

# Read Revelation!

*“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.” (Revelation 1:3)*

## Chapter 1: John’s Vision of Christ!

### I. The Origin of the Book

**(vs. 1-8).**

The Book of Revelation is a very important book of the Bible, as we see in the opening lines. Notice how it came to us:

From God the Father to Jesus Christ (v. 1);

From Jesus Christ to “*his angel*” (v. 1);

From the angel to John the apostle (v. 1);

From John to us, the servants of God (vs. 1-2).

The title is “*the Revelation of Jesus Christ*.” The word translated “*revelation*” here means an unveiling. This last book of the Bible does more than just tell us about future events; it unveils the Lord Jesus before our eyes! There is a special blessing pronounced on all those who *read* and *hear* this book, and determine to “*keep*” its sayings (v. 3). The Book of Revelation is not to be studied just to satisfy our curiosity. We should read it to get a vision of the Person and Purpose of our Lord, and to know how to please Him (Also see Revelation 22:7).

The real Author of Revelation is God, as we have seen. Notice in verses 4 through 8 just Who God is:

He is the Triune God (See the Father and the Spirit in verse 4, and the Son in verses 5-6);

He is the Lord (v. 8);

He is the Almighty (v. 8).

Notice the special emphasis in these verses on the past, the present, and the future. Don’t forget Hebrews 13:8! Notice that the Holy Spirit is presented symbolically as “*the seven Spirits which are before his throne*.” Isaiah 11:1-2 will tell you why. Notice also that this God is the God of the Old Testament (Lord, Almighty) as well as the God of the New (vs. 2-7). Many things taught in the Book of Revelation actually bring to a conclusion and to completion lines of doctrine first revealed to man in the Book of Genesis.

## II. The Vision of The Son (vs. 9-20)

We read in verse 9 that John, the last of the twelve apostles living, was on the isle of Patmos off the coast of Asia Minor (apparently chased there under persecution), when he received a vision of Jesus Christ which began the series of visions that are recorded in Revelation. This vision reminds us of what Daniel saw as described in Chapter 10 of his book. Several individuals came to the prophet in his vision, but one was almost certainly the pre-incarnate Christ. Look at Daniel 10:5-9, 16-17. Now let's study John's vision.

### A. The Voice

On the Lord's Day (Sunday), Spirit-filled John heard "*a great voice*" behind him that identified Himself as "*Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.*" This was what God called Himself in verse 8. Verses 12 and 13 tell us that when John turned around to see Who was speaking, he saw and recognized "*the Son of man*" standing in His glorified state. Jesus Christ was speaking to Him, and Jesus Christ is indeed God! Don't let the cultists or the liberals fool you. The Bible teaches that Jesus is God in the flesh! See John 1:1-14 and I Timothy 3:16. Jesus told him to write the Book of Revelation and send it to seven churches in the province of Asia. As with most of the New Testament books, the first recipients were the people *in the churches*. God wants His children in church.

### B. The Candlesticks

The first thing John saw when he turned were "*seven golden candlesticks*" (v. 12). In a moment he saw that the Son of man was standing "*in the midst*" of them. Verse 20 tells us that these candlesticks represent the seven churches that were to receive the Book of Revelation at first. Notice in Matthew 18:15-20 that Jesus is always "*in the midst*" of His churches.

### C. The Garment

The garment Jesus wore reminds us of the high priest's special clothing, described in Exodus 28. Now the Lord is at the right hand of the Father in His glorified body, making intercession for believers as their High Priest! Read about this in Matthew 22:41-46, Mark 16:19, Acts 2:32-36, Romans 8:33-34, and Hebrews 4:14-16, 7:25.

### D. His Head

The Lord's hair was white as wool and snow, which not only speak of His great age and eternal existence, but also of His power to remove sin. Remember Isaiah 1:18.

### E. His Eyes

The Lord's penetrating eyes see everything in our lives, as the seven churches of Asia would soon learn. Over and over again (2:2, 2:9, 2:13, 2:19, 3:1, 3:8, 3:15). He will say, "*I know,*" and reveal things that He knew about their hearts and lives! Jesus sees and knows *all about us*!

### F. His Feet

The feet of Christ looked like brass, the metal that speaks of *judgment* in the scriptures.

They seemed “*as if they burned in a furnace*,” which also makes us think of God’s judgment against sin. With the whiteness of forgiveness on His head and the brass of judgment on His feet, the Lord Jesus appears as One with His head in Heaven, and His feet in Hell! Surely He is the One Who makes the difference concerning which way we go. Look at verse 18.

**G. His Hand**

See that His right hand holds the “*angels of the seven churches*” (Compare verses 16 and 20). The Greek word translated “*angels*” here can mean “messengers,” as it was rendered in Matthew 11:10, Luke 9:52, and James 2:25. The spirit-beings we call “angels” are special messengers from God. Probably the stars in the Lord’s hand are men who preached to the churches. Preachers are in His hand, and are used in our lives to bring us God’s messages.

**H. His Mouth**

See in His mouth the two-edged sword of God’s Word (Hebrews 4:12-13). The Word is powerful and authoritative, as we perceive from the sound of His voice in verse 15 as well as the sharpness of the sword in verse 16.

**I. His Countenance**

“*Countenance*” in verse 16 means appearance. The overall appearance of the Lord Jesus is described in this verse as like “*the sun*” when it “*shineth in its strength*.” This was the way Paul described his vision of the risen Christ in Acts 26:13 (Look it up). The power of His appearance prompted the reaction of John in verse 17:

*“I fell at his feet as dead.”*

The more we know about the majesty and holiness and power of our Savior, the more reverently we will approach Him.

**J. His Touch**

But Jesus comforted His beloved disciple by touching him and saying, “*Fear not*.” The Lord is holy, but He is also gracious. He is our Lord, but He is also our Savior. He is our Master, but He is our Friend. Notice in verse 18 that His sacrificial death and justifying resurrection have delivered our souls from Hell. Praise God! We need not be afraid. Then in verses 19 and 20, the Lord Jesus explained to John what was about to happen: the last living apostle would learn the truth about things in the past, present, and future. This instruction would begin with messages to the seven churches.