

Revelation: A Heavenly Message (Series part 1)

Cornerstone Community Church – Pastor Jerry Ernst

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Scripture: Revelation 1:1-11

The Book of Revelation is a disclosure of Christ's agenda to inform believers of future events. The author, John, was banished to Patmos, a rocky isle in the Aegean Sea (1:9) where the Romans had a prison colony. Revelation was written in the last third of the first century – between Nero (A.D. 54-68) and the end of Domitian's rule (A.D. 81-96).

The Second Coming is mentioned 318 times in 216 chapters of the New Testament (27 books), and over 50 times in the epistles. One out of twenty-five verses in New Testament refers to the *Second Coming*.

"End Time" Biblical Greek Terms:

Parousia – *"Coming, being near, advent, presence, return of Christ to punish Jerusalem and the wicked."*

(1st Corinthians 15:23-24; Matt. 24:3, 27, 37; 1st Thess. 2:19, 3:13, 4:15, 5:23, 2nd Peter 1:16; 3:4, 12; 1st John 2:28)

Epiphaneia – *"Appearance" – "manifestation referring to Christ's coming forth out of a hidden background"* (2nd Thess. 2:8; 1st Tim. 6:14; 2nd Tim. 4:1, 8; Titus 2:13)

Apocalupsis – *"Unveiling"* - pointing to the *"removal of that which now obstructs our vision of Christ"* (1st Corinthians 1:7; 2nd Thess. 1:7; 1st Peter 1:7, 13).

REVELATION: (Gk: *Apokalypsis*): *"Unveiling; disclosure of what had previously been concealed."*

Revelation Reveals Jesus' Exaltation:

- *"Blazing Glory"* (Rev. 1:7-20)
- *"Lord over His Church"* (Chapters 2-3)
- Jesus *returns* to take back the earth from Satan (Chapters 4-20).
- Jesus illuminating heaven (Chapters 21-22).

Revelation's Outline: (Revelation 1:19) *"(19) Write the things which you **have seen**, and the things **which are**, and the things which will take place **after this**."*

- Chapter 1: *"...the things which you have seen"*
- Chapters 2-3: *"The things which are"*
- Chapters 4-22 *"the things which will take place after this."*

John Receives a Heavenly Message (Revelation 1:1-11)

1) The SOURCE of this message (Vv. 1-2)

The title: *"(1) The Revelation of **Jesus Christ**."*

*"(1) ...Which **God** gave **Him** to show **His servants**"*

- God (Father) gave Jesus the details to show His Church (servants).

*"(1) ...Things which **must** shortly take place"*

- Revealing an event occurring *suddenly*; not necessarily soon (Matthew 24:36).

*"(2) who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, **to all things that he saw**."*

2) The PROMISE of this message (Vs. 3) - *"(3) **Blessed is the one who reads** the words of this prophecy, and **blessed are those who hear it** and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near."*

- Revelation is the only book in the Bible promising “blessing” to those who read it (Rev. 22:6-7); and damnation to those who change it (Rev. 22:18-19).

3) The RECIPIENTS of this message (Vs. 4) - “(4) John, to the **seven** churches which are in Asia:”

- Revelation was initially written to the seven churches in Asia Minor (Turkey).
- This was a 50-mile circuit, starting in Ephesus.

Seven: “*Completeness, totality, rest, divine perfection.*”

4) The GREETINGS of this message (Vv. 4-5)

God the Father - “(4) ...from **Him** who is, and who was, and who is to come,”

The sevenfold Spirit - “(4) and from the **seven spirits** before his throne.”

- **Seven Spirits: (7)** = Total completeness, divine perfection.
- The Holy Spirit in *completeness* – the *totality* of the Holy Spirit before the throne of God. *Isaiah 11:2-3

The Son - “(5) and from **Jesus Christ**,”

5) The THEME of this message - Jesus (Vv. 5-8) – “(5) and from Jesus Christ, who is the **faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth...** ‘(8) I am the **Alpha and Omega**,’ says the Lord God, ‘who is, and who was, and who is to come, **the Almighty.**”

Who Jesus is:

- **God’s “faithful witness”** – Faithful unto death (John 8:14).
- **“The firstborn from the dead”** – The resurrected Christ (Luke 24:1-8).
- **“ruler of the kings of the earth”** - Christ’s Kingdom established on earth.
- **“Alpha and Omega”** - The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (A, O).

Symbolism: Jesus spans all-time and space - beginning & ending of history!

- **“The Almighty”** - Eternal One

What Jesus has done: (Vv. 5-6) - “(5b) ... To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, (6) and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father – to him be the glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.”

What Jesus will do: (Vs. 7) – “(7) Look, **he is coming with the clouds**, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.”

- He will come in the clouds and reveal Himself (Daniel 7:13; Zechariah 12:10; Acts 1:9-11).

6) The Place, Time and Sound of this message (Vv. 9-10) - “(9) I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on **the island of Patmos** because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. (10) **On the Lord’s Day** I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me **a loud voice like a trumpet**,”

- Isle of Patmos (Vs. 9)
- On the Lord’s Day (Sunday) (Vs. 10)
- “(10) a loud voice like **a trumpet**”

Isaiah 27:13 – “(13) And in that day **a great trumpet** will sound...”

- Jewish tradition maintains that the shophar will be sounded to usher in the final messianic redemption (Revelation 8-9).

***Matthew 24:27-31**