

The Book of

REVELATION

Lesson 1

Chapter 1:1-20

Look for the answer to these questions:

1. What is the meaning of the word “revelation”?
2. According to Revelation 1:1, what is the purpose of the book of Revelation?
3. What is the name of the apostle who received this revelation?
4. In Rev 1:2, what are the three things he “bore record of”?
5. In 1:4-5, what are the 3 descriptions of God and the three descriptions of Jesus?
6. In 1:5b-6, what are the three things Jesus did for us?
7. Where was the apostle when he received this revelation?
8. In 1:11, what are the names of “the seven churches in Asia”?
9. According to 1:19, what are the three parts to the book of Revelation?
10. According to 1:20, what is the meaning of the seven stars and seven candlesticks?



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There are 22 chapters in the book of Revelation.
In the 16 lessons of this course, we will go carefully
go through each one.

Revelation 1:1a

- 1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass...



Revelation 1:1a

- ¹ The **Revelation** of Jesus Christ,
which God gave unto him,
to shew unto his servants things
which must shortly come to pass...



What is the meaning of the word
revelation?

STRONG'S BIBLE CONCORDANCE

Revelation 1:1a

¹ The **Revelation** of Jesus Christ,
which God gave unto him,
to shew unto his servants things
which must shortly come to pass...

Revelation = ἀποκάλυψις
(apokalupsis)

- 1) a disclosure of truth,
instruction
- 2) manifestation, appearance



Revelation 1:1a

¹ The **Revelation** of Jesus Christ,
which God gave unto him,
to shew unto his servants things
which must shortly come to pass...

This word is in Ephesians 1:17:

That the God of our Lord Jesus
Christ, the Father of glory,
may give unto you the spirit of
wisdom and revelation (*apokalupsis*)
in the knowledge of him:



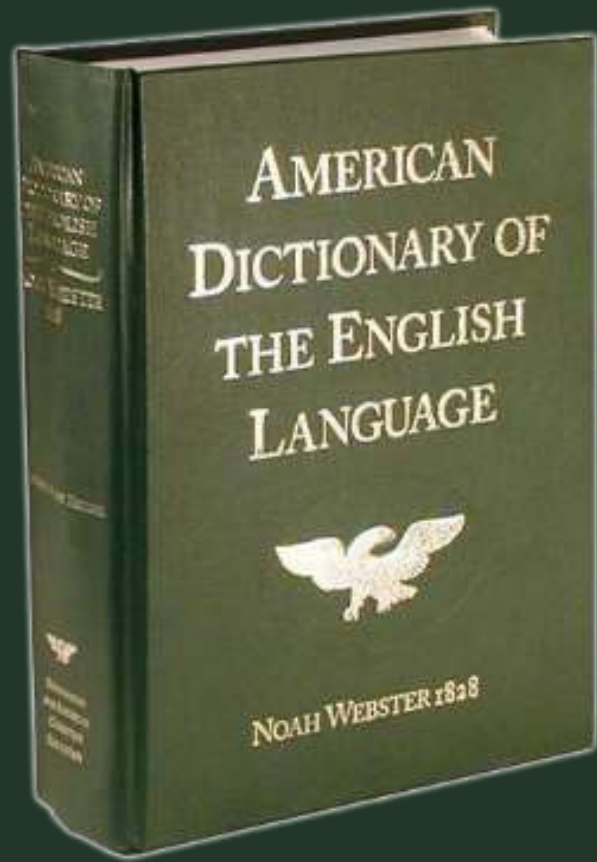


In modern times, our definition of the word *apocalypse* has changed.

APOCALYPSE,

1. a very serious event resulting in great destruction and change:
2. in the Bible, the total destruction and end of the world

dictionary.cambridge.org



But in older dictionaries, it has the same meaning as in the Bible.

APOCALYPSE,

1. Revelation; discovery; disclosure.
2. The name of a book of the New Testament, containing many discoveries or predictions respecting the future state of Christianity, written by St. John, in Patmos, near the close of the first century.

Revelation 1:1a

- 1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ,
which God gave unto him,
to shew unto his servants things
which must shortly come to pass...

This is the **PURPOSE** of this book –
to “shew [show] unto his servants
the things which must shortly come
to pass.”

Are you a servant of God?
If your answer is yes, then this book
is for you!



