

REVELATION CHAPTER ONE

Verse 1: *"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."*

Verse 2: *"Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw."*

We will study in the first chapter of Revelation about God and Jesus. You might ask, "What is the difference?" This is one thing we can say: No one has ever seen God. He's invisible. God is a Spirit; but Jesus Christ has been here as a man and could be seen, but God remained a Spirit even when Jesus was here as a man.

Why did God give Jesus Christ the Revelation? Here's why: To show unto His servants the things which must shortly come to pass. He wants the light of the Gospel to shine. That's why God gave the revelation to Jesus, and Jesus gave it to John; and it is given to us through the writings of John. And now, here at the end-time, God sends us the interpretation.

The unfolding of the Book of Revelation is for the Bride of Christ to understand. Although we will not be here when a large part of the Book of Revelation is applied, God wants us to know what's in the Book of Revelation, and it's in *this* book.

Verse 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."*

God knew that it would take reading history to understand the Book of Revelation. So, since it takes reading history along with the Bible to understand the Book of Revelation, included in *this book* is some history to help us understand what God is showing us.

Verse 4: *"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;"*

Here we begin to look at a mystery that hitherto is not mentioned in the New Testament. This is the first time seven Spirits are mentioned in the New Testament. It is important to note that this was not written about, until around 96 A.D., some thirty years after Paul's death. This will be important later in this Book.

Now notice in this verse, *"seven Spirits before the throne of God."* That sounds mysterious, doesn't it? Because everywhere Paul talked about the Spirit of God, he said, "One Spirit, One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism, and One God." But here, John, some **thirty years after Paul** went off the scene, began to write about the seven Spirits.

The seven Spirits actually represent the seven spiritual angels before the throne, to carry out the work and ministry of Jesus Christ after the Church fell

away from its purity. This took place before John's writing in 96 A.D.

These seven angels have various jobs to do, which includes the church ages, the seals (and the interpretation thereof, which are the sounding of the thunders of Revelation, chapter ten), the seven trumpets, and the seven last vials; as shown John and revealed in this Book. As you will notice in this chapter, Christ is seen as High Priest, and not the Holy Ghost as in the beginning of the Church. In Acts, chapter two, He comes as the Holy Ghost to the Jews, and then He comes the same way to the Gentiles in Acts, chapter ten. It's important to note that the Church fell away from their first love..., both the Jews first and then the Gentiles. After this happened, Christ is seen not as the Holy Ghost in a predominate way, but the High Priest is the predominate office.

After Christ became the High Priest, these angels ministered unto the earthly vessels that were ordained to preach God's message for their day. This period of time is called the "Kingdom of heaven," and represents the period of time recorded in Matthew, chapter 13, where wheat and tares are permitted to grow together, while Christ is High Priest making intercession for His children.

The seven parables of Matthew, chapter 13, typifies the seven church ages, in which these spiritual angels minister to the earthly messengers while God is dealing in the seven church ages to give them light. Chapters 2 and 3 of Revelation cover this same period.

Don't miss this: **Christ was not pictured in the early Church as using seven Spirits.** Instead, the Church, especially the Gentile part, was the body of Christ in the earth, and Christ had begun to speak through His ministry of Ephesians 4:11, before His Church fell away from His Word and was cut-off from the full blessings of God.

Now, who is this "*which is, and which was, and which is to come*"? John received a greeting from Him: "*Grace be unto you, and peace, from Him which is, and which was, and which is to come.*" This represents the Eternal God, and not Jesus Christ; because God never had a beginning, but Jesus did. God always was, He is now, and He always will be; **but Jesus had a beginning as a mortal man.**

Verse 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. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood,*"

The fact that Jesus is the first begotten from the dead means, that there will be others who are begotten from the dead. Watch this: When we come forth in the resurrection, or when we are translated, we will be the same *then* as He is *now*. He's the Son of God now with a glorified body, and we are going to be sons of God with glorified bodies.

