

THIS WEEK'S STUDY: 2/14-15/2022 *Revelation Chapter 1*

PLEASE NOTE WE WILL CONTINUE TO NEED A PASSCODE TO JOIN THE STUDY!

MONDAY 7 PM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

THE MONDAY NIGHT STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN CLASSROOM HS107, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 87858644763 Passcode: 087484

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TUESDAY 7 AM Bible Study - Time: 07:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada).

THE TUESDAY MORNING STUDY HAS RESUMED MEETING IN THE FAMILY ROOM, CCCM, AS WELL AS CONTINUING IN ZOOM!!

MEETING ID# - 85309150746 - Passcode: 715340

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Phil Twente ptwente@gmail.com cell 714 425 9221 For Audio & notes from previous studies - www.ptwente.com

OPENING PRAYER

Revelation Chapter 1 – Introduction and Benediction - (vs. 1-3); Greeting the Seven Churches – (vs. 4-8); Vision of the Son of Man - (vs. 9-20)..

CHAPTER 1 - THEME: The Person of Jesus Christ!

Rev 1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ

(apocalypse, a revealing, an uncovering, not a concealing or sealing), which God gave Him (Jesus who is the subject and the teacher, the revealer and the revelation) to show His servants—things which must (8X) shortly (speedily, quickly) take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His



servant John,

- **The Revelation of Jesus Christ!** That is one of the keys to the book. The book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ and the future of Jesus Christ. The word, revelation means unveiling. In the Greek it is *apokalupsis*, from which we get *apocalypse*. The unveiling! Not sealing or concealing! There are people that say the book of Revelation is a sealed book. Nothing is farther than the truth! The name itself declares it is an opening of the truth. The unveiling of the truth and is not at all a sealed book. But it is a book that opens up the truth to the hearts and to the lives of those who are seeking truth.
- **Jesus Christ will be the central character throughout the Book of Revelation!** We will see Him as He relates to the church; as He oversees the church. Then, we will see Him in the future as He becomes crowned as the KING OF KINGS AND AS THE LORD OF LORDS. Here is the progression of how it came. It is “the revelation of Jesus Christ!
- **Which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place! And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.** Throughout the book of Revelation, there is an angel that will be guiding John in many of the unveiling of some of the mysteries. There also will be the elders who will be speaking to John, as well as Jesus Christ Himself. John is receiving this revelation. In it the angel will guide him, the elders will direct him, and Jesus Christ will be speaking to him.
- **(Heb 1:1-4) God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, [2] has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; [3] who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, [4] having become so much better than the angels, as He has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.**

Rev 1:2 who bore witness (not receiving as dictation, but actually being taken in the Spirit to see, to hear and record these things!) **to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.**

- **John felt that his ministry was that of leaving a record of Jesus,** to all things that he saw, that he heard and that he experienced. In the nineteenth chapter of his gospel, John said, **(Joh 19:35) And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe.** John wrote these things in the gospel in order that you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah and by believing, have life through Him. That is eternal life!
- **In his first epistle he said, (1Jn 1:1, 3) That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, concerning the Word of life— [3] that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.**
- **The gospel of John was written that you might believe that Jesus is the Messiah.** The first epistle was written that you might have fellowship with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, which brings to you the fullness of joy. In the fourth chapter of First John, he said, **(1Jn 4:14) And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.** John is always bearing record, bearing witness of that which he saw, that which he heard, that which he experienced when he walked with Jesus, while Jesus was here on the earth.