Revelation 1:1a

- ¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ,
which God gave unto him,
to shew unto his servants things
which must shortly come to pass...



There are no surprises for God.
He knows exactly what will happen
before it happens.

Isaiah 46:9b-10

- ⁹ ... for I *am* God, and *there is* none
else;
I am God, and *there is* none like me,
¹⁰ Declaring the end from the
beginning, and from ancient times
the things that are not yet done,
saying,
My counsel shall stand,
and I will do all my pleasure:

Revelation 1:1b

¹ ...and he sent and signified *it* by his angel **unto his servant John:**

This message was first given to the apostle named John.





John was one of the 12 disciples of Christ. He was the younger brother of James, and one of the sons of Zebedee.

His life story extends beyond the earthly ministry of Christ and the book of Acts.



John wrote 5 books in the New Testament:

1. The Gospel According to John
2. First John
3. Second John
4. Third John
5. The Book of the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:1b

¹ ...and he sent and **signified** it by his angel unto his servant John:



Nelson Study Bible

“The word *signified* refers to the conveyance of truth by means of signs and symbols. Symbols must be interpreted either from something within the context or from other Scriptures.”

Revelation 1:1b

¹ ...and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:



Nelson Study Bible

“The word *signified* refers to the conveyance of truth by means of signs and symbols. Symbols must be interpreted either from something within the context or from other Scriptures.”

This is true for understanding ALL the Bible.

Revelation 1:1b

¹ ...and he sent and signified *it* by
his angel unto his servant John:

The angels of God have a important role in this book. They are mentioned in 68 verses.



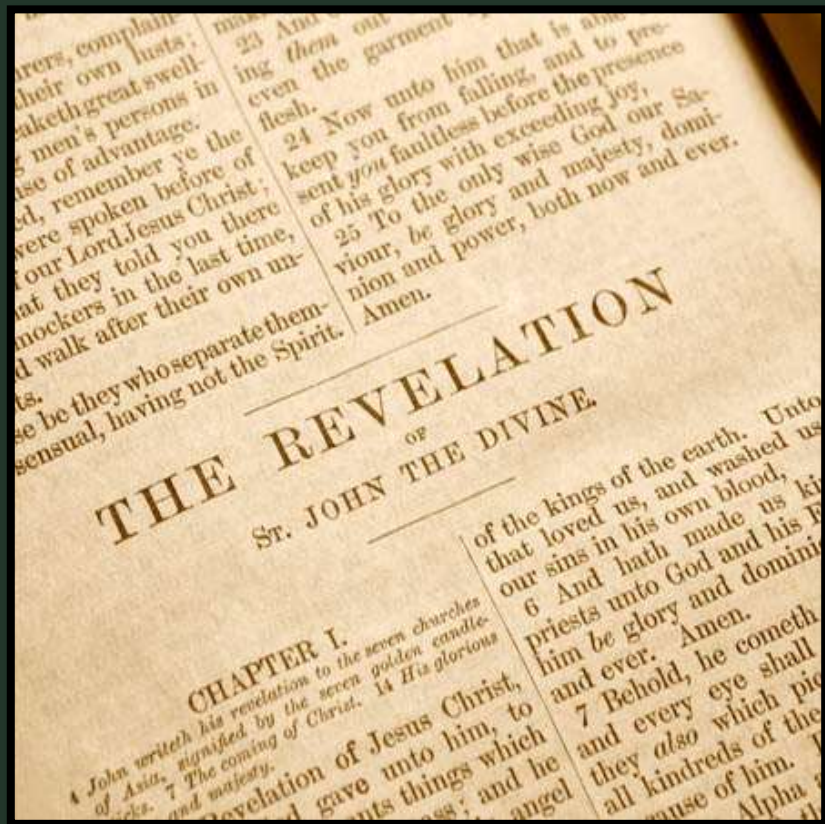
Revelation 1:1b-2

- ¹ ...and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:
- ² Who bare record of **the word of God**, and of **the testimony of Jesus Christ**, and of **all things that he saw**.

