

## REVELATION 1:1-11

A. Revelation 1:1-2 - The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John: Rev. 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

1. God chooses Apostle John to reveal to him **future** events that will take place when God resumes Israel's Prophetic Program after the Rapture.
2. John had the privilege of personally being with the living and written Word of God - Christ on earth (John 1:1, 14).

\*John was to write to a specific group of believers (Jewish servants), who will be living during the Tribulation when these events will take place. John tells them what God had **revealed** to him.

B. Revelation 1:3 - Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

1. Question? To whom is prophecy directed? The **Jew**. There is no O.T. or Matthew-John prophecy concerning the Body of Christ.

\*Again, **all** of the Bible is profitable for us to read, but not all of the Bible is specifically to **us**. Here, it is specifically to Israel.

2. To these Jewish believers, these future events were [at hand] or right in **front** of them. They had no idea of the **Mystery** Body or 2000+ years. They were looking for O.T. prophecies **soon** to be fulfilled, one right after the other. Also, no doubt, they were looking for Daniel to be finally fulfilled.

Daniel 12:4, 9 - But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased. Dan. 12:9 And he said, Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end.

C. Revelation 1:4 - John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;

1. These seven churches were, and will be, in Asia Minor in West Turkey - including the seaport of Ephesus. They are (will be) **kingdom-believing** Jews.
2. These seven churches (as we will see) represent all of the remnant of Jewish believers and **what** they will be facing in the Tribulation. They will show there are **seven** major problems that the Tribulation saints will have to face and God will give His solutions so these churches can **over**come to the end.

Revelation 2:11; 21:7 - He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death. Rev. 21:7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

3. [is-was-to come] This is a reference to Christ's **eternity** past, to His earthly ministry, and His coming to **earth** to reign. These verbs also form His Hebrew name - Jehovah! This eternity is for the entire Godhead.

4. [seven Spirits which are before his throne] This could be seven attributes (manifestations) of the Holy Spirit (Isaiah 11:1-2), or could be **angels** before the throne of God.

Revelation 4:5 - And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.

Revelation 8:2 - And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

D. Revelation 1:5 - And from Jesus 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,

1. Jesus Christ always is faithful in that He represents (and is) truth. The word [witness] has the idea of **martyr**. Christ faithfully died - preceded His resurrection.

\*\*[the first begotten of the dead] -This is a reference to His **resurrection**. Christ was the **first** to be resurrected. Others prior were revived-called back to life, but they died again. Only Jesus Christ rose to life - **never** again to experience death.

2. [and washed us from our sins in his own blood,] Here, John is speaking of his beloved Israel. John shows the **means** of salvation. No matter what dispensation one lives in, it is the **blood** of Jesus that washes our sins of the past-present-and future away.

\*\*The method, way, and requirements are different in different dispensations - but the basis is always Christ's blood.

Isaiah 53:8 - He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was cut off out of the land of the living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken.

Psalms 130:8 - And he shall redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

Matthew 1:21 - And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.

Hebrews 9:12-14 - Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption *for us*. Heb. 9:13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: Heb. 9:14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

Hebrews 10:10, 12 - By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once *for all*. Heb. 10:12 But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God;

Revelation 5:9 - And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

E. Revelation 1:6 - And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

1. Paul never tells the Body of Christ that we are kings and priests. But God did tell Israel that they would be that one day.
  - a. Exodus 19:6 - And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These *are* the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.
  - b. Peter (Jewish Apostle) said it also in I Peter 2:9 - [But ye *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:]

\*In the Kingdom (1000 years on earth), Israel will be kings and priests.

2. Under law, only the tribe of Levi were permitted to minister in the priest's office. They entered through a water ceremony (washing-baptism) that symbolized the washing away of sin. (Ex. 29:4)

**\*\*The Aaronic priesthood will give way to the New Covenant, having a superior order of priests after the order of Melchizedek.** The whole remnant of Jewish believers, the nation Israel, will be a kingdom of priests-ministers that actually began with John the Baptist.

Isaiah 61:6 - But ye shall be named the Priests of the LORD: *men* shall call you the Ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.

Revelation 20:4, 6 - And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and *I saw* the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received *his* mark upon their fore heads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. Rev. 20:6 Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

F. Revelation 1:7 - Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

1. This is not the Rapture - but 7+ years after. His coming here is to the earth and it is the Revelation. Here, every eye sees Him. But in the Rapture, we believers only meet Him in the air and not all will see Christ.

\*I believe the Rapture will be a sudden-silent disappearance. I don't think the world is going to see Christ in the air, but will see the catastrophe it leaves behind.

2. But here in Revelation 1:7, Christ comes down to earth. The ones who mourn are the Jewish people especially. Israel's roots are the ones who had Him crucified, who were apostate, and who embraced the false Messiah- the anti-Christ. They also have taken the mark of the beast, which guarantees their judgment.

Matthew 24:30 - And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

G. Revelation 1:8 - I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

1. Alpha is the **first** letter of the Greek alphabet. Omega is the **last** letter.

\*This shows Christ is A to Z and everything in-between. He is eternity.

