



THE END

A STUDY OF REVELATION

Rev. 1:4-8

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;

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,

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

7 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.

8 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.

Background Introduction

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The opening verses of the book state that "John" wrote it (1:1, 4, 9; cf. 22:8). **The date is A.D. 95-96.**

INTERPRETATIONS

There have been four basic interpretations of Revelation throughout church history:

- The *idealist*, or allegorical, interpretation sees the book as an allegory, teaching the ideal of the triumph of good over evil.
- The *preterist* interpretation, after the Latin word *preater*, meaning "past," views the book as dealing only with events in the early history of the church, specifically: its conflicts with Judaism and paganism in John's day.
- The *historicist* view understands Revelation to be dealing with events in the total history of the church, not just the church until John's day.
- The *futurist* view sees the book describing mainly events in the eschatological future, specifically: the things described in chapters 4—22.

GENRE

The Book of Revelation contains three types of literature mainly: apocalyptic (cf. Ezek. 1:1-14), prophetic (cf. Isa. 53:1-6), and epistolary (cf. 1 Cor.).

MESSAGE

The Book of Revelation is one of the most encouraging books in the Bible, because in it we see our Savior vindicated before the world. Revelation is really a very simple book. It boils down to this: Jesus wins!

Scriptural Introduction

Rev. 1:19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

Part One – THE PAST: REVEALING GOD – “...the things which thou hast seen...” Ch. 1

Introduction: 1:1-3

A. The Significance of the Book, 1:1a-b

1. The Person of Christ Unveiled, 1:1a
2. The Purposes of God Unveiled, 1:1b

B. The Signature of the Book, 1:1c-2

1. The Marvelous Way He Received This Revelation , 1:1c
2. The Meticulous Way He Recorded This Revelation, 1:2

C. The Singularity of the Book, 1:3

1. It Embodies a Special Promise, 1:3a
2. It Embraces a Special Period, 1:3b

As is true of New Testament epistles generally, the address of Revelation contains three elements:

- The writer
- The addressees
- The greeting.

I. THE COURSE OF THE AGE, 1:4-6

A. The Blessing, 1:4-5a

1. The Substance of the Blessing, 1:4a “John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace...”



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2. The Source of the Blessing, 1:4b-5a “...from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 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...”

Rev. 1:8 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.

Rev. 4:8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, **which was, and is, and is to come.**

1 Kings 22:19 And he said, Hear thou therefore the word of the LORD: I saw the LORD sitting on his throne, and all the host of heaven standing by him on his right hand and on his left.

Heb. 1:14 Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

Isa. 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;
3 And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:

Zech. 4:2 And said unto me, What seest thou? And I said, I have looked, and behold a candlestick all *of* gold, with a bowl upon the top of it, and his seven lamps thereon, and seven pipes to the seven lamps, which *are* upon the top thereof:

3 And two olive trees by it, one upon the right *side* of the bowl, and the other upon the left *side* thereof.

4 So I answered and spake to the angel that talked with me, saying, What *are* these, my lord?

5 Then the angel that talked with me answered and said unto me, Knowest thou not what these be? And I said, No, my lord.

6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.

7 Who *art* thou, O great mountain? before Zerubbabel *thou shalt become* a plain: and he shall bring forth the headstone thereof *with shoutings, crying*, Grace, grace unto it.

Psa. 89:36 His seed shall endure for ever, and his throne as the sun before me.

37 It shall be established for ever as the moon, and *as a faithful witness* in heaven. Selah.

Isa. 43:10 **Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD**, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I *am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

11 I, *even I, am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour.

12 I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when *there was* no strange *god* among you: therefore ye are **my witnesses**, saith the LORD, that I *am* God.

13 Yea, before the day *was I am* he; and *there is* none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?

- Christ is witness to the name of God.
- Christ is witness to the nature of sin.
- Christ is witness to the need for righteousness.
- Christ is witness to the nearness of judgment.
- Christ is witness to the news of salvation.

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,

Psa. 89:27 Also I will make him **my firstborn**, higher than the kings of the earth.

Original Word: πρωτότοκος

Transliteration: prototokos

Definition: first-born, eldest.

prōtōtokos (from *prōtos*, "first, pre-eminent" and *tíktō*, "bring forth") – properly, *first in time* (Mt 1:25; Lk 2:7); hence, *pre-eminent* (Col 1:15; Rev 1:5).

prōtōtokos ("firstly") specifically refers to *Christ as the first to experience glorification*, i.e. at His resurrection (see Heb 12:23; Rev 1:5). For this (and countless other reasons) Jesus is "*preeminent*" (*prōtōtokos*) – the *unequivocal Sovereign over all creation* (Col 1:16).

[(*prōtōtokos*) refers to "the first among others (who follow)" – as with the *preeminent, glorified Christ*, the eternal *Logos* who possesses *self-existent life* (Jn 5:26).] <https://biblehub.com/greek/4416.htm>

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn** of every creature: ...