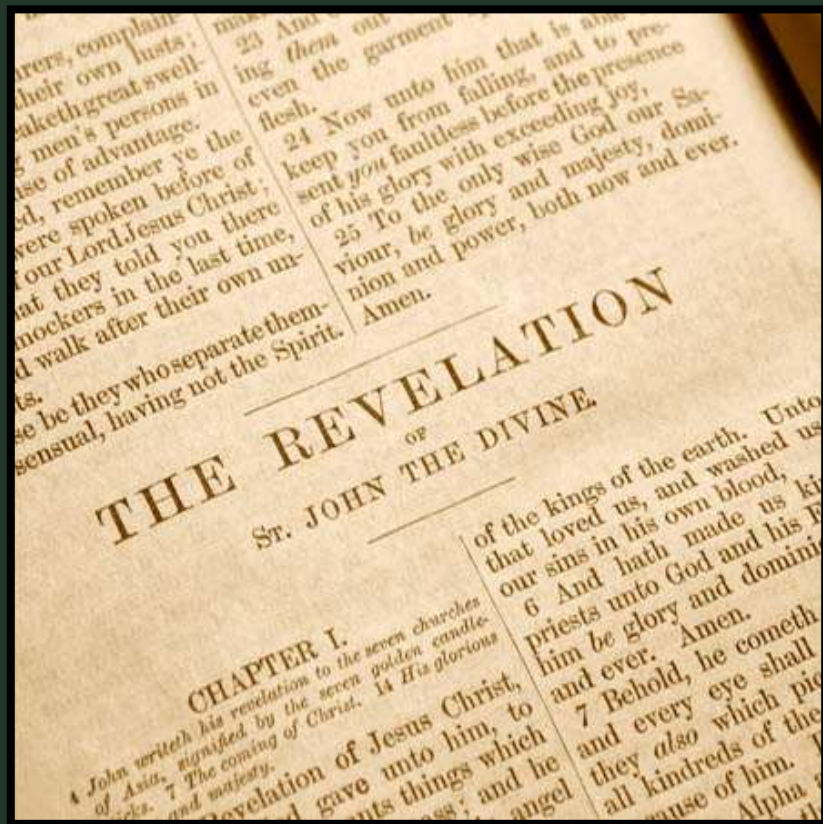
John bare record (gave his testimony) to three things:

1. The word of God
2. The testimony of Jesus Christ
3. All the things that he saw





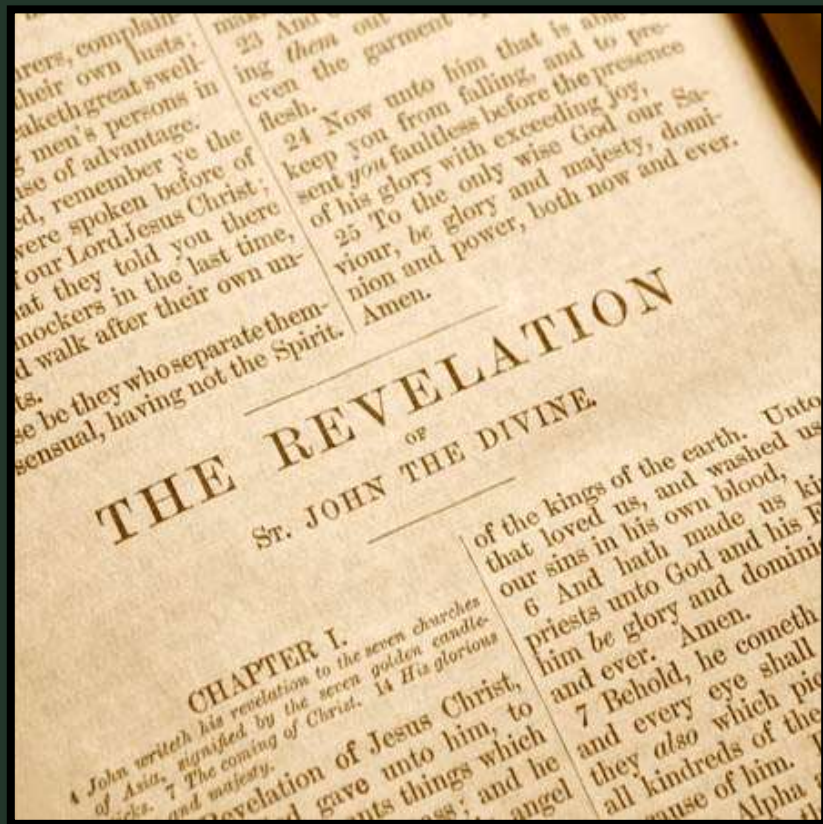
The book of Revelation begins with a blessing and ends with a curse:



The blessing goes to those who read and keep the words of the prophecy.

