

# **THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

## **Introduction**

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> **Title:** *REVELATION* - in Gk. *apokalupsis*, from which the English word “apocalypse” - which is *disclosure of that which was previously hidden or unknown*. A better title comes from the first verse *Apokalypsis Iesou Christou*, “Revelation of Jesus Christ.”

### **> Four Separate Interpretations of Revelation:**

#1- **The Spiritual (symbolic or idealist) view** maintains that Revelation is not a predictive prophecy but a symbolic portrait of the cosmic conflict of spiritual principles. In this way the book is divorced from the realm of history and placed exclusively in the realm of ideas.

#2- **The Preterist view** (the Latin word *praeter* means “past”) also denies the prophetic aspect of the Apocalypse, limiting it solely to the events of the first century. It is a symbolic description of the Roman persecution of the church, emperor worship, and the divine judgment of Rome.

#3- **The Historicist view** approaches Revelation as an allegorical panorama of the history of the (Western) church from the first century to the Second Advent. The lack of objective criteria combined with the changing historical climate from one generation to another has lead to a wide range of conflicting interpretations within this school.

#4- **The Futurist view (Calvary Chapel)** acknowledges the obvious influence that the first-century conflict between Roman power and the church had upon the themes of this book. But it also accepts the bulk of Revelation (chs.4—22) as an inspired look into the time immediately preceding the Second Advent (the “Tribulation,” usually seen as seven years” 4—18), and extending from the return of Christ to the creation of the new cosmos (19—22). According to this view, the Apocalypse centers around the second advent of Christ who will return in power and glory as the Judge of all who rejected His offer of salvation. Futurists attempt to discern the literal meanings behind the symbolism of Revelation whenever this is permitted by the context or by comparison with other Scripture. <sup>1</sup>

> **Theme:** As Genesis is the book of beginnings, **Revelation is the book of consummation**. In it, the divine program of redemption is brought to fruition, and the Holy name of God is vindicated before all creation. Jesus Christ is revealed in glory. In Revelation Jesus Christ is seen in relationship to time as He “who was and who is to come” (1:4). He is related to the Church (1:9-3:22), the tribulation (4:1-19:21), the millennial kingdom (20:1-10), and the eternal state (20:11-22:21).

Generally speaking, proponents of the first three views are postmillennial or amillennial, while futurists are premillennial. Postmillennialists believe that the spread of the gospel will lead to golden age of peace on earth followed by the return of Christ; amillennialists believe that the Christian’s present heavenly position in Christ is the true “millennium,” not an earthly kingdom. . <sup>2</sup>

> **Key Verses:** **Rev 1:19-20-** *Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.* **Rev 19:11-16 -** *Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And He who sat on him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness He judges and makes war. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and His name is called The Word of God. And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed Him on white horses. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*

## **Revelation Outline**

- I) **The Things Which You Have Seen (1:1-20)**
  - **The Vision of the glorified Christ**
- II) **The Things Which Are (2:1-3:22)**
  - **Letters to the Seven Churches (Counsel, Correction, Course of History)**
- III) **The Things Which Will Take Place After This (4:1-22:21)**
  - **Worship before God’s Heavenly throne (4:1-5:14)**
  - **The Tribulation (6:1-18:24)**
  - **The Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ (19:1-21)**
  - **The Millennium (20:1-10)**
  - **The Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15)**
  - **The Eternal State (21:1-22:21)**

<sup>1</sup> Bruce Wilkinson & Kenneth Boa, *Talk Thru the Bible*, p. 512

<sup>2</sup> C.I. Scofield, *Bible Commentary Notes*, p. 1526

# **“The Things Which You Have Seen!”**

## **Revelation Chapter 1**

**Introduction:** In this chapter we have the **VOICE, VISION AND VICTORY** of our Lord and Savior JESUS CHRIST!

### **I) The Testimony of Jesus Christ (v1-3)**

(v1-2) John bore witness to three things: (1) The WORD OF GOD; (2) the TESTIMONY of JESUS CHRIST; (3) to ALL THINGS that John saw.

(v3) How can we get **BLESSED**? By **READING, HEARING & KEEPING** “the REVELATION.”

### **II) The Message to the Seven Churches (v4-8)**

(v4) The Biblical significance of the number “**SEVEN**”: Seven speaks of that which is COMPLETE and that which is REPRESENTATIVE. (“Seven Spirits” refers to the completeness of the Holy Spirit (O.T. ref. - **Isaiah 11:1-2** - *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. 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.*

(v5a) **JESUS IS**: (1) “*the faithful witness*” – that trustworthy martyr (witness - Gk – *martus*); (2) the “*firstborn from the dead*” – *firstborn* - Gk. *Prototokos* – *first in preeminence*; (3) “*the ruler over the kings of the earth*” (1 Tim. 6:15; Rev 17:14; 19:16 - *And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.*)

(v5b-6) **JESUS LOVES us and has washed us from our sins in His own blood! JESUS has made us kings and priests to His God and Father. JESUS is to receive GLORY – JESUS has DOMINION!** (*Dominion* – Man – Genesis 1:26-28; Daniel chapter 7)

(v7) Here is the mention of **CHRIST 2<sup>ND</sup> COMING** – “*coming with clouds*” – speaks of all the saints returning with Christ to establish His Millennial Kingdom (**Rev. 19:11-21**); this event will be seen by the whole world and a repentant Israel (Dan. 7:13; Zech. 12:10-12 - *“And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem . . . also* **Matt. 24:30-31**).)

(v8) God the Father is called “*Alpha and Omega*” in Revelation 1:8 and 21:6; this name is also applied to His Son in Rev. 1:11; 22:13; thus identifying Jesus as the second person of the Trinity. Let’s understand the terms: (1) “*who is*” – at the present time, Jesus is the glorified Christ! (2) “*who was*” – past time, the first coming of Christ as Savior! (3) “*who is to come*” – future time, the 2<sup>nd</sup> coming of Christ!

### **III) The Vision of Jesus Christ (v9-20)**

(v9-11) John hears the **VOICE** of Jesus Christ!

- *John is our brother and companion in* (1) tribulation; (2) the kingdom; (3) and patience of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:1-9); (4) receiving the word of God; (5) for the testimony of Jesus Christ!

(The Isle of Patmos was a rugged volcanic island off the coast of Asia Minor 10 miles long and 6 miles wide.) John was told, “*what you see, write it in a book and send it to the seven churches.*”

(v12-16) John receives the **VISION** of Jesus Christ! John sees seven golden lampstands and the *Son of Man*. These golden lampstands represent the churches and Jesus is in their midst.

**Observe the description of the Son of Man:**

- “*the gold band*” – Christ is our High Priest!
- “*white hair*” – Christ is eternal!
- “*eyes like a flame of fire*” – Christ is all seeing!
- “*feet like fine brass*” – Christ walks in judgment!
- “*voice as the sound of many waters*” – Christ is the final authority!
- “*out of His mouth went a two-edged sword*” – Christ is the Word of God!
- “*His countenance was like the sun shining*” – Christ is never changing, full of power!

(v17-20) John is touched by the **VICTORY** of Jesus Christ! Jesus has the keys of death and hades (Luke 16:19-31; Mt. 16:18)

- “*Write the things which you have seen*” – Chapter 1
- “*Write the things which are*” – Chapters 2 & 3 (the things of the church present & future)
- “*Write the things which will take place after this*” – Chapters 4 – 22

