



REVELATION CHAPTER 1 THE REVELATION FROM JESUS CHRIST, TO SHOW HIS SERVANTS WHAT MUST SOON TAKE PLACE

SUMMARY OF REVELATION CHAPTER 1

While living in exile on the island of Patmos John received the revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to John, who testifies everything he saw is the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Blessed is the one who reads aloud 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.

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”



Revelation 1:1 The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

“The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John.” The book of Revelation is of the things which are, and the things which shall be. John is the writer, but Jesus Christ is the author.

The Book was given to John in 95 AD. What does the word “soon” mean? It is based on God’s time, not man’s. Some 515 years later, the prophecy started to unveil. In 610 AD Mohammad received his first of more than 22 years of revelations (610-632 AD) from a demonic spirit calling himself the “Angel Gabriel.” The false gospel of the Qur’an was given—fulfilling the last words of the Book of Revelation.

Revelation 22:18-19 (NIV)

I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

Soon the Four Horsemen of Revelation chapter six (Mohammad, Abu Bakr, Umar and Uthman) would sweep across the Christian lands 624-660 AD. Their Umayyad Caliphate would exercise authority over one quarter of the world (Revelation 6:8), just as Jesus said they would.



INSCRIPTION FROM CAVE THOUGHT TO BE WHERE JOHN LIVED ON PATMOS

Revelation 1:2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

“Who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.” John tells us the substance of his testimony and witness is the Word of God. It is not from man; it is from God divine and can be trusted.

Revelation 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud 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.

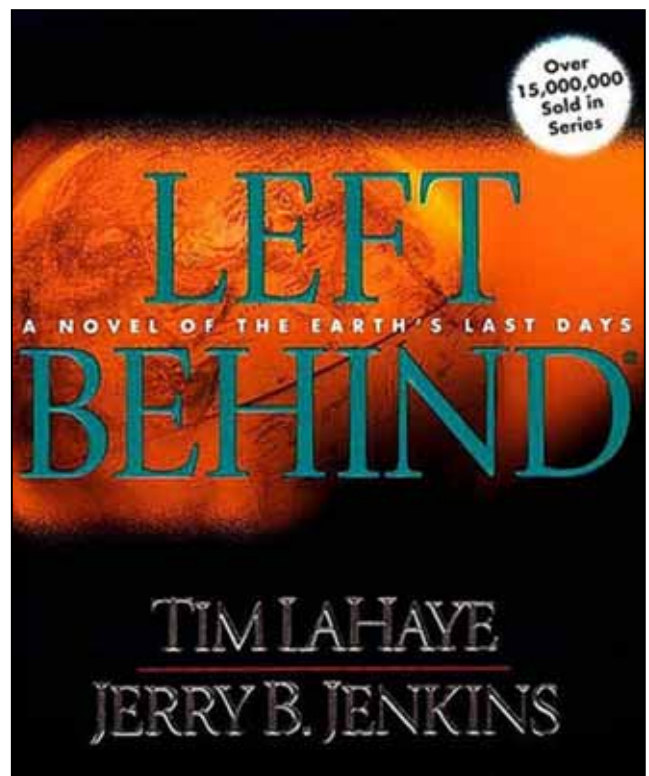
“Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.” John wanted the Book of Revelation read to the members of the church. Those that read it and hear it are blessed.

It is a shame today that so few pastors read from the Book of Revelation. They are afraid their interpretation is wrong, like so many before them. For example, why don't they tell the story of the Philadelphia church being given a promise from Jesus that has lasted some 1,925 years! The Philadelphia church was the only one of the seven Revelation churches not destroyed by Islam. (*“I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.”* Revelation 3:8)

The Revelation prophetic words are perfectly accurate and can be seen in the world today, seen through prior historical events, and some final prophecies will be seen very soon in the future.

The Book of Revelation is from God and can be trusted. But it is not for monetary profit. God does not bless those profiting from prophecy newsletter sales and DVD sales.

Fictional movies and novels such as “Left Behind” have little to do with the truth of the Book of Revelation and mislead many. Probably the greatest deception is that people will have time to be saved after Jesus returns. The Left Behind series seems to suggest that will happen. Jesus makes clear that once he returns the door is tightly shut.



Matthew 25:11-13 (NIV)

“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.”

Revelation 1:4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

“John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne.” Some have taught that the letters to the seven churches are set forth the condition of the church in the successive epochs of its history. It is better to understand that Jesus was dealing with each church uniquely to their needs, but there are lessons from all seven churches for us today. Six of the seven churches were destroyed by Islam, only the church at Philadelphia was given an open door that no one can shut.

