

## REVELATION WORD BY WORD STUDY, 1 (1:1-8)

**Introduction:** "Revelation" is an unveiling, a revealing, NOT some truth previously covered but suddenly uncovered, but more like an unveiling. Also like the central airplane terminal where all air lines meet. It pulls all thinking together.

### DISPENSATIONS:

- Age of the Gentiles - From Adam, some 2,000 years, to Abraham - one nationality, one race, one language.
- Age of Israel - The Jewish period from Abraham to Jesus, (483 years), many races, many languages, the promised period of 490 years in the land was cut short 7 years (1993 years total out of 2,000) when Jesus died on the cross.
- Age of the Church - Began with Jesus and will continue until the Church is completed. The time is now almost 2,000 years and is still in operation. All believers in Jesus will be taken to be with God, thus ending the Church age. Will it be 2,000 years also?
- Age of Tribulation - Remember that the promised Jewish age was cut short 7 years but it will be made up in a return to the Age of Israel and will last the 7 years promised. The Jesus Christ will return to earth in visible form. Many Jews have already returned to Israel and in 1948 Israel was recognized as a nation once again. ONLY when Jesus has come for the Church, then He will call all the Jews scattered around the world, back to Israel.
- Age of the 1,000 year reign - Upon the Jews' return, an earthly Kingdom will be set up with Jesus Christ ruling. Satan will be chained during this period of time.
- Age of Satan being loosed - Satan will be loosed after 1,000 years for a period of time.
- Eternal ages - Satan will be defeated and cast into the lake of fire and Jesus Christ shall reign eternally.

REVELATION is mainly about those 7 years, not of the Church age.

John was exiled by Domitian, on the Isle of Patmos some 5 miles off the coast of Ephesus on the Aegean sea, to live out his life and hopefully not very long though Domitian. However, Jesus took care of John. One Sunday in 96 A.D., John arose, walked to the sands of the sea and looked up at the sky, thinking perhaps, praying, even maybe singing to God. He turned and there stood his friend Jesus, whom he had not seen in over 50 years. John was so surprised that he fainted. Jesus lifted him up and began to "preach" to him what we call today REVELATION. The sermon lasted all day, or as long as it might take you to read it word by word.

Chapter 1 is the introduction.

Chapters 2, 3 is the story during the Church Age - 7 Churches of Asia Minor, in a circle around Ephesus, showing trends of the Churches during the Church age - what's going to happen is described here.

Chapters 4, 5 - Describe the Church in Heaven.

Chapters 6 - 19 - Is the story of the tribulation, what is going to happen.

- 6 is the chapter of the seals, a summary of the Book by series of events (seals being opened).
- 7 is Evangelism during the tribulation.
- 8-11 is the Tribulation from the Gentile's stand point of view.
- 12-19 is the Tribulation from Jewish stand point of view.
- 20 is the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ with the Church being with Him.
- 21 is the eternal kingdom of a new heaven and a new earth with Jesus Christ reigning forever.

This is not a difficult outline.

### THE REVELATION OF JOHN, THE DIVINE:

A Saint is one set apart, not someone extra special among Christians. Divine belongs to God only. No man is good, especially Divine.

John wrote the Gospel and 1, 2, and 3 John and this book of Revelation.

John was a disciple and became an apostle.

The real title is in verse 1 - "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" - an unveiling by Jesus, the Revelation concerning Jesus Christ. Here we find out what Jesus Christ is really like as there is no description anywhere else.

v1 - The "Revelation", the real title, is what God gave to Christ which He in turn showed to John, who was so shocked that he fainted.

