

Introduction

Revelation -- an unveiling, uncovering, revealing "of Jesus" 1) from Jesus; 2) about Jesus

A few things to remember about Revelation:

1. It is a Revelation (unveiling -- subtle but intended to be understood)
2. It is a Revelation of Jesus Christ (not John, not the church, not Paul)
3. It is a Revelation to the Seven Churches of Asia .[Revelation 1:4](#), [Revelation 1:11](#)
4. It is a Revelation for the Jews - tons of Jewish symbolism, 2 Jewish witnesses, 144k Jewish evangelists, world attention on Israel and Jerusalem in end times. 404 verses with over 800 allusions to the OT.
5. It is a Revelation in Signs ([Revelation 1:1](#))
6. It is a Revelation about things that must shortly come to pass [Revelation 1:1](#); [Revelation 1:3](#); [Revelation 22:6](#); [Revelation 22:10](#)

Revelation is **not a coded horror story**, nor is it meant to confuse believers. This book pulls back the curtain so God's people can see **who is truly in control of history**.

Revelation is not about timelines first—it is about a Person first: Jesus Christ.

Background

- **Author:** John the Apostle (the last surviving apostle)
- **Date:** Around **A.D. 95**, during the reign of **Domitian**
- **Location:** John is exiled on **Patmos**, a Roman penal island

John shows us the three faces of Jesus in his books of the bible:

- Gospel --> Focus on belief and shows Jesus as a prophet
- Epistles --> Focus on being sure in life and shows Jesus as the Priest (head of the church)
- Revelation --> Focus on being ready and show Jesus as the King (he is at God's right hand on the throne now, but will take his own throne on Earth when he comes again)

Speaking of John, do you remember in Mark who fought over a place of honor with Jesus?

- James and John (Matt 20:20-23)
- The Lord told them that they would have to earn their thrones by sharing in His suffering.
- *What happened to each of them?*
- James was the 1st apostle martyred (Acts 12:1-2)
- John was the last to die, but suffered in prison on Patmos

Domitian demanded worship as "Lord and God." Refusal often meant **economic exclusion, imprisonment, or death**. Revelation was written to believers living under **pressure to compromise**.

Why Revelation Matters Today

The early church lived expecting Christ's return. **So should we.**

Our world today:

- Global instability
- Obsession with apocalypse in media
- Moral confusion
- Fear of collapse

Revelation summarizes:

| *"You are not watching chaos—you're watching a plan unfold."*

Revelation 1:1

| *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,"*

- **Source:** God → Jesus → Angel (used 76x in book) → John → Servants
- **Subject:** Jesus is both the **author and the content**
- **Sign:** Signify is important; meaning to show by a sign --

- Same word that John uses to describe the miracles of Jesus
- Caution that the signs are written in spiritual code and may contain symbolism, but we must discern that the symbolism is real unless otherwise stated.
- **"Shortly" (Greek: *en tachei*):** Suddenness, rapid sequence once it begins
 - Same root as Tachometer - tot everything happens immediately—but **once it starts, it moves fast.**

Revelation 1:2

"who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ"

John emphasizes reliability:

- Eye-witness
- Not imagination
- Not philosophy

I believe that Revelation carries equal authority with the Gospels.

On a side note: How many epistles are in the Bible?

- ~21 total if you include Hebrews / multiple of 7 (3 times)
- One can argue that you can add 7 more that number because of what John saw, heard and wrote about - 7 church letters

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."

Here's our blessing ... and note that the word used for read in the original text is translated to read aloud.

There is a blessing in the beginning and in the final chapter

Notice the 3 references in the next verses: Three directives given to us here:

1. **To Read** – Exposure
2. **To Listen** – Understanding
3. **To Take to Heart or to Keep** – Obedience

My takeaway from this is that Revelation is meant to be **obeyed**, not debated endlessly.

Question, what does “keeping” prophecy look like in daily life?

Revelation 1:4a

“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,”