18 And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, **the firstborn** from the dead; **that in all things he might have the preeminence.**

Acts 2:29 Men *and* brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day.

30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up **Christ to sit on his throne;**

31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption.

32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.

Acts 4:2 Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

Acts 26:23 That Christ should suffer, *and* that he should be the first that should rise from the dead, and should shew light unto the people, and to the Gentiles.

Rom .1:4 And declared *to be* the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:

1 Cor. 15:23 But every man in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits**; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

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...**”

Rev. 17:14 These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for **he is Lord of lords, and King of kings:** and they that are with him *are* called, and chosen, and faithful.

Rev. 19:16 And he hath on *his* vesture and on his thigh a name written, **KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.**

Mt. 2:6 And thou Bethlehem, *in* the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come **a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.**

2 Tim. 2:12 If we suffer, **we shall also reign with *him*:** if we deny *him*, he also will deny us:

B. The Benediction, 1:5b-6

1. The Grace That Accrues to Us, 1:5b-6a

“...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father...”

1 Jn. 4:19 We love **him**, because he first loved us.

New International Version

We love because he first loved us.

New American Standard Bible

We love, because He first loved us.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

We love because He first loved us.

King James Bible

We love **him**, because he first loved us.

https://biblehub.com/1_john/4-19.htm

ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΙΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ 1:5 Greek NT: Westcott and Hort / [NA27 and UBS4 variants]

καὶ ἀπὸ Ἰησοῦ Χριστοῦ, ὁ μάρτυς ὁ πιστός, ὁ πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν καὶ ὁ ἄρχων τῶν βασιλέων τῆς γῆς. Τῷ ἀγαπῶντι ἡμᾶς καὶ **λύσαντι** ἡμᾶς ἐκ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν ἐν τῷ αἵματι αὐτοῦ

ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΙΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ 1:5 Greek NT: RP Byzantine Majority Text 2005

καὶ ἀπὸ Ἰησοῦ χριστοῦ, ὁ μάρτυς ὁ πιστός, ὁ πρωτότοκος τῶν νεκρῶν, καὶ ὁ ἄρχων τῶν βασιλέων τῆς γῆς. Τῷ ἀγαπῶντι ἡμᾶς, καὶ **λούσαντι** ἡμᾶς ἀπὸ τῶν ἁμαρτιῶν ἡμῶν ἐν τῷ αἵματι αὐτοῦ·

ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΙΣ ΙΩΑΝΝΟΥ 1:5 Greek NT: Scrivener's Textus Receptus 1894

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<https://biblehub.com/text/revelation/1-5.htm>

New International Version

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,

New American Standard Bible

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and **released us from our sins** by His blood--

Holman Christian Standard Bible

and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and has **set us free from our sins** by His blood,

King James Bible

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,

<https://biblehub.com/revelation/1-5.htm>

Ex. 19:6 And ye shall be unto me **a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation**. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

Isa. 61:6 But **ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: men shall call you the Ministers of our God**: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

1 Pet. 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, **an holy priesthood**, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. ...

9 But ye *are* a chosen generation, **a royal priesthood, an holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

Rev. 5:10 And hast **made us unto our God kings and priests:**
and **we shall reign on the earth.**

2. The Glory That Accrues to Him, 1:6b “...**to him** *be*
glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”

II. THE CONSUMMATION OF THE AGE, 1:7-8

A. The Eventual Triumph of Jesus, 1:7

Rev. 1:7 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.

Mt. 24:30 And **then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven**: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and **they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

Num. 11:25 And **the LORD came down in a cloud**, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that *was* upon him, and gave *it* unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, *that*, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

Psa. 104:3 Who layeth the beams of his chambers in the waters: who maketh the clouds his chariot: who walketh upon the wings of the wind:

Isa. 19:1 The burden of Egypt. Behold, the LORD rideth upon a swift cloud, and shall come into Egypt: and the idols of Egypt shall be moved at his presence, and the heart of Egypt shall melt in the midst of it.

Dan. 7:13 I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like **the Son of man** came with the clouds of heaven, and came to **the Ancient of days**, and they brought him near before him.

Zech. 12:10 And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and **they shall look upon me whom they have pierced**, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for *his* only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for *his* firstborn.

11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon.

12 And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart;

13 The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart;

14 All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.

Jn. 19:37 And again another scripture saith, **They shall look on him whom they pierced.**

B. The Everlasting Triumph of Jesus, 1:8

Rev. 1:8 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.

1 Tim. 1:17 Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, *be* honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Ex. 3:14 And God said unto Moses, I AM THAT I AM: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, I AM hath sent me unto you.

Isa. 41:4 Who hath wrought and done *it*, calling the generations from the beginning? **I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.**

Isa. 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; **I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me *there is no God.***

Isa. 48:12 Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; **I am he; I am the first, I also am the last.**

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:**

Rev. 22:13 **I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last.**

Conclusion

1 Cor. 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?

56 The sting of death *is* sin; and the strength of sin *is* the law.

57 But thanks *be* to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.