

Letters to the Seven Churches

Lesson #2, Chapter 1

Read all the way through Chapter 1 before beginning this lesson. Ask the Lord to give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Him (Eph. 1:17).

1. According to verse 1 what is the book of Revelation about?
2. Define the term *revelation* [Strong's #602]. Based on that definition what do you learn about God's purpose for this book?
3. Sort out the "who gave what to whom" tangle from verses 1-2. Explain the different roles of *God, Jesus Christ, John*, and the *bond-servants* as seen in verses 1-2.
4. John says you will be blessed if you do 3 things (verse 3). What are they? Explain the difference between each of the stages. What reason does he give for doing those things (verse 3)?
5. Revelation 1:3 is the first of seven beatitudes or blessings in the book of Revelation. Be blessed as you look up and list the rest of the blessings. Any surprises? See 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14.
6. Read Matt. 24:36-39 and 2 Pet. 3:3-9. Now look up the following verses from the book of Revelation 1:1, 3, 7; 3:11; 22:6-7; 10, 12, 20. What do you learn about God's plan?

7. Who is John writing to and what is his greeting to them (verse 4)? In verse 4 which member of the Trinity, described as *Him*, is being discussed?

Most commentators agree that *the seven Spirits* referred to in vs. 4 is the Holy Spirit in His fullness since seven is used in the Scriptures to indicate completeness.

8. John also sends greetings from Jesus to the seven churches. How is Jesus described in verses 5-7?
9. After reading the description of Christ in verses 5-6, it is no wonder that glory and dominion belong to Him. Spend some time thinking on each of the qualities about Jesus listed here in verses 5-6 then write out a prayer of thanks and praise. See also Ps. 115:1 and Revelation 5:11-14.
10. In verse 8 Jesus identifies Himself as the Alpha and Omega. What is an *alpha* and an *omega* and what does it signify about Jesus?
- a. Look up Revelation 1:17-18; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13. Now read Is. 41:4; 44:6; and 48:12. How would those sequence of verses show that Christ is God?
11. How does John describe himself in verse 9? Why was he on the island of Patmos?
12. In verse 10 John says, *I was in the Spirit*. What does he mean by that? See Revelation 4:2; 17:3; 21:10.

- a. Read how the other biblical writers described this same occurrence: Ezek. 2:2; 3:12-14; 11:5; Acts 10:10; 2 Cor. 12:2-4.
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13. What did John hear (verse 10) and what was he told to do (verse 11)?

 14. What does John see after turning around to see who was speaking to him? See verses 12-13. You may have already guessed who this is, but if you haven't you can read what the figure has to say about himself in verses 17-18. Who is it?

 15. What do the golden lampstands represent? See verse 20. What is significant about *where* the figure was standing?

 16. How is Jesus described in verses 14-16?

 17. No longer a baby, the suffering servant, or a lamb led to the slaughter, we now see Jesus as the King of kings and Lord of lords who is ready to bring judgment to the world.
 - a. What do you notice about Jesus' eyes from these verses? See verse 14; 2:18; 19:12; Heb. 4:13.

 - b. How did His voice change from verse 10 to verse 15? See also Ezek. 43:2.

- c. What is the purpose of the sword in Jesus' mouth? See verse 16; 2:16; 19:15. The kind of sword He has in His mouth is called a *rhomphaia* [Strong's #4501]. See what else you can find out about this sword.
18. John called himself the one "whom Jesus loved" and felt comfortable enough to lay his head on Jesus' chest at the Last Supper, so how did John respond to this vision of Jesus (verse 17)?
19. John is not the only one who has fallen to his feet at the sight of the revealed glory of God. Look up the following verses to see the common way to respond to Jesus Christ our Lord and God when His glory is revealed. See Gen. 17:1-3; Ezek. 1:28; 44:4; Matt. 17:2-6.
20. How does Jesus encourage John in verses 17-18? How would those words be encouraging for John as he lays in a heap at Jesus' feet?
21. What does Jesus commission John to write (verse 19)?

Verse 19 provides a simple outline for the book of Revelation: the things which you have seen (Chap. 1); the things which are (Chaps. 2-3); and the things which shall take place after these things (Chaps. 4-22).

22. Finally, in verse 20, Jesus clears up any confusion we may have had about any of the *sevens* that He reveals in this chapter. What do the seven stars and the seven lampstands represent in the vision?

23. From your findings in Chapter 1 please finish the following sentences.

a. God is:

b. Jesus is:

c. I am:

d. These truths make me:

e. I need to: