

Revelation

Given to Christ by God the Father to Show His Servants the Things that Must Take Place

I. The Author and Time of Writing

- A. 96 A.D.
- B. Apostle John (Revelation 1:2).
 - 1. John was a disciple of John the Baptizer (John 1:35).
 - 2. John followed Christ after John the Baptizer declared He was the Lamb of God (John 1:36).
 - 3. Christ called him to follow Him (Matthew 4:18–22).
 - 4. John and His brother James were partners with Peter (Luke 5:10).
 - 5. In the gospel, the Apostle wrote, he refers to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved (John 13:23).
 - 6. Jesus informs Peter that John will live to an old age (John 21:21–23).
 - 7. John was the last of the Apostles to die (98-100 A.D.).

II. The Purpose of the Revelation

- A. The Revelation was given to Christ by the Father to show to His servants (Revelation 1:1).
 - 1. To show what makes take place.
 - 2. It was signified by His messenger to John.
- B. John bore witness of the word of God (Revelation 1:2).
- C. Happy are those who read (Revelation 1:3).
 - 1. Christians are not to fear the things in the book of Revelation.
 - 2. The Church is not appointed unto any quality of wrath (1 Thessalonians 5:9).

III. John Received the Message on the Island of Patmos (Revelation 1:9)

- A. He was exiled because of his testimony of Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:9).
- B. Likely during the reign of Domitian (AD 81–96).
 - 1. Titus Flavius Domitianus (AD 51–96).
 - 2. Eusebius describes Domitian as the second emperor after Nero.
 - 3. He was the last ruler of the Flavian dynasty.
 - 4. He persecuted the Christians because of their refusal to honor him as lord and god.
 - 5. He was assassinated in a palace conspiracy.
- C. Eusebius records John's release and return to Ephesus following Domitian's death in AD 96.

IV. A Revelation from Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:1–3)

- A. Christ received the revelation from God the Father.
- B. The revelation is for the servants of Christ.
- C. The revelation indicates the things that must take place.
 - 1. The term “Shortly” may indicate time or speed.
 - 2. These things are necessary to come to be (Revelation 1:1).

3. The message was given to John (Revelation 1:1–2).
 - a) John bore witness of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.
 - b) John wrote down the things he saw.
- D. Happy are those who read and guard what is in the revelation.
 1. The Church is not appointed to this time (1 Thessalonians 5:9).
 2. The words of the prophecy bring a sense of contentment to the reader who guards them.
- V. **Written to the Seven Churches (Revelation 1:4–5)**
 - A. God—The One who was, Who is, and Who is to come (Revelation 1:4).
 1. God is referring to God the Son
 2. Christ existed as God before His incarnation (John 1:1).
 3. Christ is alive today, having been resurrected from the dead (Hebrews 7:25).
 4. Christ will return (Acts 1:11).
 - B. The Seven Spirits Before the Throne (Revelation 1:4).
 1. Represent the seven ministries of the Holy Spirit
 2. Christ possesses the seven Spirits (Revelation 3:1).
 3. The seven Spirits are the seven lamps burning before the throne (Revelation 4:5).
 4. The eyes on the Lamb that was slain are the seven Spirits (Revelation 5:6).
 5. The Seven Spirits' relationship to Christ and the Church indicates it is referring to the Holy Spirit.
 6. Grace and Peace never come from angels (Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; 1 Thessalonians 1:1; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; Philemon 3; 1 Peter 1:2; 2 Peter 1:2).
 7. The Seven Spirits are included in the salutation with God.
 8. The Seven Ministries of the Holy Spirit Related to the Church (Revelation 1:4).
 - a) The Spirit of Holiness (Romans 1:4).
 - b) The Spirit of the Life (Romans 8:2).
 - c) The Holy Spirit of the Promise (Ephesians 1:13).
 - d) The Spirit of the Truth (1 John 4:6; John 14:17; 15:26; 16:13).
 - e) The Spirit of the Grace (Hebrews 10:29).
 - f) The Spirit of the Glory (1 Peter 4:14)
 - g) The Spirit of the Prophecy (Revelation 19:10).
 - C. From Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:5).
 1. The faithful witness (Hebrews 2:17; 3:5)
 2. Firstborn from the dead
 - a) Christ is the first of those resurrected from the dead (Colossians 1:18).
 - b) Firstborn relates to position, not creation (Hebrews 1:6).
 - c) The Church is the assembly of the firstborn (Hebrews 12:23).
 - d) Christ is the firstborn of many brethren (Romans 8:29).
 3. The ruler of the kings of the earth
 - a) The Father placed Christ above the principalities and authorities (Ephesians 1:21; Colossians 2:10).