Rev 1:3 Blessed (first of seven “blessed is” in Revelation) **he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy** (only entire book in NT that is all prophetic), **and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.**

- **A built-in blessing is given to us in verse three!** The promise to anyone who reads, hears and keeps the thing which are written in this Book will be blessed!
- **As you read, you will be blessed.**
- **As you hear the words of this prophecy, you will be blessed.**
- **But more importantly, as you keep, obey, you will be blessed!** It is not sufficient to our blessedness that we only read and hear the scriptures, **but we must keep the things that are written!** We must keep them in our memories, in our minds, in our affections, and in practice, and we shall be blessed indeed!
- **The time is near!** The early church believed that Jesus was going to return in their time, in their generation. John is writing this in about the year 96 A.D. There were rumors in the church that Jesus would come back again before John dies. Notice “**Things which must shortly take place**” in verse one. Here in verse three, “**for the time is near.**”
- **In reality, as Peter talks to us about the second coming of Jesus,** he said, **(2Pe 3,4,8,9) knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, [4] and saying, “Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the**

beginning of creation. "[8] But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. [9] The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

- **God being in the eternal realm, things are always at hand.** Eternity is at hand. When God says, Well, you know, time is short, and the apostles were saying, Time is short; we say, It has been two thousand years! But, God says, it is just a couple of days! Time is short. A day is as a thousand years, a thousand years as a day. Peter explains that to us as he says, the reason God is waiting, *He is not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance!*

Greeting to the Seven Churches

Rev 1:4 John (the Apostle John), **to the seven churches** (recipients) **which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him** (The Father) **who is and who was and who is to come** (The eternal, unchangeable, self-existent God, who has always existed!), **and from the seven Spirits** (sevenfold workings of the Holy Spirit) **who are before His throne,**

- **Now we get the prelude or salutation,** verses four through eight. *John [identifying himself] to the seven churches which are in Asia.:*
- **The number seven is often used in a symbolic sense in the Bible** and throughout the Book of Revelation, the number seven will play an important part. It is used more than fifty times. Seven churches, seven blessings, seven bowls of wrath, the seven trumpet judgments, all the way through the seven seals, the number seven is a very dominant number.
- **In Biblical numerology, the number seven is the number of completeness, of fulness.** It is always looked at as the number of completeness. You have seven days that make a complete week. You have seven notes on the piano. The eighth note is again a "Christ," and it begins the next seven. It is the number of completeness. Thus, the number eight is the number of new beginning. You have had the completeness in seven, now you start again. The number eight, the number of new beginning.
- **The number that is associated with Jesus is the number eight. The new beginning. (2Co 5:17)** *Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.* In the Hebrew and in the Greek, each letter has a numeric equivalent. Their counting is with their alphabet. Alpha, beta, gamma, delta is the one, two, three, four. Aleph, Beth, Gimel, Daleth is one, two, three, four in the Hebrew. They use the alphabet for their numeric. Thus, every letter has a numeric value. Alpha is one, beta is two, and so each letter has its numeric equivalent.
- **Thus, you can total the numeric of a name.** For instance, the name Jesus, the letters total 888. The name Jesus is the new beginning. The number eight is related to Jesus. The interesting thing is that every name for Jesus, the Cristos, Curios, and all, they are always divisible by eight when you add the numeric values of the letters of these names. They are always divisible by eight.
- **The name, Satan, if you total the numeric value, it is always divisible by thirteen.** Probably, that is the reason thirteen was known as the unlucky number. It is the number for Satan in the scriptures. Then names of Satan, Lucifer are always, when you total the numeric values, are divisible by thirteen.
- **The number seven is the number of completeness.** Even though there were more than seven churches, when John is writing to the seven churches, seven are chosen in order that you get the idea of the complete church because it is the number of completeness. So "*John to the seven churches which are in Asia.*"
- **Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come.** That is a description of God the Father. It is a description that describes His eternal attribute. "From Him who is, who was, and who is to come," He is all that at once, being the eternal God. In the fourth chapter of the book of Revelation, when John is taken into the heavenly scene, he sees the throne of God and the cherubim about the throne of God, the cherubim are singing or declaring: **(Rev 4:8)** *The four living creatures, each having six wings, were full of eyes around and within. And they do not rest day or night, saying: "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, Who was and is and is to come!"* " It is just declaring the character and nature and attribute of God, His eternal attributes. **There can be no true peace where there is not true grace; and, where grace goes before, peace will follow.**
- **From Him (The Father) who is and who was and who is to come.** The eternal, unchangeable, self-existent God, who has always existed! He is the same to the Old Testament church *which was,* and to the New Testament church *which is,* and who will be the same to the church triumphant *which is to come.*
- **And from the seven Spirits who are before His throne.** Seven is the number of completeness. So, it is the completeness, the sevenfold workings, of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and in Jesus Christ. Going back to Isaiah chapter eleven, we have this prophecy concerning Jesus, **(Isa 11:1-3)** *There shall*

