D. 95, during the reign of Titus Flavius Domitian. John was in exile on the island of Patmos from A.D. 86 to 96

In John's other books he also emphasizes that He is one who is not bringing hearsay, but what he has seen and experienced. He brings out our 1) different responses, 2) the life we have in Jesus, 3) the process through time 4) The offices of Jesus

Gospel	Epistles	Revelation
Believe (Jn 20:31)	Be sure (1 Jn 5:13)	Be ready (Rev 22:20)
Life received	Life revealed	Life rewarded
Salvation	Sanctification	Redemption
The Prophet	The Priest	The King

Revelation 1:3 (NIV) Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Revelation 1:3 (KJV) Blessed [is] he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time [is] at hand.

• The word --> prophecy

propheteia {prof-ay-ti'-ah}

1) prophecy

1a) a discourse emanating from divine inspiration and declaring the purposes of God, whether by reproving and admonishing the wicked, or comforting the afflicted, or revealing things hidden; esp. by foretelling future events

1b) Used in the NT of the utterance of OT prophets

1b1) of the prediction of events relating to Christ's kingdom and its speedy triumph, together with the consolations and admonitions pertaining to it, the spirit of prophecy, the divine mind, to which the prophetic faculty is due

1b2) of the endowment and speech of the Christian teachers called prophets

1b3) the gifts and utterances of these prophets, esp. of the predictions of the works of which, set apart to teach the gospel, will accomplish for the kingdom of Christ

"Read... Hear... Keep": This is the only book with a special promise if you do these three things. So as we study this book, God's promise to us is also a special blessing, over and above the normal blessings we all get when we study and obey the word of God. The reason we are studying this book right now is "because the time is near". Indeed, as we shall see, we are living in the time of the fulfillment of many of its prophecies.

- *The number 7 in the Bible, and especially in Revelation*

This verse is the first of seven blessings (beatitudes) given in the book of Revelation. Here are the other 6.

Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

Revelation 16:15 "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

Revelation 19:9 Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

Revelation 22:7 "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

Revelation 22:14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city."

- *The well known Apostle*

Revelation 1:4 (NIV) John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

Revelation 1:4 (KJV) John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace [be] unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

John simply writes his name, for he was well known to the churches, no introduction is needed. Throughout scripture the number 7 is used to signify completion, whether good or evil. It does not mean divine. In the introduction to this book, we looked at some examples found in this book. There are many other examples of this throughout scripture. Here are a few prominent ones:

The sabbath day, year,

Israel marched around Jericho 7 times (Joshua 6:15)

Naaman bathed in Jordan river 7 times (2 Kings 5:10)

In Joseph's time: 7 years of plenty, and famine (Genesis 41:27)

There are 7 NT beatitudes (Matt 5)

the 7 petitions in Lord's prayer (Matt 6:9-13)

Your assignment for private study: each of you find another example in the book of revelation of the number 7.

- *The word --> grace*

charis {khar'-e-ce}

1) grace

1a) that which affords joy, pleasure, delight, sweetness, charm, loveliness: grace of speech

2) good will, loving-kindness, favour

2a) of the merciful kindness by which God, exerting his holy influence upon souls, turns them to Christ, keeps, strengthens, increases them in Christian faith, knowledge, affection, and kindles them to the exercise of the Christian virtues

3) what is due to grace

3a) the spiritual condition of one governed by the power of divine grace

3b) the token or proof of grace, benefit

3b1) a gift of grace

3b2) benefit, bounty

4) thanks, (for benefits, services, favours), recompense, reward

• *The word --> peace*

eirene {i-ray'-nay}

1) a state of national tranquillity

1a) exemption from the rage and havoc of war

2) peace between individuals, i.e. harmony, concord

3) security, safety, prosperity, felicity, (because peace and harmony make and keep things safe and prosperous)

4) of the Messiah's peace

4a) the way that leads to peace (salvation)

5) of Christianity, the tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and content with its earthly lot, of whatsoever sort that is

6) the blessed state of devout and upright men after death

The one who provides this grace and peace is the one who is, who was, and who is to come". This expression is not used elsewhere in NT. Its closest equivalent is found in the old testament in Exodus 3:14, at the burning bush.

