

**SPIRIT OF LIFE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL  
A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION  
REVELATION CH 1**

This begins our study of Revelation. We must realize that God gave the Revelation to the Apostle John while he was on the Isle of Patmos. The revelation would show God's servants things which must come shortly to pass.

The Book of Revelation is the only book of the Bible that promises a special blessing to the reader.<sup>1</sup> (Many verses in the Bible encourage reading God's Word--in general--but only one book has the "audacity" to claim, in effect, "Read me, I'm special.") What is surprising is that, even for many avid Bible readers, this book is overlooked or neglected. One would expect just the opposite.

There are many reasons why this book invariably results in a special blessing to the diligent inquirer. Perhaps the most basic blessing accrues from the fact that in order to understand the background of the many idioms and allusions, one will have to trace back into virtually every book of the Bible.

The Book of Revelation consists of 404 verses which contain over 800 allusions to the Old Testament alone! One reason the book appears so strange to the uninitiated is that most of us haven't developed enough familiarity with the Old Testament.

One of the keys to understanding the book is also to take it seriously, not to get distracted with fanciful allegories or speculations but to read it with care and diligence as part of the whole Word of God. The Bible consists of 66 books, penned by 40 authors over thousands of years, and yet we now discover that it is an integrated message: every detail, every word, every number, every place name is there by supernatural engineering. And no study makes this clearer than the study of the Book of Revelation.

(The Bible is like any textbook in school, the answers are all in the back!)

## Organization of the Book

The Book of Revelation is the only book I know which also has a divinely inspired outline included! Jesus Himself has provided the key to the structure of the book:<sup>3</sup> He told John to write:

1. the things which thou hast seen, and
2. the things which are, and
3. the things which shall be hereafter.
  - a. The "things which thou hast seen" refers to the vision of our risen Lord just experienced previously in Chapter 1.
  - b. The "things which are" refers to the seven churches which were existing at that time in Chapters 2 and 3. Interestingly, the Lord's letters to the churches in these two chapters are the most relevant part of the book for you and me today.
  - c. The "things which shall be hereafter (meta tauta)" refers to the remainder of the book.

Throughout our study of the Book of Revelation, we will be primarily using the King James Version. It is always a good practice to check with your Strong's concordance or other Biblical references to get the full meaning of each word you are studying. Take them all together, and you will get a greater understanding of the Word of God.

### **REV 1:1-3**

***“ 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: 2) Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. 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 word angel in Chapter 1 verse 1 is aggelos in the Greek, and means angel or messenger. In this case the messenger that gave the revelation to John was none other than Jesus Christ himself. John was given the revelation, but there is a blessing for all those that read and hear the words of this book of the Bible. It is full of symbolisms, but as we dig deep into this study, you will see the clarity of the revelation, and you will be blessed.

John bore record of the word of God given, and the testimony of Jesus Christ that he heard and saw. The revelation was given to John so that it could be shared with 7 churches in Asia Minor. The revelation was not to be concealed – or hidden away. The Lord always wants His people to be in the light about what is, what was, and what will be.

### **REV. 1:3**

***“BLESSED IS HE THAT READETH, AND THEY THAT HEAR THE WORDS OF THIS PROPHECY....”***

### **REV 1:4**

***“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;”***

Verse 4 speaks to the seven churches which are in Asia. Grace is sent to them by John, and peace by the one that is, and was, and which is to come, which speaks of Jesus Christ. Then also the seven Spirits which are before the throne of God.

Seven Churches:

**Ephesus** ----- started by the Apostle Paul

**Smyrna** ----- 35-40 miles from Ephesus

**Pergamos** ---- not far from Ephesus probably  
started by the Apostle Paul

**Thyatira** ----- with a short distance from Ephesus

**Sardis** ----- Probably started by the Apostle Paul

**Philadelphia**- Near Ephesus  
(no Biblical details on who started it.)

**Laodicea**----- Near Ephesus

The meaning of the seven Spirits does not mean that there are seven Holy Spirits. There is one Holy Ghost, the third part of the trinity, and He is manifested in 7 characteristics, namely:

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CHAPTER 1

## SEVEN MANIFESTATIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**SPIRIT OF THE LORD**

**SPIRIT OF WISDOM**

**SPIRIT OF UNDERSTANDING**

**SPIRIT OF COUNSEL**

**SPIRIT OF MIGHT**

**SPIRIT OF KNOWLEDGE**

**SPIRIT OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD** ( See Isaiah 11:2)



This is the location of the seven Churches that are mentioned in Chapter 1 and throughout the book of Revelation. They are in Asia, and they are relatively close to each other. We will be discussing each of these churches in the lessons to come.

### **REV. 1:5**

***“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,”***

### **FAITHFUL WITNESS**

Jesus faithfully proclaimed his identity. He did not fail in His mission as some cults like to claim today. He is also called the faithful witness in **Rev. 3:14** “ And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;”

Verse 5 lets us know it is from Jesus Christ, who is also called the faithfulness; the first begotten from the dead (speaking of the new birth, resurrected from the dead) and He is also the Prince of the earth ( the definition of the word Prince in the Greek is *archōn* which means ruler, commander in chief, or leader) indicating his rulership over all of the rulers of the earth. He is the chief ruler. He loved us when he washed us from our sins with his sinless blood. He is the one greeting the 7 churches.