come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of his roots. [2] The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, The Spirit of wisdom and understanding, The Spirit of counsel and might, The Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD. [3] His delight is in the fear of the LORD, And He shall not judge by the sight of His eyes, Nor decide by the hearing of His ears. The seven-fold work of the Holy Spirit in the life of Jesus. Thus, the seven spirits which are before the throne of God are the completeness of the infinite, perfect, Spirit before the throne of God.

Rev 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness (office as prophet), **the firstborn from the dead** (office as a priest w connotation of priority, most important, first to rise with an immortal body, our priest, bringing us to God)! **and the ruler over the kings** (King of Kings and Lord of Lords) **of the earth. To Him who loved** (and continues to love) **us and washed us from our sins in His own blood** (His crucifixion, washed us in His blood, His forgiveness of our sin, and His resurrection),

Rev 1:6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

- **John then tells us seven things concerning Jesus Christ.**
- **The seven things declared concerning Jesus Christ. He is first of all, "the faithful witness."** Faithful witness of what? He is the faithful witness to the revealed will of God, who has now spoken to us by His Son. (**Joh 1:18**) *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.*
- **Jesus said to Philip in response to the plea, Lord, just show us the Father** and it will satisfy us, He said, (**Joh 14:7-9**) *"If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him."* [8] Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." [9] Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'? He is a faithful witness of the Father. If you want to know what God is like, you can look at Jesus and in Him, you will understand the Father. He said, (**Joh 10:30**) *I and My Father are one.*" He was a faithful witness of the Father.
- **Jesus said to His disciples, (Act 1:8) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.** Even as Jesus was a faithful witness of the Father, so we are to be faithful witnesses of Jesus Christ. It is only through the empowering of the Holy Spirit that we can be those witnesses of Jesus Christ to the world in which we live today. It is so important that our lives bear witness of Jesus Christ. Not by just our words, but the light itself, which is the way I am to live as a witness to the world of Jesus Christ.
- **He is the "firstborn from the dead."** That is, the first one to rise from the dead in a glorified body. There were others in the Old Testament and also in the New Testament that were raised from the dead. Jesus raised the widow's son of Nain. Jesus raised Jairus' daughter. He raised Lazarus from the dead. But they were raised in the same body, they died later. Jesus is the "firstborn from the dead" in the new body or resurrected body. He is the first parent and head of the resurrection, the only one who raised Himself by His own power. Who will by the same power, raise up His people from their graves to everlasting honor. He has begotten them again to a living hope by His resurrection from the dead!
- **He is the "ruler of the kings."** He comes, there will be upon His robe the declaration, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. The ruler over the kings! He is King over all! From Him, the kings of the earth have their authority; by Him, their power is limited; their wrath restrained; their counsels are over-ruled! To Him they are accountable.
- **To Him who loved us!** Jesus said, (**Joh 15:13**) *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.* To Him who loved us and because He loved us:
- **He Washed us from our sins in His own blood.** John said, (**1Jn 1:7**) *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.* He washed us from our sins in His own blood. Sin leaves a stain upon the soul, a stain of guilt and of pollution. Nothing can take away this stain but the blood of Christ! It cannot be washed out! But Christ was willing to shed His own blood, to purchase pardon and purity for them.
- **He has made us kings and priests to His God and Father."** It is a kingdom of priests. Jesus is the King. We are a kingdom of priests! That will come in the millennial age. We will be a kingdom of priests to our God. (**Rev 5:10**) *And have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."*
- **To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.** Or *aionas ton aionon*, from the ages to the ages, Amen. It is the strongest term that you can use in Greek for eternal, used thirteen times in this Book. *Forever and ever! Amen!*

Rev 1:7 Behold, He (Jesus Christ!) is coming with clouds (something we should constantly remember – His 2nd coming! His grand climax of God’s redemptive history!), 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.