Here in Revelation 1:4, John tells us Jesus has seven spirits before his throne. John tells us that the Lamb’s seven eyes were the seven Spirits of God in Revelation 5:6 (*“Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”*) The seven spirits are before the throne and are also sent out into the world. This is all the information we have from Scripture. We can say this about the seven spirits of God:

- ✓ Revelation 1:4; the seven spirits are before His throne
- ✓ Revelation 2:1, John tells us Jesus holds the seven stars in his right hand.
- ✓ Revelation 3:1; Jesus holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars, as having the seven Spirits of God
- ✓ Revelation 4:5; the seven lamps of fire burning before the throne are the seven Spirits of God
- ✓ Revelation 5:6; the Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth

Revelation 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood.” Jesus is given three titles here that will be revealed in more detail throughout the Book of Revelation. The triple titles applied to Jesus are: 1) Christ the Revealing Prophet, 2) the Life-giving High Priest, and 3) the absolute Ruler of all mankind. Only the blood of Jesus Christ gives us eternal life.

Revelation 1:6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

“And has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.” Peter said each member of Christ shares in his eternal priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9 (NIV)

But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.

Revelation 1:7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen.

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. This passage ties back to Old Testament prophecy in Zechariah 12:10-12 about the weeping on the Day of the Lord-when the door is shut and it is too late to accept Jesus. The Zechariah prophecy also makes clear Jesus and the Father are the same one God (*“They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him.”*)

This Revelation verse clearly refutes the Left Behind series “secret rapture” when John is told *“every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”* Everyone will see Jesus return. There is no secret, no doubt, nor any second chance.

Zechariah 12:10-12 (NIV)

“And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. They will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son. On that day the weeping in Jerusalem will be as great as the weeping of Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will mourn, each clan by itself,

Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” Jesus was before all things and exists forever. The Qur’an takes away his atoning sacrifice, his Deity, his crucifixion, and his resurrection. The Qur’an claims Jesus was created by Allah. The Bible, in John 17:3-5, tells us Jesus had glory with the Father before the world was created.

John 17:3-5 (NIV)

Now this is eternal life: that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. I have brought you glory on earth by finishing the work you gave me to do. And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.

Revelation 1:9 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.

“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.” John was banished to the Island of Patmos by the Roman Emperor Domitian, some years after Nero died in 68 AD. John was a companion and shared in their tribulation with them, and he tells all of us that patience which brings endurance is desirable, because it is a patience in Jesus.

Revelation 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

"On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet." This is not the Day of the Lord, but a regular worship day. John was in a trance, a prophetic vision; so overwhelmed with the power, and filled with the light of the Holy Spirit, as to be insensible of outward things, and wholly taken up with spiritual and divine. It was brought to his attention by a sudden command or a shout like a trumpet.

Revelation 1:11 which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

"Which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." John was given very specific instructions to give the contents of the vision written down on a scroll to the seven churches of Revelation; they all were in Asia Minor, or Western Turkey today.

Revelation 1:12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

"I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands." In a number of his visions in Revelation, John sees things that Ezekiel saw, and John also sees things that Zechariah saw. The seven golden lampstands are similar to what Zechariah saw.

Zechariah 4:1-6(NIV)

Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. He asked me, "What do you see?" I answered, "I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. Also there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left." I asked the angel who talked with me, "What are these, my lord?" He answered, "Do you not know what these are?" "No, my lord," I replied. So he said to me, "This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty.

Revelation 1:13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.

"And among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest." Someone like a son of man was evidently the Lord Jesus Christ himself, elsewhere in the New Testament so often Jesus called himself "the Son of man." John is seeing the vision of Jesus that Daniel saw. The "great war" that Daniel saw (Daniel 10:1), which made him mourn and be sick for three weeks, is the great spiritual war between the Lamb of God, the beast and the dragon. This spiritual war is, of course, still ongoing today.

Daniel 10:1-6 (NIV)

In the third year of Cyrus king of Persia, a revelation was given to Daniel (who was called Belteshazzar). Its message was true and it concerned a great war. The understanding of the message came to him in a vision. At that time I, Daniel, mourned for three weeks. I ate no choice food; no meat or wine touched my lips; and I used no lotions at all until the three weeks were over. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

Revelation 1:14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.

“The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.” This is another description of the transfigured Jesus, where Jesus shone with the brightness of the sun.

Matthew 17:1-3 (NIV)

After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

Revelation 1:15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.

“His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.” That the voice of Jesus was as the sound of many waters lets us understand the power of his word. The vision of his bright bronze feet was similar to what Ezekiel saw of the four living creatures.

Ezekiel 1:4-7 (NIV)

I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north—an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, and in the fire was what looked like four living creatures. In appearance their form was human, but each of them had four faces and four wings. Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze.

Revelation 1:16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

“In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.” The stars are explained later on (Revelation 1:20) to be the emblems of the angels of the seven churches.

Revelation 1:17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

“When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.” The power and glory of Jesus would overwhelm any person, even John who saw Jesus before and after the resurrection. Jesus is love and comfort.

Revelation 1:18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

“I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” Hades (Sheol, the Abyss) is the vast unseen spiritual realm (the “sea” all throughout Revelation) into which souls are ushered by death; dark and mysterious as that realm is, but Jesus has both under His power. The keys are the emblems of His right and authority. Jesus explains the meaning of the seven stars and the seven lampstands in Revelation 1:19-20.

Revelation 1:19 “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. **Revelation 1:20** The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”



THE BEACHES ON THE NORTHERN PART OF PATMOS