

Chapter 1

Revelation

God gave it to 1st His Son, Jesus Christ. Who then gave it to an angel. Then to John. Who gave it to the church. (Believers)

MacArthur –

Apokalupsis (Revelation) 18 times in N.T., used of a person with the meaning “to become visible.”

Lenski-

Revelation means unveiling mystery which, except for proper unveiling, no one can know. God is the ultimate source of this revelation. In every revelation a knowledge of the source is essential. (this is to prepare, to fortify God’s people, not to satisfy curiosity.)

Barclay –

Angels in N.T. Acts 7:53 & Gal. 3:19 the Law was given by angels...

Angels appear in every chapter of Revelation except 4 & 13. the word angel is used 21 times in Revelation. 1 out of 4 times in NT.

“His angel” does not necessarily mean only one and the same angel.

Revelation is not about Jesus Christ, but given by Jesus Christ.

Men never create the truth; they receive it from God. God sends his truth to the man who not only thinks strenuously, but waits quietly in prayer and in devotion.

**While this book is certainly revelation from Jesus Christ, it is also the revelation about Him. Presents Him in His second coming in exaltation.. majesty, power, and glory. Unveiling in 1:5-20 about his majesty, chapter 2 & 3 as exalted Lord of the church. And 4-22 a look at His 2nd coming.

The book of Revelation reveals the majesty and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ in song, poetry, symbolism, and prophecy. In it the heavens are opened and its readers see, as did Stephen (Acts 7:56 – “Look, he said, I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God”) visions of the risen, glorified Son of God. MacArthur

V:1-3

Which God gave Him

The Father’s gift as a reward for His perfect, humble, faithful, holy service, the Father promised to exalt the Son. (Phil. 2:5-11 read) Revelation details the Son’s inheritance. **more about Him.

Servant vs Slave

Servant can leave his service when he likes; he has stated hours of work and stated hours of freedom; he works for a wage; he has a mind of his own and can bargain as to when and for what he will give his labor.

Slave can do none of these things; he is the absolute possession of his owner, with neither time nor will of his own.

Slave contains no reference to office. He is our Lord and we are precious to him; we obey him alone in a delightful service. **Slave is that Christ's will is wholly our will.**

The word used for slave brings out how absolutely we must surrender life to God.
Special type of slave – one who served out of love and devotion to his master
(unbelievers don't understand this kind of love and service)

John Its Human MacAuthor

John never directly referred to himself in his gospel.

John was not to preach this revelation, but to write it so that it would be read and heard in the churches. He, John is the one mouthpiece for two other witnesses, God and Christ.

3-fold blessing- way of life for believers

1. Reading – the man who publicly reads (notes from class—boldness, danger to read in public)

2. Hears – how great a privilege it is to hear the word of God in our own tongue (notes from class—listen as if to teach)

3. Keeps – to obey it is a duty.

Two of the seven promises of blessing in the book

Read and obey, (14:13 dead who die in the Lord, 16:15 who stays awake and keeps his clothes, 19:9 those who are invited to the marriage supper, 20:6 the one who has a part in the 1st resurrection, 22:14 those who wash their robes.)

The blessing is for those who keep and live up to the things recorded in this book of prophecy. Study was required.

Time is near

Kairos means **seasons** or eras. (used)

Chronos=time (not used)

Times and seasons remained veiled. How much time would be required before the end would be reached is not intimated (announced) here. This question will be discussed in 22:7

Vs 3---this caption was added to Revelation by John after the visions and the recording of them were completed... Lenski also states that vs 4 was also added at this same time....

V:4-6

The Message And Its Destination

Written to the 7 Churches

To say 7 churches lets us know that there were more churches in Asia.

Centers of 7 postal districts – letters delivered to the 7 cities would easily circulate to other churches

John's preference for the number 7 = perfect number because it stands for completeness. (writing to the whole church)

These were "his" churches and would pass them on to every church in every generation.

The Blessing And Its Source

Who is and was and is to come = God. God is timeless and the source of all blessings of salvation, all grace and all peace.

Only found in Revelation –Who is and was and is to come.

Grace = God's unmerited favor in Christ Jesus bestowed upon us as unworthy sinners.