Revelation 1:3

³ 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 curse goes to those who corrupt it.

Revelation 22:18-19

- ¹⁸ For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book,
If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:
- ¹⁹ And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Revelation 1:4a

4 John to the seven churches which
are in Asia:

John now gives a greeting and blessing.



Revelation 1:4a

4 John to **the seven churches which are in Asia:**

These seven churches will be identified as we continue reading.



Revelation 1:4b-5a

- 4 ... 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;
- 5 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.*



The blessing comes from

1. The everlasting God
2. The seven Spirits, and
3. Jesus Christ

Revelation 1:4b-5a

- 4 ... 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;
- 5 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.*



Notice how God the Father and God the Son are each described three ways.

Revelation 1:4b-5a

- 4 ... 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;**
- 5 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.*



The seven Spirits will also be identified later in this book.

Revelation 1:5b-6

- ^{5b} Unto him that loved us,
and washed us from our sins in his
own blood,
- ⁶ And hath made us kings and
priests unto God and his Father;
- to him *be* glory and dominion for
ever and ever. Amen.

John finishes his greeting with this
word of praise to the Son of God.



Revelation 1:5b-6

^{5b} Unto him that **loved us,**
and **washed us** from our sins in his
own blood,

⁶ And hath **made us kings and**
priests unto God and his Father;

to him *be* glory and dominion for
ever and ever. Amen.

Here is another set of three!

1. He loved us
2. He washed us from our sins
3. He made us kings and priests
unto God.



Revelation 1:5b-6

^{5b} Unto him that loved us,
and washed us from our sins in his
own blood,

⁶ And hath made us kings and
priests unto God and his Father;

*to him be glory and dominion for
ever and ever. Amen.*

Glory and dominion belong only to
the LORD.

Psalm 115:1

Not unto us, O LORD,
not unto us,
but unto thy name give glory,
for thy mercy,
and for thy truth's sake.



Revelation 1:7

7 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.

John now speaks of day Jesus returns
to the earth to rule and reign.



Revelation 1:7

7 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.



Who are these “clouds”?

1. The clouds are God’s chariot.

Psalm 104:3a

3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers
in the waters:
who maketh the clouds his chariot...

Revelation 1:7

7 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.



Who are these “clouds”?

1. The clouds are God’s chariot.

Psalm 104:3a

3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers
in the waters:
who maketh the clouds his chariot...

2. The chariots are his angels.

Psalm 68:17a

17 The chariots of God *are* twenty
thousand, *even* thousands of angels...

Revelation 1:7

7 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.

When Christ returns, the children of Israel will look into the eyes of the one they rejected.

This was foretold by the prophet Zechariah, who spoke of the agony Israel will feel when she faces the one she crucified, the only-begotten Son of God.



Revelation 1:7

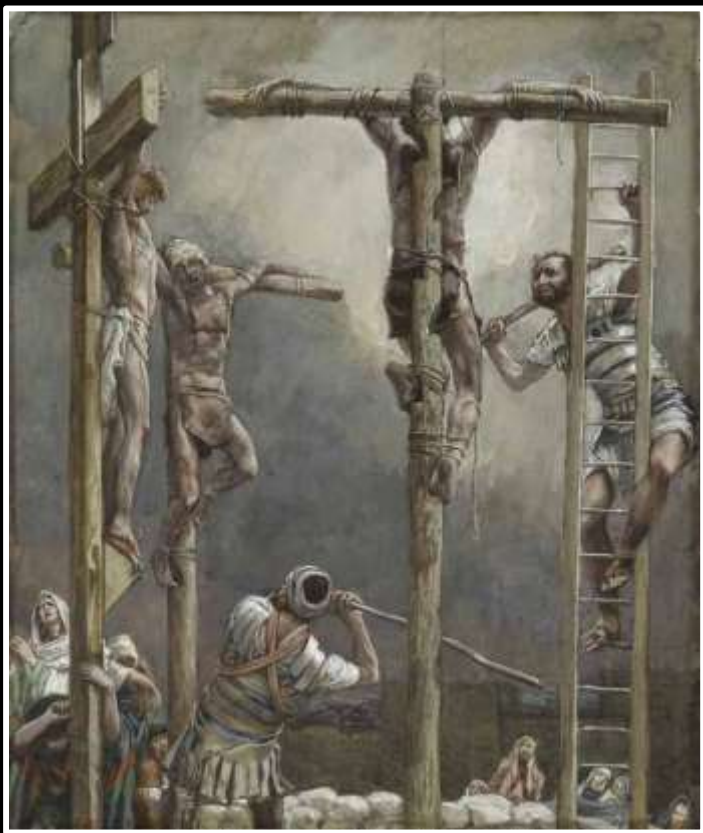
7 Behold, he cometh with clouds;
and every eye shall see him,
and they also which pierced him:
and all kindreds of the earth shall
wail because of him.

