

Revelation 1 Part 2

Chapter One.

The first three verses of this book once again confirm that this is all about the revelation of Jesus Christ, who He is, what He is. Every action in here reveals something of Jesus and His nature.

This was signified by God's angel to His servant John, and John was one of the original apostles. He had been with Jesus and he had been in the upper room, baptized in the Holy Ghost and he had gone throughout a good part of the then known world to preach the gospel. So he is bearing record of all that he saw.

Verse three is a blessing on everyone that reads this book and they that hear the words of the prophecy and keep those things which are hidden. For it says *'The time is at hand'*. This book deals with time from before the time it was written right on through to a world that is still yet to come, so the time is always at hand.

John writes this to the seven churches which are in Asia, and greets them. Those seven churches are illustrated later in this same chapter as a seven branched candlestick. Now it's not actually a candlestick, it's like the Menorah that was in the temple. There's no candles as such, it has a wick that goes to the end of each candlestick and the wick goes down to a bowl of oil, which of course is the fuel for lighting the fire, and the inference here is that the oil is the Holy Spirit and it is when the church is linked to the Holy Spirit that it can give light.

And it also talks about the seven spirits which are before God's throne. Those seven spirits are the seven angels, or messengers, to the seven churches. Each church has a messenger or an angel.

Then it brings greetings from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. First begotten of the dead, obviously He was the first one to rise from the dead, which means that there is going to be a lot more that will. We'll see that later on in the book, of course.

He has made us kings and priests with God. Here we have an indication that the old priesthood, the Aaronic priesthood, the one that Moses set in order, is now defunct, it is finished, and there is a new priesthood based on the Melchisedec. Link, Melchisedec in the Old Testament brought bread and wine to Abraham, Jesus Christ the High Priest of Melchisedec brought bread and wine to all the believers. And we are called to be a part of that priesthood.

It says in verse seven *'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.'*

Jesus Christ will return, here's the promise, and everyone will see Him. The signs in the skies are such that if there was a massive element or something went off very close in the heavens everyone would see it, and this is sort of what it's describing. But it is bringing together two things here. Christ often appears as a cloud, with a host of witnesses, something that people can see. But here it brings together both that for the Christian and for the Jew, because it was the Jews that pierced Him.

Verse eight tells Jesus speaking saying *'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 is God Himself talking, and He is saying I am the beginning and the end. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet, omega is the last. And as it was written in Greek, it is a logical way of explaining that Christ is the beginning and the end.

This Jesus Christ is none other than the Almighty God. This will be repeated a little later on in this chapter, but don't think of Jesus as someone separate from God, He is the manifestation of God. Some people think of Jesus Christ as a person, separate from God who is also a person, and the Holy Spirit who is also a person. Now, you can't be a person without a personality, someone who is an individual. So I believe person is the wrong actual description of God. God is revealed as Father, Son and Holy Ghost, but it is one God.

We will continue with part two later.