Peace, all is well with us in our relation to God through Christ.

Different than used in the gospels as this is from the **Trinity**.

Throne – not a chair but the symbol of God's infinite majesty, power and dominion.

The Seven Fold Spirit (Notes from Class--- see Is. 11:2 7 aspects of H.S.)

One in name but sevenfold in virtues. Holy Spirit (7 depicts Him in His fullness)

Or

The share of the Spirit which God gave to each of the 7 churches.

The Titles Of Jesus

1. witness – first hand knowledge about God. (notes from class Obiedence = faithfulness)

2. first-born of the dead – 1st place of honor and glory belongs (1st born son of OT) Does not mean He was chronologically the first one to be raised from the dead. (OT- 1Kings 17:17-23 son of woman in the house that Elijah stayed. 2 kings 4:32-36 Shunammite's son restored to life-Elisha. 2 Kings 13:20-21 dead man thrown into Elisha's tomb.) (NT –Matt 9:23-25; Luke 7:11-15; John 11:30-44)

3. Ruler of kings on earth – Ps 89:27 "I will make him the first-born, the highest of the kings of the earth." The Cross brought Jesus his universal lordship.

Phil. 2:9-11 – "above every name"

What Jesus Did For Men – heart of the gospel -

Loves us – is the present tense and it means that it is continuous.

Palmer- we are changed because of God and the age in which we live is new because the decisive battle against evil has been won by Christ. We love out of God's overflow, we are not afraid of our age.

Set us free - is the past tense, it is done on the cross.

Royalty- lineage of King of kings

Made us priests – access to God (Is. 61:6 "You shall be called the priests of the Lord.")

Blood... you can die without loss of blood, the loss of blood shows the sacrifice!
Therefore, his blood is more than his death. (notes from class: see Ex. 19:6)

vs 6 Christ made a Kingdom for us... is 1st and he does love us and free us from our sins.
His task was to provide us a place in the Kingdom.

Christ can not be dethroned and he has chosen us, slaves of sin, who are believers to reign with him in glory forever. But do we reign on earth? The Word of our King reigns' that Word is ours, by it we reign with our King.

We are not as a bunch of little kings with our own selfish kingdom or domain. Kingdom equals unity, the one body and only one.

In Israel no king performed priestly functions; these were reserved for a special class, and that class did priestly duty for the people. Here there is a "Royal Priesthood" (1 Peter 2:9). As Christ is King and Priest in one, so we are.

We don't offer bloody sacrifice, but sacrifice of Praise unto God.

Read Rev 20:6 reign with him for a 1,000 years!

The Glory- is often ascribed to God as it is here ascribed to Christ. His glory can not be increased because it consists of all his divine attributes. Same is true with power!

Forever- the Greek takes forever and pluralizes it and then multiplies it by its own plural.

Vs 7

Behold- MacArthur, intended to arouse the mind and heart – 25 times used in Rev. calls attention to the glorious truth that Jesus is Coming. Jesus 2nd coming appears in more than 500 verses in the NT.

coming with the clouds....

Read **Acts 1:11**—he shall come in the manner you beheld him going into the heaven. **Barclay points to Dan 1-14, Dan 7:13** – One like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven. **Rev 14:14** – And I looked and, lo, a white cloud, and upon the cloud One sat like unto the Son of man. **Matt. 24:30** – Then there shall appear the sign of the Son of man in the heaven.

Clouds – symbolize Christ's majesty and power... the chariot on which he comes.

Symbolize God's presence in OT. NT speaks of Jesus ascended to heaven on a cloud (Act 1:9) ; believers will ascend with clouds at the Rapture (1Thess.4:17)

See- Zechariah 12:10... they will look on me, the one they have pierced, and they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child.

During the incarnation, Christ's glory was veiled. Only Peter, James, and John caught a glimpse of it at the Transfiguration. 2nd coming all will see!!

The piercing was fulfilled on Calvary; "shall see" will be fulfilled at the last day.

Who pierced him – non believing Jews and other have added non-believers. The return of Christ is a threat.

