

THE REVELATION

OF SAINT JOHN THE DIVINE

The Vision of Christ — The Seven Churches — The Things Which Must Be After The Churches Into Eternity

- a Gr. **apokalupsis**, to unveil or uncover. It implies the lifting up of a curtain so all can see alike what is uncovered. When used of **writing** it means to reveal or make clear (Eph. 3:3; Gal. 1:12); when used of a **person** it denotes visible presence (v 1; 2 Th. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:7, 13). Here it refers to both the book and the person of Christ. See **Revelation**, p. 332 and 363.
- b Not a revelation altogether **concerning** Christ, but one **from** Him. Christ is not the main subject of the book. See note f, below.
- c God gave it to Christ, emphasizing His limitations during His incarnation (Isa. 50:4; Mt. 28:18; Mk. 13:32; Lk. 1:40, 52).
- d The purpose was to show, not hide from His servants, events from John's day into all eternity (Rev. 21-22).
- e 111 times in the N.T.; 14 in Rev.
- f 45 times, emphasizing the subject matter of the book, which is **things** or events:
 - 1 Events of the whole church age (Rev. 1-3)
 - 2 Events in heaven (Rev. 4-5)
 - 3 Events of the future tribulation of Daniel's 70th week (Rev. 6-19)
 - 4 Events of the Millennium (Rev. 20)
 - 5 Events of the eternal new heavens and the new earth (Rev. 21-22)
- g Gr. **tachos**, swiftness; speed; quickly. Trans. **shortly** (v 1; 22:6; Acts 25:4; Rom. 16:20); **quickly** (Acts 12:7; 22:18; Rev. 2:5); and **speedily** (Lk. 18:8). The idea is that this series of events must begin quickly.
- h Gr. **semaino**, to show or point out; announce; to make a note of. That it does not mean that all things are in symbols is clear from its use elsewhere (v 1; Jn. 12:33; 18:32; 21:19; Acts 11:28; 25:27). It simply means to make a clear record.
- i The book was transmitted from God to Christ, to the angel, to John, to the churches, to us (v 1, 11).
- j **3 Classes Blessed** (v 3):
 - 1 Those who read the Revelation
 - 2 Those who hear it
 - 3 Those who keep things written therein
- k 7 times in Rev. indicating the prophetic aspect of the book (v 3; 11:6; 19:10; 22:7, 10, 18, 19).
- 7 Rules Regarding Prophecy:**
 - 1 Understand prophecy as history written beforehand
 - 2 Give the same meaning to words of prophecy as you do the words of history
 - 3 Do not seek for hidden meanings
 - 4 Do not think prophecy must be fulfilled before it can be understood
 - 5 Do not interpret God's own interpretation of any thing in prophecy
 - 6 Take all prophecy literally unless it is

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Introductory remarks (1:1-11).

1. Title, origin, subject, object, transmission and author

■ 1 The ^aRevelation ^bof Jesus Christ, which God ^cgave unto him, ^dto shew unto his ^eservants ^fthings which **must** ^gshortly come to pass; and he sent and ^hsignified it by his angel ⁱunto his servant John:

2. Threefold authenticity (22:16)

2 Who **bare record** of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 The beatitude (CP. 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14) and nature of prophecy (Cp. 22:7, 10, 18, 19)

▲ 3 ^jBlessed is he **that readeth**, and they **that hear** the words of this ^kprophecy, and ^lkeep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

4. Sevenfold salutation to the churches and threefold exaltation of Jesus Christ

4 **John** to the ^mseven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, ⁿfrom **him** which is, and which was, and which is to come; and ^ofrom the ^pseven Spirits which are before his throne;

clear that it cannot have a literal meaning. Then get the literal truth conveyed by the figurative language

7 Let the Bible be its own interpreter

l 7 times in Rev. (v 3; 2:26; 3:8, 10; 12:17; 14:12; 22:9).

m They were located in Asia Minor (v 11).

n From the Divine Trinity (v 4-5). See **89 Proofs of a Divine Trinity**, p. 489.

o See note on Rev. 5:6.

p See **10 Facts About Jesus Christ**, p. 543.

q **1st N.T. prophecy in Rev.** (1:6-7, unfulfilled). Next, 2:5.

r All eyes in the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem where He lands (Zech. 14:1-5). People in distant parts of the earth will not see Him until later (Isa. 2:2-4; 66:19-21; Zech. 8:23).

s The descendants of those who pierced Him—the Jews (Zech. 12:10).

t The armies of the nations that will be surrounding Jerusalem when Christ comes (Zech. 14:1-5; Mt. 24:29-31).

u The first and last letters of the Gr. alphabet. Used 4 times in Rev. (1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13. Cp. 1:17; 2:8. Used of Christ in all these places except in 21:6). He is also called **the Almighty** (v 8), which is else-

5 **And from** ^pJesus 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 ^qAnd hath **made us** kings and priests unto God and **his Father**; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Chief theme of Revelation (11:15-18; 19:11-21; 22:20)

▲ 7 Behold, **he cometh with clouds**; and ^revery eye shall see him, and ^sthey *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

6. Eternity of Jesus Christ (1:8, 11, 17; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13; Mic. 5:1-2; Jn. 1:1-2)

8 **I am** ^tAlpha and Omega, **the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.**

7. The prophet—John (1:1, 4)

9 **I John**, who also am your brother, and ^vcompanion in ^wtribulation, and in the ^xkingdom and ^ypatience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called ^zPatmos, ^{aa}for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was ^{ab}in **the Spirit** ^{ac}unto the Lord's day,

where used of the Father (4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:15; 21:22).

v Partaker, as in note o, Phil. 1:7.

w Used 5 times in Rev.: 4 times of persecution of Christians in John's day (1:9; 2:9, 10, 22), and one time of the future great tribulation (7:14). See note h, 2 Cor. 1:4.

a The kingdom of or from the heavens that Christ will establish on earth at the second advent (1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 12:10; 20:4-6; 22:5). See notes j and e, Mt. 4:17; 19:24.

b 7 times in Rev. of the endurance of Christians in sufferings (1:9; 2:2-3, 19; 3:10; 13:10; 14:12).

c A volcanic, treeless, rocky island about 6x10 miles, 30 miles S. W. of Samos. It was made a place of exile by the Romans for the lowest of criminals.

d **2 Reasons for Banishment** (v 2, 9):

1 For preaching the Word of God

2 For testifying of Jesus Christ

e A term used of **being wholly in union with** the Holy Spirit and yielded to Him (note n, Lk. 22:3).

f See **The Lord's Day**, p. 333, 531.