Exodus 3:14 God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

There, as well as here the Lord declares that He is the eternally self existent one. He declares this also in

Isaiah 57:15 For this is what the high and lofty One says-- he who lives forever, whose name is holy: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite.

This declaration shows clearly, that contrary to all other religions, the God of Israel and of the Christians is totally outside of time and in complete control thereof.

• *The seven spirits of God?*

At first, this sounds kind of strange, for we generally think of one Holy Spirit. Even as the Godhead, as seen in scripture appears as distinct multiple persons, yet one, so it is not surprising that one of these, the Holy Spirit in this verse is depicted as one of multiple expressions. Yet this is not new, for in Isaiah 11:2 we read:

*Isaiah 11:2 (NIV) The Spirit of the LORD will rest on him-- the Spirit of **wisdom** and of **understanding**, the Spirit of **counsel** and of **power**, the Spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear** of the LORD*

*Isaiah 11:2 (KJV) And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, the spirit of **counsel** and **might**, the spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear** of the LORD;*

Of course at this time we don't really understand how this can be and so we must just let the Word of God stand. Even when we are with Him in eternity, we, as finite created beings may not fully understand the totality of divine mystery. God, being infinite will always be somewhat of a mystery, simply because he is infinite and we are and always will be finite created beings. This will always keep us in humble adoration of our eternal Lord.

Revelation 1:5 (NIV) and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

Revelation 1:5 (KJV) And from Jesus Christ, [who is] the faithful witness, [and] the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

Jesus, the faithful Witness: "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" (Jn14:9)

• *The word --> firstborn or first begotten*

protokos {pro-tot-ok'-os}

1) the firstborn

1a) of man or beast

1b) of Christ, the first born of all creation

This is the word root from which we get our word "prototype", the first of a given design or product. A prototype is what all the products to come are patterned after. God wants us all to be patterned after Jesus, He is our prototype. We read in Romans 8:29

Romans 8:29 (NIV) For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.

Romans 8:29 (KJV) For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

and this is again that same word. In Col 1:15 Jesus is given the honor-title of the first born of all creation, that is the ruler over all creation, again in Col 1:18 it is clear that Jesus is God and number 1.

- *The prince of the kings of the earth*

This is a millennial title of Jesus predicting the time when He will be declared by God Himself as the supreme ruler that everybody, whether redeemed or not will have to recognize.

Philippians 2:9 Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,

Philippians 2:10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

Philippians 2:11 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Psalms 2:6 "I have installed my King on Zion, my holy hill."

Psalms 2:7 I will proclaim the decree of the LORD: He said to me, "You are my Son ; today I have become your Father.

Psalms 2:8 Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession.

Psalms 2:9 You will rule them with an iron scepter ; you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

We who know the Lord here and now have the great privilege and honor to willingly bow our hearts and knees to Him already. That is why one of my favorite songs is: "Majesty.. worship His majesty..."

- *Unto Him that loved us*

This is present tense, which emphasizes His constant attitude toward His own. The Book of Revelation should not frighten us for it is from Him. God does not do things in secret, but shows them who love and serve Him what he is planning.

Amos 3:7 Surely the Sovereign LORD does nothing without revealing his plan to his servants the prophets.

John 15:15 I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you.

Do you want to know what God is doing? Why?

- *Washed us from our sins*

The phrase: washed [loosed] us from our sins in His own blood is not just a symbol

Leviticus 17:11 For the life of a creature is in the blood, and I have given it to you to make atonement for yourselves on the altar; it is the blood that makes atonement for one's life.

1 Peter 1:18 For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers,

1 Peter 1:19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect.

1 Peter 1:20 He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Blood speaks of life, which Jesus imparts to us. Jesus is our blood ransom.

- *Kings and priests*

Revelation 1:6 (NIV) *and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father--to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.*

Revelation 1:6 (KJV) *And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him [be] glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.*

We are kings and priests: "His Father" is ours. He teaches us to pray "Our Father" We are seated on His throne with Him! In the OT the office of king and priest could not be held by the same person, but Jesus and those who are His are both simultaneously. The priestly line was from the Levites and the royal line from Judah.