Mourn - greek (kopto=to cut) Gentiles' mourning, for the most part, will be prompted by terror, not repentance.... Doom. Jews mourning may lead to repentance and salvation. (notes from class: see Matt 24:30 & romans 1:18-20)

So shall it be! Amen – Greek and Hebrew for a solemn affirmation – yes, indeed so let it be. John pleads for Christ to come again.

Verse 8

Alpha and Omega

Nowhere is a person called "alpha and omega" in Jewish and pagan literature. Spoken 3 times in Rev. (here, 21:6-8 and 22:13). **Christ** himself utter this name. **Lenski**

A tremendous description of the **God** in whom we trust and whom we adore. Alpha is the first letter of the Greek alphabet and omega the last letter. Alpha and Omega indicates completeness. Jews used this phrase to show completeness. (Abraham kept it from the alpha to Omega – old testament Hebrew words = aleph to tau) **Barclay**

This portrait of **God's** character.... God is speaking for Himself. **Palmer**

In this verse the Lord **God** puts His signature on the prophecy of the second coming. **Mac Arthur**

Almighty

The church was under Roman persecution and it was thought at that time in history that no power was greater than the Romans. The believers belief was that if they stayed true to God, the Almighty; they the church would never be destroyed.

Since He is all powerful, nothing can hinder Him from carrying out His sovereign will. (Illustration of King Richard the Lionhearted and his brother John)

Verse 9

I, John the brother of you and co-sharer in the affliction and kingdom and endurance in Jesus, came to be in the island being called Patmos on account of the word of God and the witness of Jesus. (from Greek)

I, John- John is recording the vision that God gave him to give. Not preaching.

Brother – relation of Christians to one another via faith and love.

Slave – relation to Christ.

His right to speak was that he had come through all that those whom he was writing were going through. I disagree here... God was giving the dream, it was not John who needed to do anything but record.

John, an apostle, a member of the inner circle humbly identified himself simply as **your brother**. --- Mac Arthur

Co-sharer (fellowship) – more!

Fellow partaker – John shares their tribulation

Part of the same **kingdom**

Identifies with the readers as those who are **enduring**...

When **affliction sets in, the kingdom produces the endurance**.

Endurance comes from Christ...

Kingdom is squarely planted with in the turbulent line of history, and on that turbulent line it has been granted a strategy for not only its survival but also its mission.

Verse 10

Lord's Day

Lenski- Here, for the first time, we meet the designation “the Lord's day.”

Christ made the 1st day of the week peculiarly his own by rising from the dead and by sending his Holy Spirit on this day of the week. (Resurrection Sunday & Pentecost)

On Patmos and In the Spirit

We know how hard his life was on the island of Patmos, but he was in the Spirit.

Exekiel 3:12 – “The Spirit lifted me up,”

(no matter how hard life is we may still be in the Spirit- we know what

Patmos was like... he was in Patmos and in the Spirit)

All these early references (to the Lord's Day) come from Asia Minor... where it first came in.

We should not capitalize Spirit, because it does not refer to the Holy Spirit. God has given revelations by means of **dreams**, but neither Peter in Acts 10:10 nor John on this Sunday slept and dreamed.

Loud Voice - trumpet

Look at Ex. 19:16 – “so it came about on the third day, when it was morning, that there were thunder and lightning flashes and a thick cloud upon the mountain and a very loud trumpet sound, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

Mac Arthur Indicates the solemnity of what is about to be revealed

The mighty sound of that voice was and the command it utters are, first of all, to impress John, the other sensations are to follow.

Verse 11

The unfolding of the vision...

God discloses seven aspects of the Lord Jesus Christ’s constant ministry to His Church:
He empowers, intercedes for, purifies, speaks authoritatively to, controls, protects, and reflects His glory through His church.

7 churches

Lenski—they are listed geographically from the standpoint of Patmos.

7= 3 + 4, the number of the Trinity and the number of the world. (north, south, east, and west,--- the four corners of the earth. When God is united with men on earth, we have the church.

Verse 12 **John continues his simple narration without even an exclamation or dramatic expression to indicate what he felt.**

Lamp

Palmer - Churches are very important to the living Lord, and He has not abandoned them. It is He who unites the seven lampstands.