This greeting is from "*Him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before His throne; and from Jesus Christ.*"

Verse 4 shows the Eternal God and the seven spiritual angels, but verse 5 shows the man Christ Jesus. As the Word unfolds we are going to see that the man Christ Jesus and God is the same One, **when understood correctly.** Paul

said that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself. (II Cor 5:19)

In the millennial reign Jesus Christ will rule as King. After the millennial reign He will sit on the throne and He will be the Judge. (Revelation 20:11-15) Then He will deliver the kingdom back to God who gave it to Him, (I Corinthians 15:24-28), and God will still be, "Him which was, Him which is, and Him which is to come," but Jesus Christ will be with us in bodily form; as He and God the Father become one, making Christ the visible part of God. (Revelation 22:3,4)

Remember, the body of **Jesus Christ had a beginning**. It began that day in Nazareth as the angel appeared to the virgin Mary and said that she was highly favored of God and would conceive, and bear a Son, and call His name Jesus. Mary said, "How can this be seeing I know not a man?" And the angel said that it would be by the Spirit of God. **That was the beginning of Jesus Christ as a man**. But God always was, He is now, and He always will be. When Jesus Christ is no longer sitting on the throne in the millennial reign as King, God will still be God. He will still be the Eternal One. When Jesus Christ is no longer sitting as the Judge to judge all mankind, God will still be the Eternal One. **He is a Spirit and He always will be a Spirit**. This earthly man, Christ Jesus, had a beginning as you can now see; but God, the Eternal Spirit, had no beginning.

Now the last part of verse 5 says that Jesus Christ washed us from our sins in His own blood. He preached about 3 ½ years and died on the cross, washing us from our inherited sinful nature, and making us clean by His precious blood. Now that our sinful nature is cleansed by Christ's death on the cross, the next thing in order of our redemption is to obey Christ's command in Matthew 28:19, in the order that Peter and the other apostles obeyed on the day of Pentecost. The proper way for this to be done is by the apostles example, Acts 2:38; for they understood that Father, Son and Holy Ghost were only **titles** and not a **name**. So after Peter opened the door to the kingdom of God, this was the only way water baptism was administered. *"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of **sins**, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."* ONLY after following this formula can you scripturally say you are washed from your sins and have a biblical new birth. After these steps have been taken we go on to perfection, or maturity, by walking in the light of His Word; and His blood continually cleanses us from our daily errors. (I John 1:4-10)

Verse 6: *"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father; to Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."* That's in the millennium.

The same One that is the Father of Jesus Christ is our Father. St. John 20:17—*"I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and unto my God, and your God."*

As Jesus overcame and received His position with the Father, so will we as over comers receive our position with Christ in His kingdom for being over comers here in this life.

Verse 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."

This verse is talking about the physical man, Christ Jesus, coming back, because no man can see God; for He is a Spirit. **The only way you can see God is to see the works of God**, but every eye is going to see this man, Christ Jesus, coming back. This verse is not dealing with the Rapture of the True Church, which will be a secret as far as the world knowing about it. *"Every eye shall see Him,"* lets us know that this is a physical return of Christ after the great tribulation. (Matthew 24:29-30 & Revelation 6:14)

Verse 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."*

I want you to see here how God and Jesus are One, with the right understanding. Here, Jesus Christ brings in that He is Deity. In Jesus Christ dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. All that we are to see of God bodily, all that we are to know about God in this life, is bodily wrapped up in Jesus Christ; but God is still the Eternal Spirit everywhere present at the same time.

Verse 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 where the Romans put criminals, and there was no way to escape. It was infested with scorpions and snakes. John must have went through a great time of loneliness. He was an old man when they put him on this island, and no doubt the devil came to him and told him that he was just a forgotten old man and would die there, but God had other plans! The devil made a mistake that day when he had John put on the Isle of Patmos; for John didn't have anything to do, but to praise God and get in the Spirit.

Sometimes God will have certain circumstances come up to where we won't have anything to do but to praise God, love Him, serve Him, and believe His Word; just like John did on the Isle of Patmos.

Notice what it cost John to get the Word of God for us. Tribulation and patience was the price he paid for his testimony of Jesus Christ. What are we paying for the interpretation? There were some lonely hours spent in preparing this book.

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

John got so in the Spirit that God picked him up and put him over into the millennial day and let him see all this Book of Revelation fulfilled.

The Bible says that there isn't anything new under the sun. (Ecclesiastes 1:9) The millennium is not new to John, because he's already been there. He has already seen the seven church ages. There is nothing new about the seven thunders, because John has already heard them, and so did we, when the seals were opened in 1963. That is what Revelation, chapter ten, is about.

Verse 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; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea."

The first part of this verse shows the deity of Jesus Christ that God has invested in Him. The rest of this verse tells John to write what he saw in a book and send it to the seven churches of Asia. These churches were made up of mostly Gentiles, so we know God wants us Gentiles to understand this book. Chapters 2 and 3 of this book deal with the seven churches mentioned in verse 11.