#### **FIRST BEGOTTEN FROM THE DEAD/FIRSTFRUITS**

**1 Corinthians 15:20** *“But now is Christ risen from the dead, [and] become the firstfruits of them that slept.”*

**James 1:18** *“Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”*

#### **REV 1:6**

*“And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”*

In **Gal 3:28** we read *“There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.” We are all one in Christ. He is the head, and we are His body. Verse 6 of chapter 1 tells us that Jesus has made us kings and priests unto God, and his father;”* (God is speaking of Jesus, and Father is God the Father) We will one day rule and reign with Jesus on Earth. He deserves all glory and dominion forever. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is our all in all!

#### **REV. 1:7**

*“Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindredsof the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”*

#### **REV. 1:8**

*“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, (kyrios) which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”* (*pantokratōr*)

#### **LORD (KYRIOS)**

- a. he to whom a person or thing belongs, about which he has power of deciding; master, lord

- b. the possessor and disposer of a thing
  - 1. the owner; one who has control of the person, the master
  - 2. in the state: the sovereign, prince, chief, the Roman emperor
  
- c. is a title of honour; expressive of respect and reverence, with which servants greet their master
  
- d. this title is given to: God, the Messiah

**ALMIGHTY --pantokratōr**

- a. he who holds sway over all things
- b. the ruler of all
- c. almighty: God

**REV. 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.”***

The island of Patmos is today part of Greece. It is located among the Sporades group of islands in [The Aegean Sea](#) near the west coast of Turkey. It is a relatively small member of the group, measuring only about 6 by 10 miles / 10 by 16 kilometers, with a very irregular coastline.

The Romans used Patmos, and numerous other *legally* remote (i.e. where the prisoners had no legal rights but were held indefinitely without charge or trial, subject solely to the whim of the Roman emperor) bases like it as a place for political or religious prisoners (similar in purpose to the modern-day "detainee" concentration camp run by the US in communist Cuba during the Afghanistan and Iraq wars). According to Eusebius, John was sent to Patmos in the year 95 by the Roman emperor Domitian but was released less than 2 years later. Since he, and all of [The Twelve Apostles](#) were roughly the same age as Jesus, John would by that time have been well over 90 years old, making him very likely the only apostle to survive to old age. All the rest were martyred .

**REV 1:10**

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

**LORD'S DAY**

**Mark 16:9** *"Now when [Jesus] was risen early the first [day] of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils."*

**John 20:19** *"Then the same day at evening, being the first [day] of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace [be] unto you."*

**I Corinthians 16:2** *"Upon the first [day] of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as [God] hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."*

**REV 1:11**

*"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."*

**ALPHA AND OMEGA**

**ALPHA:** First letter of the Greek alphabet, from Hebrew origin. Christ is the Alpha to indicate that he is the beginning and the end **OMEGA:** Last letter of the Greek alphabet, meaning last or end. [Rev 1:8](#) [Rev 1:11](#) [Rev 21:6](#) [Rev 22:13](#)

**Rev. 1:12**

*"And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;"*



**REV 1:13**

*“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 (chest) with a golden girdle.”*

**EXODUS 25: 31-40**

*31 And thou shalt make a candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work shall the candlestick be made: his shaft, and his branches, his bowls, his knops, and his flowers, shall be of the same.*

*32 And six branches shall come out of the sides of it; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side:*

*33 Three bowls made like unto almonds, with a knop and a flower in one branch; and three bowls made like almonds in the other branch, with a knop and a flower: so in the six branches that come out of the candlestick.*

*34 And in the candlesticks shall be four bowls made like unto almonds, with their knops and their flowers.*

*35 And there shall be a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, and a knop under two branches of the same, according to the six branches that proceed out of the candlestick.*

*36 Their knops and their branches shall be of the same: all it shall be one beaten work of pure gold.*

*37 And thou shalt make the seven lamps thereof: and they shall light the lamps thereof, that they may give light over against it.*

*38 And the tongs thereof, and the snuffdishes thereof, shall be of pure gold.*

*39 Of a talent of pure gold shall he make it, with all these vessels.*

*40 And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount.*

**REV 1:14**

*“His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire.”*

**REV 1:15**

*“And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.”*

**REV 1:16**

*“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”*

**TWO-EDGED SWORD**

**HEBREWS 4:12** *“For the word of God [is] quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and [is] a discernor of thoughts and intents of the heart.”*

**REV 1:17**

*“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:”*

FIRST: prōtos first in time or place

LAST: eschatos last in time or in place

**REV 1:18**

*“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.”*

**REV 1:19**

*“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;”*

**REV 1:20**

*“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels (MESSENGER – Pastor) of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”*

**RIGHT HAND**

That the right hand of the Lord denotes omnipotence, is because by hand in the Word is signified power, and thus by right hand eminent power; consequently when the hand or right hand is said of Jehovah, it denotes Divine power, or omnipotence.

God hath sworn by His right hand, and by the arm of His strength (Isa. 62:8);

For they got not the land in possession by their own sword, neither did their own arm save them: but thy right hand, and thine arm, and the light of thy countenance, because thou hadst a favor unto them. (Psalm 44:3)

The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles (tents) of the righteous: the right hand of the Lord doeth valiantly. The right hand of the Lord is exalted; the right hand of the lord doeth valiantly. (Psalm 118:15-16)