

THE REVELATION *Of* *JESUS*

Chapter 1 Introduction

The writing and style of Daniel and Revelation bear many similarities. Both deals with God's sovereign rule of over the world. Daniel, Isaiah, Ezekiel, and Psalms all contains former revelation that God gave His prophets about the end times. John also alluded often to Exodus, Deuteronomy, Jeremiah, and Zechariah. It was said that 278 of the 404 verses in Revelation contain references to the Old Testament, Barclay list 245.

The Purpose and the Promise

1. The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John, 2. who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.

The message of the book of Revelation as stated in the opening verses is the revelation of Jesus Christ, given to Him by God the Father, concerning things to come in regards to the fulfillment of time and prophecy. Jesus after receiving the message from the Father communicated it to His angel, who then revealed it to the apostle John.

The word revelation is a translation of the Greek word "apokalypsis" which means "unveiling or "disclosure," and is an alternative title for the book. The book of Revelation is summary of Scriptural Christology and paints for us a picture of Jesus from the beginning to the end and His ultimate victory before all of creation (Gen. 3:1). Whereas the Gospels reveal Jesus in His humiliation, Revelation reveals Him in His glory. The book of Revelation could easily be seen as the "Book of the Kingdom of God" in conflict with, and victory over, the kingdoms of the world." (Constable)

Angels (messengers) will be mention some 67 times in this book.

3. Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

The book of revelation is the only book in the Bible that makes a promise to those who read it. It is not just the reading of the book, but those who read, hear, and heed the things that are written will be blessed. John makes a distinction between reading this book and any other book. He assures his readers that they would receive a special blessing for reading and obeying the things writing in this book. The Greek word translated “time” (Kairos) describes a period of time, rather than a point in time.

Message to the Seven Churches

4. John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

The communication of this letter came from God the Father, to Jesus the Son, to an angel, to John, to Christians. John used the number seven 54 times, which commonly signified completeness and a work of God. Paul also wrote to seven churches: Rome, Corinth, Galatia, Ephesus, Philippi, Colossi, and Thessalonica. The seven Spirits is reference to the Holy Spirit in His fullness providing a clear picture of the Trinity (Isa. 11:2-3; Zech. 4:2-7; Rev. 3:1; 4:5; 5:6).

Isaiah 11:2-3

The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, And He will not judge by what His eyes see, Nor make a decision by what His ears hear;

5. 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— 6. And He has made us *to be* a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him *be* the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Here we see Jesus as Messiah (king, ruler) over the entire earth. Jesus does not become the ruler of the kings of the earth at this point in time, He pre-existed always as the King – Ruler over His creation. This is what was expected of Him at His first advent, and when He did not show up as ruler He was crucified (cf. Col. 1:18; Rev. 19). They expected Him to come and fulfill the prophecy of Messiah ruling on the throne of David.

Colossians 1:18

He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

Note that it was the blood of Christ that released us from our sins, not our works of righteousness. We were bound to sin because of Adam blood; Christ gave us a blood transfusion which removed over time the blood of the first Adam and ultimately will purge us from all sin. This was done because of His love which transferred us out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of light. Note, “He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father.”

7. BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

“Every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him.” At the second coming of Christ all will see Jesus in His glory. Every eye, both living and dead, all will see Him at this time.

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

We now see the true picture of Jesus, “I am the Alpha and Omega.” This points us as the gospel of John does to Christ eternity. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet (also used in Rev. 21:6; 22:13). He is also described as the One who is, and who was, and who is to come (cf. 4:8; 11:17), the Almighty (pantokratōr, “the all-powerful One). It is used 10 times in the New Testament, 9 of them in Revelation (2 Cor. 6:18; Rev. 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6, 15; 21:22).¹

¹ Walvoord, J. F. (1985). [Revelation](#). In J. F. Walvoord & R. B. Zuck (Eds.), *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 2, p. 929). Wheaton, IL: Victor Books. Dr. Walvoord provides an excellent commentary on the book of Revelation for those seeking to glean a better understanding.