Mac Arthur

Christ empowers his church-

The church is to God the most beautiful and valuable entity on earth – Christ died for her

Lampstands = light of the world

Golden Gold was the most precious metal

Seven ... number of completeness

The living Christ indwells His Church to lead and empower it. **Saw on like a son of man**

Not “candlesticks” but grand pedestals which represent the seven churches (as they ought to be), with the Lord in the midst of them.

Here each church appears as burning with the light of the Word that is maintained by public preaching and teaching.

Robe

Three pictures

- a. robe of the High Priest – access to God
- b. dress of Great ones – robe of royalty, no longer a criminal on a cross.
- c. fine linen – (from Daniel 10:5) supreme messenger of God

Verse 17

Lenski - the effect produced on John was overwhelming... fear in the sense of overmastering awe. Let this effect upon John together with the description he gives us of Jesus **help us to realize who deals with us in the church.**

I fell at his feet

Barclay – This was the experience of Ezekiel when God spoke to him. ⁽²⁸⁾ Like the appearance of a rainbow in the clouds on a rainy day, so was the radiance around him.

This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. When I saw it, I fell facedown, and I heard the voice of one speaking.

Ezek 1:28 (NIV)

²² The hand of the LORD was upon me there, and he said to me, "Get up and go out to the plain, and there I will speak to you." ²³ So I got up and went out to the plain. And the glory of the LORD was standing there, like the glory I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell facedown.

Ezek 3:22-23 (NIV)

³ The vision I saw was like the vision I had seen when he came to destroy the city and like the visions I had seen by the Kebar River, and I fell facedown.

Ezek 43:3 (NIV))

To the end of the day there can be nothing but reverence in the presence of the holiness and the glory of the Risen Christ.

Do not be Afraid

Palmer- The vision is frightening, but not devastating. The result for John is not despair, but joy.

MacArthur- John was again overwhelmed with terror at the manifestation of Christ's glory. (common to those few who experienced such unusual heavenly visions)

I, Daniel, was the only one who saw the vision; the men with me did not see it, but such terror overwhelmed them that they fled and hid themselves. ⁸ So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. ⁹ Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground.

Dan 10:7-9 (NIV)

In stark contrast to ... those who in our own day claim to have seen God, the reaction of those in Scripture who genuinely saw God was inevitably one of fear. (unworthiness to be in His holy presence)

The disciples had heard more than once from the lips of Jesus, do not be afraid.

²⁵ During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear.

²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: **"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."**

Matt 14:25-27 (NIV)

While he was still speaking, a bright cloud enveloped them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

⁶ When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷ But Jesus came and touched them. **"Get up,"** he said. **"Don't be afraid."**

Matt 17:5-7 (NIV)

Placed his right hand

a touch of comfort and reassurance Lenski- bestowed blessing and help.

I am the First and the Last

It is the promise of Jesus that he is there at the beginning and the end

Lenski – Alpha and Omega = language, spoken or written word

First and the last = time, whole course of human history from 1st to last day.

Beginning and the End = work or plan from inception to consummation.

Combine the three, in all revelation, in all human history, and in all the kingdom stands the glorious Jesus.

A title use of God in the O.T. when all other gods have come and gone, God still is!

I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Lenski- In Matt. 16:19 Jesus calls them the keys of the kingdom of the heavens.

Hades – definition = the unseen place...that swallows up the human souls of the damned until the judgment day.

Hades is the N. T. equivalent of the O.T. term Sheol and refers to the place of the dead. Keys denote access and authority. Jesus decides who dies and who lives. Believers have assurance = no fear

Death has its gates (¹³ O LORD, see how my enemies persecute me!
Have mercy and lift me up from the gates of death

Psalms 9:13 (NIV)

¹⁰ I said, "In the prime of my life
must I go through the gates of death
and be robbed of the rest of my years?"

Isaiah 38:10 (NIV)

Because he lives we shall live also, and that, therefore, for us and for those whom we love the bitterness of death is for ever past.

¹⁹ **"Write, therefore**

Here John is told to write what he has seen. In chapter 2 and 3, which are and then the things which will take place after these things, chapter 4-22

Like John, all Christians have a duty to pass on the truths they learn from the visions recorded in this book.

Lenski- what Jesus tells John to write summarizes and does not present a division.