- b) In Christ's resurrection, the principalities and authorities were disarmed (Colossians 2:15).
- c) He is King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16).
- 4. Jesus loved us and washed us from our sins with His own blood (Revelation 1:5).
 - a) The one who is washed (John 13:10).
 - b) He washed the Church (Ephesians 5:26).
 - c) The washing of regeneration by the Holy Spirit (Titus 3:5).
 - d) Those who have washed their robes (Revelation 7:14).
 - e) Textual Variance:
 - (1) Washed or Loosed.
 - (2) Loosed is not used in Scripture related to sin.
 - (3) Washed directly relates to sin in Scripture.
- D. We are made kingdom of priest (Revelation 1:6).
 - 1. The Church is a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9).
 - 2. The Church is being built up as a holy (set apart) priesthood (1 Peter 2:5).
 - 3. Our priesthood relates to spiritual things, not physical things (1 Peter 2:5).
 - a) Presenting Your Body as a Living Sacrifice, which is our reasonable religious service, Romans 12:1–2).
 - b) Praise—the fruit of our lips confessing his name, Hebrews 13:15
 - c) Doing Good, Hebrews 13:16
 - d) Fellowshiping with other saints, Hebrews 13:16
 - e) Giving financial support to the ministry, Philippians 4:18 (2 Corinthians 9:7)
 - f) Faith – taking God at His Word, Philippians 2:17 (Hebrews 11:1)
 - 4. In heaven, the church will be directly involved in priestly service (Revelation 5:8).
- E. Christ is coming with clouds of saints (Revelation 1:7).
 - 1. Enoch testified of this event (Jude 14).
 - 2. When Christ returns, the resurrected Church will be with Him.
 - 3. These are not water clouds, but clouds of people (Hebrews 12:1).
- F. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega (Revelation 1:8).
 - 1. He knows the beginning from the ending (Isaiah 46:10).
 - 2. All things are brought together in Christ (Ephesians 1:10).

VI. John Receives the Revelation from the Lord (Revelation 1:9–20)

- A. John was on the island of Patmos when he received the revelation (Revelation 1:9).
 - 1. Patmos is a small volcanic island in the Aegean Sea.
 - 2. Patmos is approximately 37 miles from Miletus (Present day Turkey).
 - 3. Patmos is not specifically names as a penal colony in extra Biblical material.
 - 4. The rugged terrain and isolation made it an ideal place for imposing banishment that did not include lose of citizenship or property).
 - 5. John was on the island because of his testimony of Jesus Christ
- B. John was in spirit on the Lord's day (Revelation 1:10).
 - 1. "In spirit" refers to his human spirit, not the Holy Spirit.

2. It indicates he was deep in rational thought.
 3. We worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:23–24).
 4. The Jew who is circumcised in the heart, in spirit (Romans 2:29).
 5. The restoration of a brother while being in a spirit of objectivity (Galatians 6:1).
 6. The Lord’s day is Sunday: the first day of the week (Luke 24:1).
- C. John is instructed to write what he sees (Revelation 1:10–19).
1. He hears aloud voice declaring Himself as God.
 2. John is instructed to write to the seven churches (Revelation 1:11).
 - a) The seven assemblies represent the seven periods of the Church on earth.
 - b) The seven golden lampstands represent each assembly (Revelation 1:12).
 - c) John describes the One speaking to Him (Revelation 1:13–15).
 - d) The One speaking to John is holding seven stars: the seven pastors of the seven assemblies (Revelation 1:16).
 - e) John falls before the One speaking to him (Revelation 1:17).
 - f) The One speaking to John is Jesus Christ (Revelation 1:18).
 - (1) Jesus now possesses the keys of Hades and death.
 - (2) Through Jesus’ death, Satan’s authority over death was stripped from him (Hebrews 2:14).
 - g) John is instructed to write (Revelation 1:19).
 3. The Mystery of the Seven stars and the seven lampstands (Revelation 1:20).
 - a) The seven stars are the messengers of the seven assemblies.
 - b) The seven lampstands are the seven assemblies.