Even so, Amen.

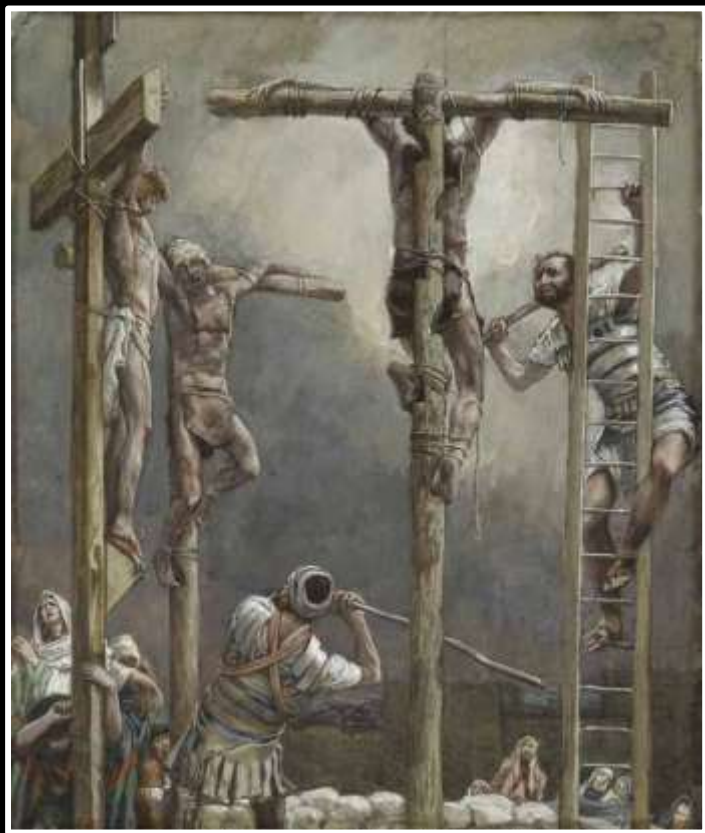


Zechariah 12:10

And I will pour upon the house of
David, and upon the inhabitants of
Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of
supplications:
and they shall look upon me whom
they have pierced,
and they shall mourn for him,
as one mourneth for *his* only son,
and shall be in bitterness for him,
as one that is in bitterness for *his*
firstborn.



John's Gospel tells of the piercing of Christ:



John 19:32-34, 36-37

- 32 Then came the soldiers, and brake the legs of the first, and of the other which was crucified with him.
- 33 But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:
- 34 But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.
- 36 For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.
- 37 And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced.

Revelation 1:8

⁸ 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.



Four times in this book, Christ refers to himself as Alpha and Omega.

Revelation 1:8

⁸ 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.



Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

Α Ω

Revelation 1:8

⁸ 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.