- "angel" - an angel later repeated (interpreted) the sermon John wrote down.
- "shortly" means most certainly, guaranteed, but time was not the essential element.
- "signified" by His angel, repeated by the angel, describe John again. Exiled, almost 100 years old, on the Lord's Day and he fainted...etc.
- "preached" by Jesus and nobody else.

v2 - "Gave witness" - EVEN, not AND, first hand witness write it down, Jesus preached, John wrote:

v3 - "Blessed" - will be blessed - Revelation contains 7 blessings:

- 1:3 - Blessed if read
- 14:13 - Blessed are the dead - God gives "dying grace" to His.
- 16:15 - Blessed who look for the 2nd coming.
- 19:9 - Blessed is the body of Christ - Church age Christians - (US)
- 20:6 - Blessed are the 1st resurrection, believers, Christ is the first fruits, then Church age Christians, then Old Testament Saints at the end of the tribulation, and the rest at the end of the millennium.
- 22:7 - Blessed are those who keep the sayings of this book.
- 22:14 - Blessed are those who keep the commandments of God
  - God will bless those who read this book - "read" is to want to know, to analyze, to exegesis, to turn it over in the mind, to know again - a teacher is needed - one must listen and learn.
  - "hear" is to hear with the ear and understand with the mind.
  - "keep" is to guard, to live by it.
  - "time at hand" is the time these things start happening.

v4 - "Grace" from God - does it all - peace automatically comes with grace.

- "7 Churches of Asia"
- Here is a description of Christ who is, was, and is to come again.
- "which is" - Christ seated at God's right hand, got up and came to Patmos to preach to John - means a permanent position. Christ ALWAYS exists as Man and God. He came as God and went back as Man, thus when we see Jesus, we shall see the Man, Jesus, His humanity...we cannot see God, but we can see Jesus.
- "which was" - before man was "equal" to God, means ALWAYS, shall always be God, what He was before.
- "which is to come" - the second coming of Jesus.
- "7 spirits" - God's perfect record: Spirit of the Lord, of wisdom, of understanding, of counsel, of might, of knowledge and of a fear of God. (Isaiah 11:1-5)

v5 - Christ is the faithful witness and speaks what God tells Him to.

- "1st born" - under Jewish law, the first born becomes the ruler of the family, the priest of the family and receives a double portion of the family inheritance. Those believing in Jesus Christ now is a single (one) portion, and them having those believers in heaven with Him is the second or double portion.
- Ruben, son of Jacob, was the 1st born of 12 sons, but lost his rulership to Judah, lost his priesthood to Levi, lost his double portion to Joseph, who in turn blessed Ephraim and Manasse, his sons. There are really 13 tribes, not 12.
- "ruler of kings" - meaning the kings of the earth.
- "unto Him who loved us" - Loved us before we were born, loved us even knowing what we would do (sins)

- "washed us" - there came a time when He died for us and using His own blood He cleansed (washed) us.
- Guilty before God, sacrificed according to God's instructions, an innocent Lamb, shedding its blood and dying, going away, then accepted by God.

v6. "kings" - Ever wanted to be a king? Ever wanted to be more than you are now? Jesus will make YOU, a believer a king, perfect, forever but no one will ever be more than Jesus Christ, cannot want more, will be a multi-millionaire, will be with God, NOT YET, but someday.

- "by grace" by the grace of God believers will be accepted and be with God for all eternity.
- "glory and dominion" - the double portion for believers, sharing in Christ's glory.
- "Amen" - John is saying "I believe it."

v7. "cometh" - the second coming - Here is a "bird's eye view with more details coming later.

- "clouds" - chariots of clouds say the scripture.
- "every eye" - when Christ comes back, the sun is going out, the moon is going out, the stars are going out, Jesus will be the ONLY light in the universe and all will see Him (more details later).
- "wall" - Zechariah 12:10 prophecies of this.
- "Amen" - Once again John says "I believe it."

v8. "Alpha and Omega" of the Greek alphabet, the beginning letter and the ending letter,

- "beginning" - we know everything in between the Alpha, Jesus Christ is everything BEFORE the "A" and Christ is everything between the "A" and the "O". Christ is everything AFTER the "O". He is the all-knowing one.
- "repetition" of which is, which was and which is to come. Jesus Christ.

This is the beginning of the Book of the Revelation.

Remember: Revelation is a sermon preached by Jesus to the congregation of ONE, John, on the Isle of Patmos on a Sunday morning in the year of 96 A.D. It lasted all day, as long as it takes you to read it, it lasted that long.

End of Study 1