Rev 1:8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," says the Lord (Jesus Christ!), "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

- **Then this declaration, as Jesus speaks to John!** Alpha, of course, is the first letter of the Greek alphabet. Omega is the last letter of the Greek alphabet. He is saying, I am the totality! I am complete! I am everything! I am the A to the Z and everything between! The completeness of the Lord! The first and the last! The beginning and the ending! “*Who is, who was, and who is to come, the Almighty!*”

Vision of the Son of Man

Rev 1:9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation (trouble and hardships we Christians encounter in this fallen world) **and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos** (John banished there by Roman Emperor Domitian) **for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.**

- **John now begins giving you the vision that he first had!** John calls himself their companion, their brother. People, it seems, like titles. Titles that sort of elevate them above others. Unfortunately, that business of titles has infected the church. The Reverend so-and-so, or the Right Reverend so-and-so, or the Most Right Reverend so-and-so. They keep piling on. Here is John, the last surviving apostle. But he does not even say, John the apostle. He said I am your brother. I am your companion. We need to know that when we stand before the Lord, we all stand on the same level! You are as important to God as is Billy Graham or as is the Pope. We all stand on the same level when we stand before God. God is no respecter of persons. The Bible declares that plainly.
- **John was banished to the volcanic island known as Patmos**, which is about ten miles long and six miles wide, under the edict of Domitian. John had been dispersed from Jerusalem. They escaped when Titus came and destroyed the temple in the city. John went to Ephesus where he became the leader of the church in Ephesus and no doubt, overseeing the churches of Asia that he is addressing that are all in the area around Ephesus in what is today modern Turkey. John sees himself as a companion in the tribulation. This is not the great tribulation, which we will be studying about as we get in further into the book of Revelation, especially as we begin with chapter six.
- **Jesus said, (Joh 16:33) *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.*** The world is opposed to and antagonistic to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to the church of Jesus Christ. Jesus said, In this world you are going to have tribulation. Peter said, (1Pe 4:12) *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial, which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you.* There is a natural antagonism of the evil heart against a pure heart. Just as you find with Cain and his brother Abel, that natural antagonism because God accepted Abel but rejected Cain’s sacrifice. It created that hatred, that animosity, that antagonism. So, the church was going through heavy persecution at this time.
- **By this time, the rest of the apostles had all been martyred.** They had been put to death violently because of their faith in Jesus Christ. John is the only and the last remaining of the apostles. He is now an old man. He is on the island of Patmos, because of Domitian’s persecution of the church. John says, *I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation.* I know you are going through tribulation. I am your brother, I am your companion in these things. **And kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.** The patience was waiting for the Lord to come.
- **It seems like there is always sort of a feeling that the Lord is late.** That He is delaying things. When Jesus was ministering, and John the Baptist was put into prison. John, sitting there in Herod’s prison, sent his disciples to Jesus and said, Are you the One that we are looking for or shall we start looking for someone else? In other words, John the Baptist was saying, When are you going to get the show on the road? When are you going to take over? When are you going to set up the kingdom? I am tired of sitting in Herod’s jail here. Let us get things going was the whole idea. There is always, it seems, that sort of waiting for the Lord and as even today, we are waiting for the Lord to come.
- **The scripture says, (Heb 10:36) *For you have need of endurance, so that after you have done the will of God, you may receive the promise:*** The Old Testament saints, who through faith and patience, inherited the promises of God. So, John says, I’m your companion. I’m your brother, as we are patiently waiting for Jesus Christ.”