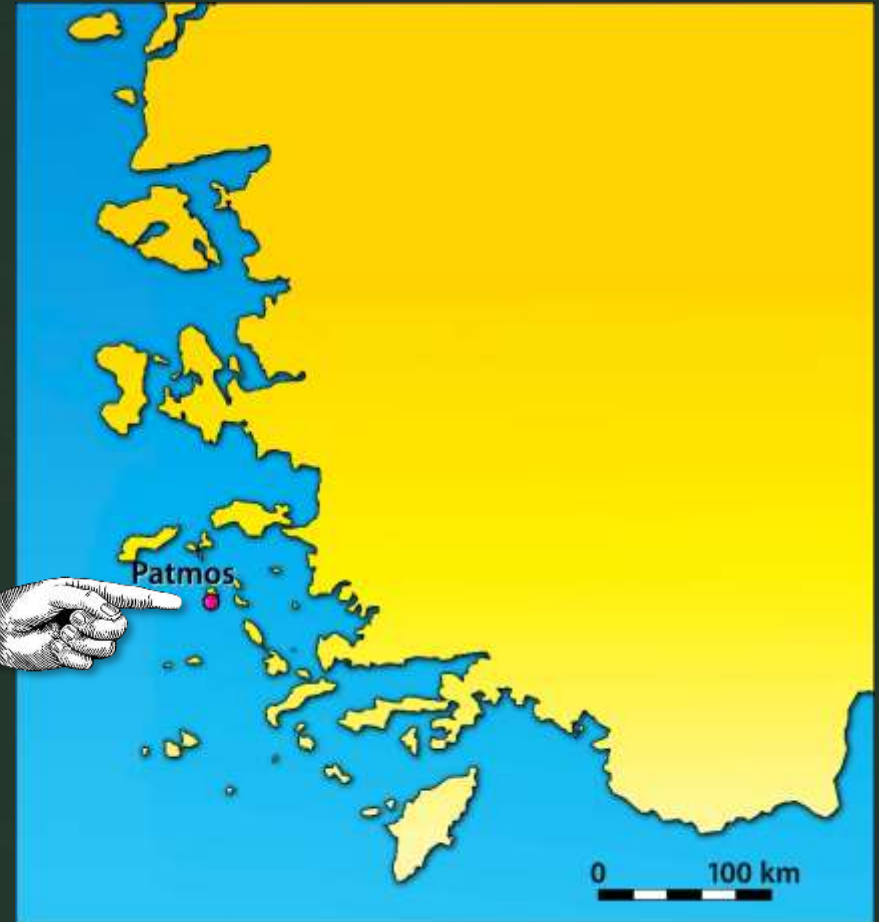
This phrase appears 4 times in this book.
(We already read it in verse 4.)



John now explains how he received this revelation.

Revelation 1:9

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.





Patmos is a small island off the coast of Turkey.



Patmos is a small island off the coast of Turkey.



FOXES' BOOK OF MARTYRS

COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED



JOHN FOXE
Antiquary's Classics



According to Foxe's Book of Martyrs, when John was in Ephesus, "he was ordered to be sent to Rome, where he was cast into a cauldron of boiling oil. He escaped by miracle, without injury."



Domitian [Roman emperor from AD 81-96] afterwards banished him to the Isle of Patmos, where he wrote the Book of Revelation.



Nerva, the successor of Domitian, released him from exile in Pathmos.

Church tradition says that John returned to Ephesus where he died.

John is the only one of the original 12 apostles who escaped a violent death.

Revelation 1:10-11a

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day,
and heard behind me a great voice,
as of a trumpet,

¹¹ 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...



Revelation 1:11b

... unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna,
and unto Pergamos, and unto
Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto
Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.



According to Foxe's Book of Martyrs, six of these seven churches were founded by John – Smyrna, Pergamos, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea, and Thyatira.

The church at Ephesus was planted by Paul.





For the first time, we are given a description of the appearance of the *ascended, glorified* Christ.



Revelation 1:12-13

- ¹² And I turned to see the voice that spake with me.
And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;
- ¹³ And in the midst of the seven candlesticks
one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.



Revelation 1:14-15

- ¹⁴ His head and *his* hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;
- ¹⁵ And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.



Revelation 1:16

¹⁶ 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.



Revelation 1:17-18

¹⁷ 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:

¹⁸ 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.

Revelation 1:19

¹⁹ Write

the things which thou hast seen,
and the things which are,
and the things which shall be
hereafter;

The instruction that Jesus gave to John is an important key to understanding the structure of the book of Revelation.



Revelation 1:19

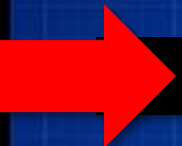
¹⁹ Write

the things which thou hast seen,
and the things which are,
and the things which shall be
hereafter;

1. The things which thou hast seen
2. The things which are
3. The things which shall be hereafter



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Part 1: ... the things which thou hast seen... 1:1-20

All of Part 1 is written in Chapter 1.