Ephesians 2:6 *And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus,*

• *Crescendo of praise*

Here we have the first of an increasing crescendo of praise to our God in the book we are studying. (*Rev 4:11 glory and honor and power, Rev 5:13 praise and honor and glory and power, Rev 7:12 **Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength***) Notice how the praise increases each time!

How many words are there in the final crescendo?

• *He cometh with clouds*

Revelation 1:7 (NIV) *Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.*

Revelation 1:7 (KJV) *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.*

It says he comes **with** clouds.

Hebrews 12:1 *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

we read that we are surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. Every eye shall see him. This speaks of Jesus' second coming with his saints.

Daniel 7:13 *"In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence.*

Matthew 26:64 *"Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."*

Matthew 24:30 *"At that time the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and all the nations of the earth will mourn. They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky, with power and great glory.*

Jude 1:14 *Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: "See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones,*

Jude 1:15 *to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him."*

Zechariah 12:10 *"And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.*

He will come at that time, physically back to earth to take possession thereof. If Christ will be coming to the earth at that time, there is no point in being caught up in the air. The Rapture has already taken place before this. We will talk about this thing theologians call the Rapture later. Especially from the passage in Jude it is clear that Jesus is coming to Earth for judgment.

Why will all the peoples of the earth mourn, or as the KJV puts it "wail"?

• *Alpha and the Omega*

Revelation 1:8 (NIV) *"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."*

Revelation 1:8 (KJV) *I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*

The Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The equivalent in Hebrew are the Aleph and Tau. The Lord says this of Himself also in other scriptures such as

Isaiah 41:4 Who has done this and carried it through, calling forth the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD--with the first of them and with the last--I am he."

Isaiah 44:6 "This is what the LORD says-- Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.

Isaiah 48:12 (NIV) "Listen to me, O Jacob, Israel, whom I have called: I am he; I am the first and I am the last.

Again and again our Lord emphasizes His eternality, transcending all time and space, the one true almighty God.

• *Author's person and circumstance*

Revelation 1:9 (NIV) I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

Revelation 1:9 (KJV) I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Here John identifies himself with those he is writing to as their brother and companion in tribulation. John was writing this during Domitian's reign, a period of great suffering for the church. Early church writings record when the Romans tried to execute John by boiling him in oil, but he could not be killed. So John was exiled from A.D. 86 to 96. to the isle of "Patmos", a Roman penal colony off the coast of Asia Minor (Turkey), 15 miles from Ephesus. It was an island about 10 miles long and 6 miles wide and rather barren. John was 90 years old (?) at the time of this revelation.

• *In the Spirit*

Revelation 1:10 (NIV) On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

Revelation 1:10 (KJV) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Every Christian lives in two dimensions, an imbalance can lead either to mysticism or materialism. We live here physically, in the dimensions of time and space, but we are also seated with Him in the heavenly dimensions.

Ephesians 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

Physically, John was on Patmos "on the Lord's day", (an expression used only here in the New Testament) which has been taken by most commentators as the first day of the week; Sunday. It is a term of ownership, a day that belongs to the Lord.

In the Spirit dimension, evidently John was transported through the reaches of time and space, to the time of the "day of the Lord", also called the day of vengeance. Jesus quotes Isaiah 61:1 and part of verse two, (Luke 4:18&19) but does not finish the quote because the day of vengeance, the Day of the Lord is yet to come.

Isaiah 61:1 The Spirit of the Sovereign LORD is on me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners,

Isaiah 61:2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor and the day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn,

Jeremiah 46:10 But that day belongs to the Lord, the LORD Almighty-- a day of vengeance, for vengeance on his foes. The sword will devour till it is satisfied, till it has quenched its thirst with blood. For the Lord, the LORD Almighty, will offer sacrifice in the land of the north by the River Euphrates.

We live in the closing hours of the day of mercy and grace, just before the great and terrible day of wrath, which will dawn with the sound of the trumpet. Later in this book there are the seven trumpets.