Isaiah 41:4 - Who hath wrought and done *it*, calling the generations from the beginning? I the LORD, the first, and with the last; I *am* he.

John 8:58 - Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am.

2. Christ also is literally the present, the past, and the future "**A**lmighty".

\***Nothing** can hinder Him from carrying out His purpose (sovereign - Isaiah 9:6).

H. Revelation 1:9 - I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

1. In this verse, John is identifying with those he is writing to - the Jewish remnant. They were all under the same pressure and **per**secution, even before the Tribulation began (from Roman emperors and apostate Jewish religion). These Jews were awaiting the Tribulation, then the Kingdom.

\*\*John is saying he was in it together **with** them.

2. The isle of Patmos was an island off the coast of Ephesus (W. Turkey). It was an island **10** miles long and **6** miles wide. It was volcanic and rocky.

\*\*It does **not** say that John was exiled there. Whatever the reason, he was there to **receive** the book of Revelation (Moses-Paul).

I. Revelation 1:10 - I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

1. This is not the first day of the week - Sunday, that most commentaries say John is talking about.

\*Remember, this is a **Jewish** book written to believing Israelites. The [Lord's day] - day of the Lord, throughout the O.T. and the Jewish epistles was always a reference to the 7 years of Tribulation - the **wrath** of God being poured out in judgment.

Isaiah 2:1-2 - The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. Isa. 2:2 And it shall come to pass in the last days, *that* the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it.

Zechariah 14:1-2 - Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, and thy spoil shall be divided in the midst of thee. Zech. 14:2 For I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle; and the city shall be taken, and the houses rifled, and the women ravished; and half of the city shall go forth into captivity, and the residue of the people shall not be cut off from the city.

Malachi 4:5 - Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD:

2. John says he was [in the Spirit]. Supernaturally, the Holy Spirit is transporting John into the future Tribulation so he can write in the first person. John is placed in a prophetic capsule to receive and handle the Word of God as it prophetically unfolds.
3. A fact from history: It was the early church fathers who, upon their conversion, brought the term Sunday into the church from pagan terminology, which they had been accustomed to use in connection with their sun-worship. As a result, we have used Sundays as the Lord's day for many years. When we use or read "the Lord's day", we automatically assume it is Sunday.

- a. God loves Israel, and that does not stick with most minds. Gentile hatred of the Jews (look at it even today) and our own selfishness (see only ourselves), cause us to even try and cut out the Jews from the book of Revelation!
- b. Gentiles today just pass over Israel. Many even try to take God's love from Israel for them-selves! They do this by appropriating it for the Body Church, thus depriving Israel of God's love and leaving them only with God's curses and judgments.

\*So everything, from this point on, is seen in the Day of the Lord. We will see what John saw when he "was in the Spirit on the day of the Lord".

- c. So when a Jewish believer in the Tribulation picks up this prophetic book, he/she will be reading from one who has experienced and seen the day of the Lord - in the Spirit. John will have already been there and will know firsthand what is happening.
4. [a great voice, as of a trumpet] A mighty sound of God's coming judgment is on its way.

Zephaniah 1:14-16 - The great day of the LORD *is near, it is near*, and hasteth greatly, *even* the voice of the day of the LORD: the mighty man shall cry there bitterly. Zeph. 1:15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of wasteness and desolation, a day of darkness and gloomi-  
ness, a day of clouds and thick darkness, Zeph. 1:16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

J. Revelation 1:11 - Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send *it* unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.

1. Christ is Deity-eternal, without beginning and without end. This verse is also showing that a number of Jews will once again hear and seek out the Lord in the Tribulation.
2. These are 7 literal churches, (Kingdom Messiah believers) and not symbolic, that exist during the Tribulation.
  - a. Understand, these 7 churches are 7 synagogues in the future in W. Turkey. They existed in John's time and will exist again in the Tribulation.
  - b. In the Tribulation, it could be that those who make up the 7 churches will have been evangelized by the 2 witnesses! ?

Revelation 11:3 - And I will give *power* unto my two witnesses, and they shall prophesy a thousand two hundred *and* threescore days, clothed in sackcloth.



3. When the day of the Lord begins, these 2 witnesses immediately **appear** in Jerusalem to start their **3 1/2** years of ministry. With the reinstatement of the Prophetic Program, signs, wonders and the miraculous will accompany their kingdom gospel. (I Cor. 1:22a - "Jews require a sign")
- a. As Peter preached at Pentecost, 3000 were saved. A few days later, several thousand more were saved with signs and wonders.
- \*\*Likewise, these 2 witnesses will produce the same results as the 12 at Pentecost. These 2 witnesses could be responsible for the conversion of the 144,000 virgin Jewish males, who will evangelize the lost to Christ (mainly Jews).**
- b. This could help us to understand how the 7 churches in Asia will come into existence in the first **3 1/2** years into the Tribulation. These witnesses are **super**naturally **protected** for 3 1/2 years.