

The Gospel From Patmos



Lesson 1 for January 5, 2019

The book of Revelation is a collection of the visions John had during his imprisonment on the island of Patmos, located close to Turkey in the Aegean Sea.

We must understand the structure of Revelation in order to correctly interpret the prophecies in it.



Our analysis of Revelation will be based on the following structure:

- 1 Introduction. **Revelation 1:1-8.**
- 2 A prophetic account of the Church's history, using the churches of John's time. **Revelation 1:9 to 3:22.**
- 3 A more detailed account of the Church's history. **Revelation 4:1 to 11:19.**
- 4 The Great Controversy since the days before Jesus' first coming to His Second Coming. **Revelation 12:1 to 19:21.**
- 5 The events prior to the Second Coming. **Revelation 20:1 to 22:5.**
- 6 Conclusion. **Revelation 22:6-21.**



By the end of the first century, John wrote what was revealed to him. He was the last living apostle.

The purpose, author and theme of the book is explained in the introduction.

- **The Revelation**

Revelation 1:1-3

Who: Jesus Christ. 1:1a

Why: To reveal the future.
1:1b

How: By using symbols.
1:1c

Benefit: To be blessed. 1:3

- **Greetings from the author:**

God. Revelation 1:4-6

- **The main theme:**
The Second Coming.
Revelation 1:7-8

“THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST”

(Revelation 1:1a)



The title of the book—Revelation—is the translation of the first word in the original Greek: *apokalupsis* (that means “to reveal”, “to discover”, “to unveil”)

In Revelation, Jesus Christ reveals Himself and unveils the future.

Jesus is present throughout the whole book as the main character. Revelation is the continuation of the Gospels, because it covers the timeline since the Ascension of Jesus to Heaven.

The symbols in the sanctuary are used to explain the intercessory work of Jesus in the Heavenly Sanctuary which is in our favor.



“THINGS WHICH MUST SHORTLY TAKE PLACE”

Revelation 1:1b

What did God show in Revelation?

The events from John’s time till the New Earth.

Why?



So we can understand that God is in control of all the events in this world.



So we can be sure that He will be with us forever, even during hard times.



So we can prepare for His Coming.



So we obey Him because we are aware that we depend on Him.



So we believe. “And now I have told you before it comes, that when it does come to pass, you may believe.” (John 14:29)

SYMBOLS, SYMBOLS, SYMBOLS

"[...] And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John." (Revelation 1:1)

The Greek word translated as "signified it"—*sēmainō*—means "to explain with symbols." What does that involve?

When we study the Bible, we should look for the literal meaning of the text, except when there's a symbolic sense to it. In Revelation, we must look for the symbolic meaning instead, except when there's a clear literal meaning.



The two witnesses
(Rev. 11)

The two
olive trees (Zec. 4)



The symbols in Revelation represent either real events in history or events that are yet to happen.

Most of them are Old Testament symbols, so we should study the Old Testament to correctly understand them.

E.G.W. (The Acts of the Apostles, cp. 57, p. 582)

“In figures and symbols, subjects of vast importance were presented to John, which he was to record, that the people of God living in his age and in future ages might have an intelligent understanding of the perils and conflicts before them.”

BLESSED

"Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near." (Revelation 1:3)

Revelation is a letter. When a local church received a letter in that time, a person read it to all the congregation. Everyone listened very carefully.

The first of the seven blessings in Revelation involves three aspects of the Christian life:



To read

- Sharing the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

To hear

- Studying the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

To keep

- Obeying the instructions in the Revelation of Jesus Christ.

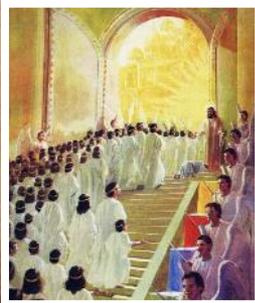
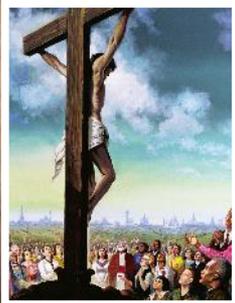


GREETINGS FROM THE AUTHOR

"Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness." (Revelation 1:4-5)

John shares the desire for grace and peace of the true author of the letter, as Paul and Peter did in their greetings (Rom. 1:7; Eph. 1:2, 1P. 1:2):

- 1) **THE FATHER:** "Him who is and who was and who is to come" (Exodus 3:14)
- 2) **THE HOLY SPIRIT:** "The seven Spirits" (Isaiah 11:2-3; Zechariah 1:11)
- 3) **THE SON:** "Jesus Christ"
 -  Prophet ("the faithful witness")
 -  Priest ("the firstborn from the dead" who "washed us from our sins")
 -  King (the ruler over the kings of the earth")



John closes his greeting by remembering the work of Jesus. He loves us, He redeemed us, and He makes us kings and priests with Him.



THE MAIN THEME

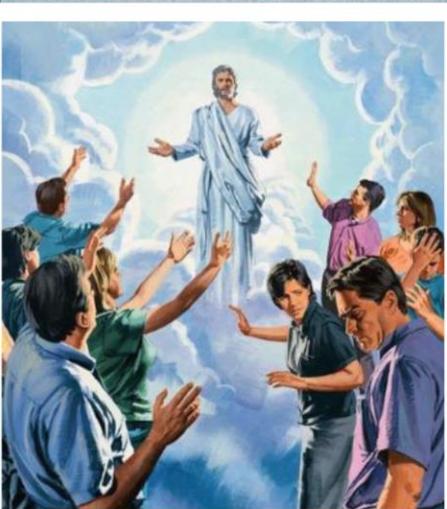
**"Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen."
(Revelation 1:7)**



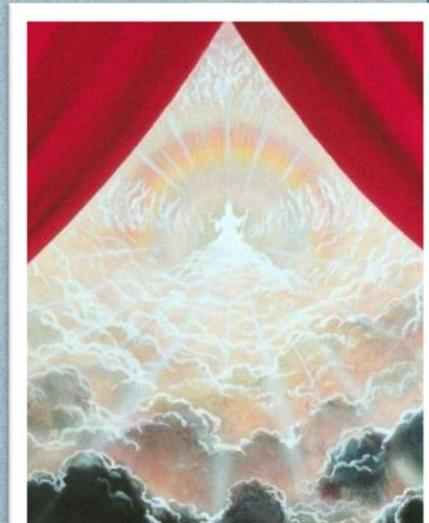
Jesus is coming on the clouds (Matthew 24:30). Both those who will be resurrected and those who are still alive, will see Him at His Coming (Daniel 12:2). Those who pierced Him will mourn for Him (Zechariah 12:10)



Jesus will come again in person, with glory and majesty. That's the event we're looking forward to.



**The Second Coming of Jesus is constantly referred to throughout Revelation. He will bring freedom to those who wait for Him, and judgment to those who despise Him. John confirms the certainty of the Second Coming by using the same interjection in two languages:
"True" [*nai* (gr.), *amén* (heb.)].**



“When the books of Daniel and Revelation are better understood, believers will have an entirely different religious experience. They will be given such glimpses of the open gates of heaven that heart and mind will be impressed with the character that all must develop in order to realize the blessedness which is to be the reward of the pure in heart.

The Lord will bless all who will seek humbly and meekly to understand that which is revealed in the Revelation. This book contains so much that is large with immortality and full of glory that all who read and search it earnestly receive the blessing to those ‘that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein.’”

E.G.W. (Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers, cp. 11, p. 114)