• *Write on a scroll*

Revelation 1:11 (NIV) which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

Revelation 1:11 (KJV) Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send [it] unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

Jesus here begins to dictate verbatim an epistle that John is to send out to seven named churches in Asia minor. Why did Jesus pick these 7 churches, and why are they listed in this particular order? 63 years after Pentecost over 100 churches existed. Why not Rome, Jerusalem, Antioch, Colossae, Philippi, Galatia, Iconium, Lystra, Derbe, Miletus, Hierapolis, Troas, or any of the others? When we get into the next two chapters, we will explore many of the details and try to learn why Jesus picked these particular churches and why they are listed in that order.

Revelation 1:12 (NIV) I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

Revelation 1:12 (KJV) And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;

- *The word --> Lampstands*

Lampstand = luchnia {lookh-nee'-ah}, 1) a (candlestick) lamp stand, candelabrum

- *The church bears His light*

The reference here is to lightbearers (Ex 25:31-40), such as the menorah in the tabernacle. Jesus is the light,

John 8:12 When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."

John 9:5 While I am in the world, I am the light of the world."

and we are to bear His light

Matthew 5:14 "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

Matthew 5:15 Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house.

Matthew 5:16 In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

Philippians 2:15 so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe

Philippians 2:16 as you hold out the word of life--in order that I may boast on the day of Christ that I did not run or labor for nothing.

Every local church is the bearer of God's light in this dark world. This scene should remind us of the tabernacle. The high priest had the sole oversight of the menorah. He lighted the lamps, trimmed the wicks, poured the oil. If one of them was unsatisfactory, he was the one who snuffed it out. You and I can be set aside and not be used by the Lord for His own glory. However, even the Prodigal Son never lost his sonship.

- *Among the lampstands*

Revelation 1:13 (NIV) and among the lampstands was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

Revelation 1:13 (KJV) And in the midst of the seven candlesticks [one] like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girded about the loins with a golden girdle.

Right here we see where Jesus is right now, namely in the midst, among His Church. He always referred to Himself as the "Son of Man", and here we see Him dressed as the High Priest in charge of and caring for His church. As such His task is:

1) Cleansing us

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

2) Advocacy

1 John 2:1 My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense--Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.

3) Intercession

Hebrews 7:25 Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them.

and finally, something the church often forgets

4) Inspection (Rev 2 & 3).; which we will study in detail later.

- *His garments*

He is girded by righteousness

Isaiah 11:5 Righteousness will be his belt and faithfulness the sash around his waist.

and clothed in light for us as believers.

Psalms 104:2 He wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent

However for the unrepentant sinners he will come wearing a robe dipped in blood – their blood.

Isaiah 63:1 Who is this coming from Edom, from Bozrah, with his garments stained crimson? Who is this, robed in splendor, striding forward in the greatness of his strength? "It is I, speaking in righteousness, mighty to save."

Isaiah 63:2 Why are your garments red, like those of one treading the winepress?

Isaiah 63:3 "I have trodden the winepress alone; from the nations no one was with me. I trampled them in my anger and trod them down in my wrath; their blood spattered my garments, and I stained all my clothing.

Revelation 19:13 He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and his name is the Word of God.

Revelation 19:14 The armies of heaven were following him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean.

Revelation 19:15 Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron scepter." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

- *His physical appearance*

The following physical description is reminiscent of the descriptions found in Matt 17 (Transfiguration) and Dan 7 (Ancient of Days).

Revelation 1:14 (NIV) His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

Revelation 1:14 (KJV) His head and [his] hairs [were] white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes [were] as a flame of fire;

The snow speaks of his purity,

Daniel 7:9 "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.

and the flaming all seeing eyes are too pure to behold evil

Habakkuk 1:13 Your eyes are too pure to look on evil; you cannot tolerate wrong. Why then do you tolerate the treacherous? Why are you silent while the wicked swallow up those more righteous than themselves?

All things are exposed before Him

Hebrews 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

and the works of man will be tested by fire

1 Corinthians 3:13 his work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.

Malachi 3:2 But who can endure the day of his coming? Who can stand when he appears? For he will be like a refiner's fire or a launderer's soap.

A little boy heard that God's eyes see him all the time. "Even when I'm bad?" he asked his dad. Dad replied: "He loves you so much He can't take His eyes off of you!"