Verse 12: *"And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;"* (This signifies that there were to be seven church ages.)

Verse 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."*

Now who did John see? Did he see God? He saw the God-man. You can't see God, but you can see the God-man, Jesus Christ.

Notice, He was clothed with a garment down to the foot and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. This means that He is a High Priest. He is dressed in a High Priest's robe. This is a temporary thing; He will not always be dressed like that, for He is coming back as the Bridegroom in the form of the Mighty Angel in Revelation, chapter ten, and is clothed with a cloud, and only the Bride sees Him in this form and it is by revelation. Later He raptures His Bride off the earth as His wife. Next He comes as a King on a white horse and He will be clothed with a vesture dipped in blood. (Revelation 19) Jesus *changes clothes* as His work changes. He changes offices as His work changes, but God always remains the Eternal One, unchangeable.

Verse 14: *"His head and His hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and His eyes were as a flame of fire;"* (John saw Him just like Daniel saw Him. This represents a judge.)

Verse 15: *"And His feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and His voice as the sound of many waters."*

His feet being like brass means that He stood the judgment for you. It means that He stood in the judgment, and therefore, you don't have to go into judgment of condemnation. The very Son of God, the One with God's own life in Him, came and paid the price for your sin.

Verse 16: *"And He had in His right hand seven stars: and out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and His countenance was as the sun shineth in His strength."*

The seven stars in His right hand shows the seven church age messengers. The sharp two-edged sword was the message from Christ that the messengers had in their day. Here is a man with His face lit up like the sun. This shows Jesus Christ, the God-man, not the Eternal Spirit. Christ is shown again in Revelation, chapter ten with His face shining as the sun.

Verse 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:"*

John falling at His feet as dead sets a good type for anyone who gets a revelation of who Jesus really is, dying out to self.

Verse 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."*

Now God can't die, and He has never been dead. This One that was talking to John had been dead, but had risen from the dead, and was now alive.

That was the message of the early Church. They went forth saying, "He is risen." The Bible says that with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of Jesus Christ. He was the One that was alive, and had died, and had come back again. Yes, God let Him die. Why? For you and I. He won't die anymore, and because He died, we won't have to die spiritually.

The last part of this verse says, *"and have the keys of hell and of death."* Jesus Christ went down and preached unto the spirits in prison. (I Peter 3:19) The prison was locked up and satan had the keys hanging on his side. This is in Psalms 24:7-10, where it says, *"Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in."* And a voice from within cried, *"Who is this King of glory?"* Jesus answered back, *"the Lord mighty in battle."* And the gates were opened and He went in and ripped the keys off the side of satan. He opened up the gates and let Abraham and all the others out. (Matthew 27:52-53) And when He came back, He gave Peter a set of Keys. That's why it is important to be baptized like Peter said in Acts 2:38.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter opened the door for the Jewish church in Acts, chapter 2. Then later he opened the door for the Gentiles, baptizing them the same way, as he did the Jews on the day of Pentecost some years earlier. Now the Lord has a few keys reserved for the Church in this hour that He is giving to His ministry.

Verse 19: *"Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;"*

In the Book of Revelation are things that have already been, things that are happening, and things that will happen in the future. Because John obeyed in writing what he saw, we are reading this and interpreting it to you.

Verse 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 verse is self-explanatory and helps us to explain verse 4. In verse 4, John writes to the seven churches in Asia. No doubt, John had preached in all seven churches that he was writing to. John was writing this to the pastors of the seven churches. He probably knew them personally, but this signifies, also, what was to happen in the seven church ages all the way through, as the seven spiritual angels gave God's Word to the seven earthly messengers in each one of the seven church ages.

Not only was there an earthly messenger to each age as it came into fulfillment, but there was a spiritual angel that ministered to that earthly messenger in each

of the seven church ages. That's the seven Spirits that's before the throne in verse 4. These angels are fully explained in other chapters of this book. Also, the "mystery" spoken of in this 20th verse is the same mystery that is spoken of in the 10th chapter of Revelation that is cleared up by the seventh church age messenger. Notice this word "**mystery**" is a singular word "mystery," and it has to do with the seven church ages. We will get more on this in the tenth chapter of Revelation.

In conclusion, this chapter is dealing with the person of Jesus Christ identifying Himself to John. You have seen both the Son (Jesus) and God the Father (the Eternal Spirit). You have seen God manifested in the flesh working certain works, and yet you have seen that God remains a Spirit everywhere present at the same time. May God bless you and give you complete understanding. Amen.