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Part 1: ... the things which thou hast seen... 1:1-20

Part 2: ... the things which are... 2:1 to 3:22

Part 2 is written in Chapters 2 and 3.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
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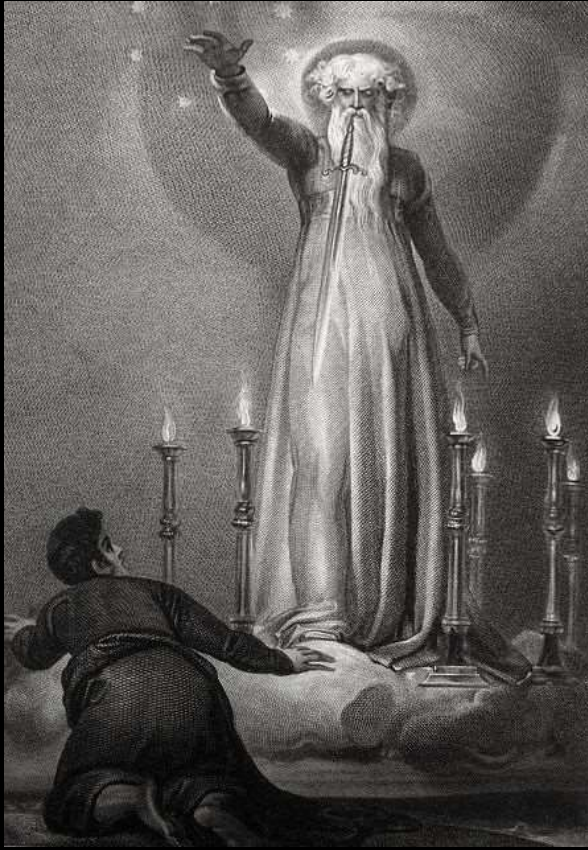
Part 1: ... the things which thou hast seen... 1:1-20

Part 2: ... the things which are... 2:1 to 3:22



Part 3: ... the things which shall be hereafter... 4:1 to 22:21

Part 3 (Chapters 4 to 22)
focuses on the events of the Great Tribulation,
and the things that happen when it is over.



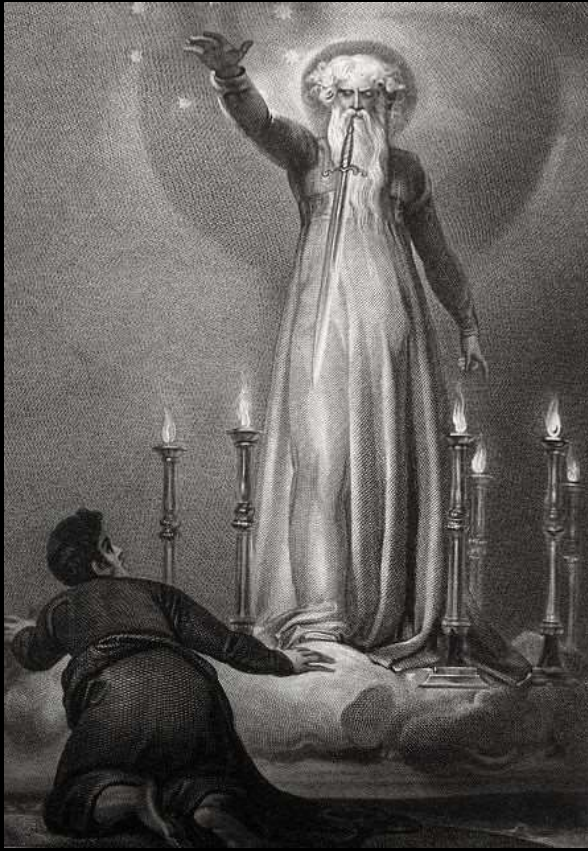
Chapter 1 – and Part 1 – concludes with an explanation of the symbolism seen thus far.



Revelation 1:20

²⁰ 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.



Revelation 1:20

²⁰ 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.

This is the end of Chapter One

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22

Part 1: ... the things which thou hast seen... 1:1-20

Part 2: ... the things which are... 2:1 to 3:22

Part 3: ... the things which shall be hereafter... 4:1 to 22:21

In the next lesson, we begin Part 2: The Things Which Are.
John is told more about these seven churches.

Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

1. What is the meaning of the word “revelation”?
2. According to Revelation 1:1, what is the purpose of the book of Revelation?
3. What is the name of the apostle who received this revelation?
4. In Rev 1:2, what are the three things he “bore record of”?
5. In 1:4-5, what are the 3 descriptions of God and the three descriptions of Jesus?
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10. According to 1:20, what is the meaning of the seven stars and seven candlesticks?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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