• *Brass and bronze*

Revelation 1:15 (NIV) *His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.*

Revelation 1:15 (KJV) *And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.*

Brass or bronze can take plenty of heat and are used as a picture of sin judged.

Numbers 21:9 *So Moses made a bronze snake and put it up on a pole. Then when anyone was bitten by a snake and looked at the bronze snake, he lived.*

John 3:14 *Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up,*

John 3:15 *that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life.*

The altar of sacrifice was made of brass, as were many of the implements associated with the sacrifices. (Exodus 27)

• *Sound of many waters*

The sound of falling and rushing waters is used in scriptures as a descriptive of God speaking. As it is folly to argue with or shout against Niagara Falls, so it even more useless to do so against the voice of God.

Ezekiel 43:2 *and I saw the glory of the God of Israel coming from the east. His voice was like the roar of rushing waters, and the land was radiant with his glory.*

Psalms 93:4 *Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea-- the LORD on high is mighty.*

• *He holds us in His hand*

Revelation 1:16 (NIV) *In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.*

Revelation 1:16 (KJV) *And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance [was] as the sun shineth in his strength.*

He is in the midst of the churches, and so in our midst! Yet we are in His hand. He is in control!

John 10:28 *I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.*

John 10:29 (NIV) *My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand.*

• *A sharp sword*

This rather strange figure of a sword coming out of His mouth is a picture of the Word of God, which Jesus embodies.

John 1:1 *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

It is active and powerful and the judge of unbelievers.

Hebrews 4:12 *For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.*

John 12:48 *There is a judge for the one who rejects me and does not accept my words; that very word which I spoke will condemn him at the last day.*

This sword will be wielded on the day of wrath to destroy sinners

Isaiah 11:4 *but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth. He will strike the earth with the rod of his mouth; with the breath of his lips he will slay the wicked.*

and the anti-Christ

2 Thessalonians 2:8 *And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*

but also to purify His church today, in the age of grace, as he tells the church at Pergamum

Revelation 2:16 Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

• *Face like the sun*

John had seen Jesus similarly on the mount of transfiguration

Matthew 17:2 There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light.

It is the deity of Jesus unveiled, for we are told in 1 John 1:5 that "that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."

• *Fear not*

Revelation 1:17 (NIV) When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

Revelation 1:18 (NIV) I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Revelation 1:17 (KJV) And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:

Revelation 1:18 (KJV) I [am] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

When John saw Jesus, the result was what it usually is when any created being comes into the presence of the creator; namely he fell down.

Luke 8:28 When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell at his feet, shouting at the top of his voice, "What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, don't torture me!

Mark 3:11 Whenever the evil spirits saw him, they fell down before him and cried out, "You are the Son of God."

Revelation 7:11 All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,

He places His nail scarred right hand on John and tell him not to be afraid, and gives four reasons not to fear.

1) I am the First and the Last. - *the eternal one, deity*

2) I am the Living One -- *based on the fact of the resurrection*

3) alive for ever and ever! -- *right now and always*

4) hold the keys of death and Hades -- *has authority over man's greatest enemy --> death*

Why does Jesus use His right hand, rather than the left to quiet John?

• *Divine outline of the book*

Revelation 1:19 (NIV) "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

Revelation 1:19 (KJV) Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Often in doing a study, we first make an outline. In this case, the Holy Spirit gave us the outline.

Things which thou has seen -->

Chapter 1

Things which are -->

Chapters 2 & 3

Things which shall be after these things -->

Chapters 4-22

The things that are (chapters 2&3) includes our time, beginning at the time He ascended from the Mount of Olives. It is the present time of Grace, of the Church. Because of this, we will be looking at these 2 chapters very closely. We will see how these chapters apply to us individually, as a local church body as well as prophetically to the church as a whole.

• *A quick explanation*

Revelation 1:20 (NIV) The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:20 (KJV) The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.

The chapter closes with an explanation to John (and to us) about the seven churches and their messengers (angels) that Jesus knows exactly what is going on because he holds them in His hand. This is true of us also. As we study the letters to the churches we will see certain themes. One of these is that He knows what's going on intimately. That can be at once comforting, yet also disquieting.