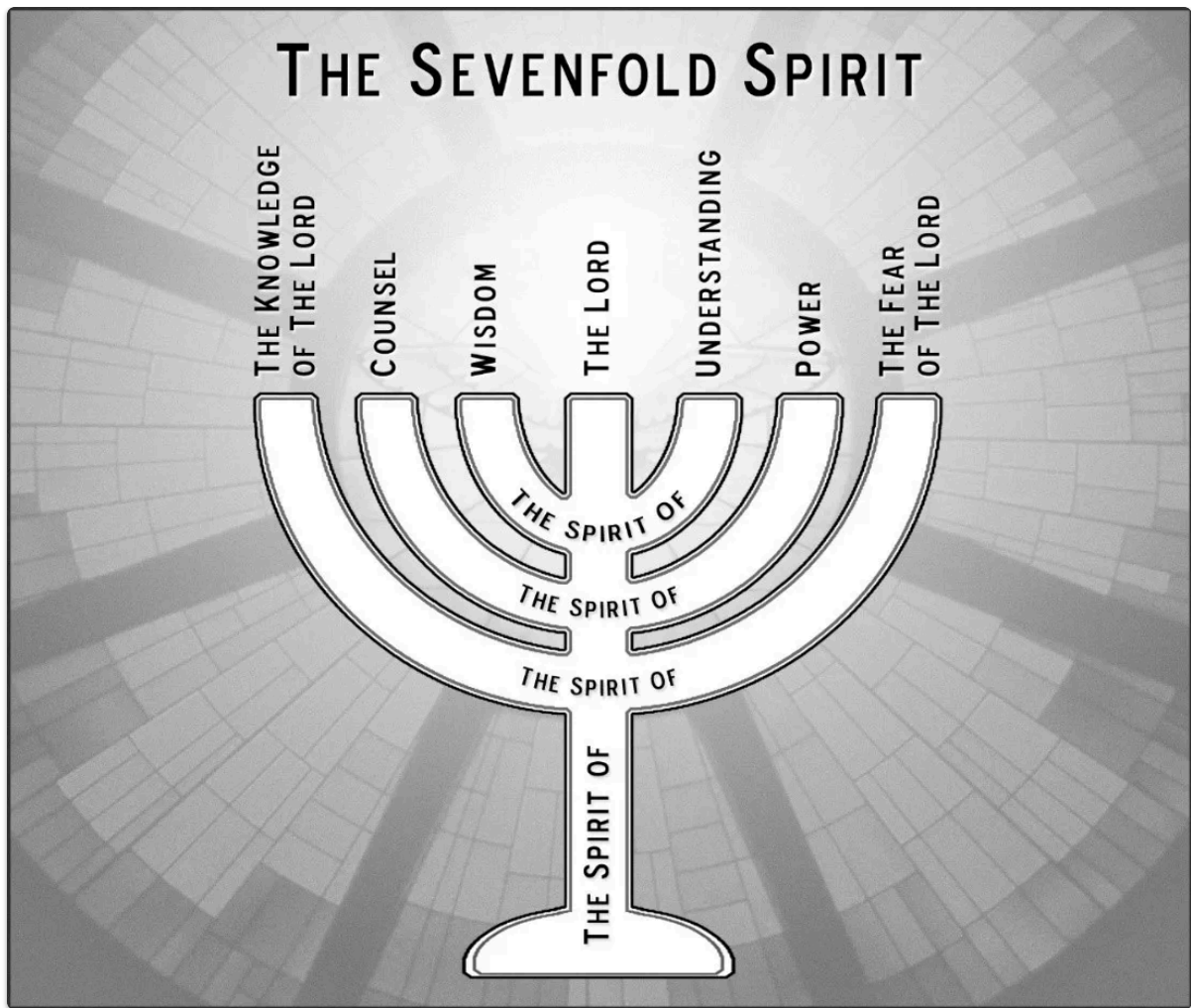
- Where is Asia here? Not China, but Asia Minor (Turkey)
 - 3 tenses --> is, was, is to come (talked about above the prophet, priest, king)
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Revelation 1:4b-5a

“and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.”

How many Spirits are there? 1 -- so what does this mean?

- **the fullness of the Spirit**
- the seven virtues of the Spirit (reference to Isaiah 11:2)
- 7 angels (see 8:2 around the throne)



More 3s

- Jesus described in **earth-connected roles**:
 - Faithful Witness
 - Firstborn from the dead
 - Ruler of kings

Present tense -- so Jesus is already ruling—even when kings deny Him.

Question: Why is it important that Jesus rules “the kings of the earth”?

Revelation 1:5b-6

“To Him who loves us and washed us from our sins in His own blood 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

Reminder of things ...

- Before judgment—**redemption**
- Before wrath—**love**

Our takeaway is that we are:

- Loved (present tense)
- Cleansed
- Made kings and priests -- reps of Jesus on this earth

Doxology

- Doxology -- praise to God statement spoken or sung
- In revelation with find four doxologies -- each builds on the other.
- Chuck Missler calls them the Climactic Doxologies
- Representing a building up of tense and emotion and such as the book goes

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.”

- This is the 2nd coming being described (amplified in Rev 19) which is a public return, not secret
- Cloud -- Hebrews 12:1 after the Hebrew Hall of Fame
- Echoes **Daniel 7:13-14** with not in
- Who are those that pierced Him that will be mourning? **Israel** Zech 12:10-11 -- but because of our sin we all have pierced him

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.”

Almighty appears in the NT 10 times -- 9 of which in Revelation

This is **divine self-identification**:

- Beginning and end
- Total authority
- No rival powers

History is not open-ended—it is closed by Christ.

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."

What does John mean when he wrote, your brother in ...:

- Tribulation
- Kingdom
- Patience

What they have in common...getting everyone on the same page.

Pick up next week ...