Rev 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

- **I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day**, could also be translated, I was in the Spirit to the day of the Lord. If he was saying, I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, he is talking about a Sunday, in which he was in the Spirit, or his heart and his mind was brought into the Spirit realm where he began to see visions and all.
- **Some believe that the translation, I was in the Spirit unto the day of the Lord, makes more sense.** At any rate, John was taken by the Spirit on the Lord's Day or to the Day of the Lord. He describes the things that he sees. The things that are going on in heaven. He describes the things that are going on, on the earth on the day of the Lord, the day of the great tribulation and all. He describes them as an observer. One who is watching these things, describing them as best he can.
- **It seems that the Lord took John in a time chamber, so to speak, into the future.** John was shown the things that are going to take place in the future as he was in this vision in the Spirit on the Lord's Day. In the Spirit realm, there is no time. In the Spiritual realm, you can see things that are yet future. Things that have not yet happened because you are out of the time domain when you enter into the realm of the Spirit. You leave the time domain. John, in the Spirit taken out of the time domain and he began to see the things that will happen in the day of the Lord.
- **And I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet.** In the fourth chapter again, he will hear a voice as of a trumpet that will say to him, (**Rev 4:1**) *After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."*

Rev 1:11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira (these four in Chapter 2), to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea (these three in Chapter 3)." (**Rev. 22:13**) *I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*

Rev 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden (valuable) **lampstands** (light - witnessing and testifying to Jesus Christ),

Rev 1:13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Rev 1:14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire (omniscience) ;

Rev 1:15 His feet were like fine brass (judgment), **as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;** (**Psa 29:4**) *The voice of the LORD is powerful; The voice of the LORD is full of majesty.*

- **The description of the glorified body of Jesus Christ.** He sees Jesus in His glory here in chapter one and he describes this glorified body of Jesus. Notice how closely it is aligned with Daniel's vision, (**Dan 7:13-14**) *"I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. [14] Then to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.*
- **Daniel goes on to describe Him, (Dan 10:4-6)** *Now on the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was by the side of the great river, that is, the Tigris, [5] I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz! [6] His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.*
- **His voice as the sound of many waters;** John says like the voice of many waters. A waterfall. If you have ever hiked up Yosemite to the Vernal and Nevada falls and stand by, you hear the roar of the water. And thus, the voice of the Lord. Daniel describes it like the voice of a multitude.
- **Ezekiel had a vision of the throne of God, (Eze 1:26-28)** *And above the firmament over their heads was the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne was a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. [27] Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. [28] Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so was the appearance of the brightness all around it. This was the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So when I saw it, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.* The Lord began to speak to Ezekiel at that point.

- **Here is the description of Christ as He will be in His glorified form.** We remember on the Mount of Transfiguration, (*Mat 17:3*) *And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.* Jesus took Peter, James and John into a high mountain and there He was transfigured before them. His clothes began to shine and His face in the brightness like the sun. They saw Him there on the Mount of Transfiguration in the glorified form.
- **Here John has another vision of Jesus similar to what he saw** on the Mount of Transfiguration. He describes the glory of the Lord as he sees Him. Reading it once again. (*Rev 1:13-14*) *and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. [14] His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; Just like what Daniel saw, “His feet like fine brass as if refined in a furnace,” Like Daniel, “His voice like the sound of many waters.”* We see that it dovetails very closely with Daniel’s description and of course, they are some six hundred years apart in their seeing the Lord.

Rev 1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars (angels, messengers), ***out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.*** (*Rev 1:20*) *The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.* (*Heb 4:12*) *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.* (*Rev 19:15*) *Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

- **His face like the sun shining, the brightness.** What an awesome, awesome sight it must be when we see our Lord!

Rev 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

- ***I fell at the feet of Christ as dead;*** He was overpowered with the greatness of the luster and glory in which Christ appeared, though he had been so familiar with him about 60 years ago. It is good that God speaks to us by men like ourselves, whose terrors shall not make us afraid, for none can see the face of God and live!
- ***He laid His right hand on me! upon him,*** Jesus raised John up, not pleading against him with His great power, but He put strength into him, speaking kind words to him.
- **Do not be Afraid! Fear not.** Jesus spoke words of comfort and encouragement, commanding away John’s fears, acquainting him with Jesus’ divine nature!

Rev 1:18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

- ***I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold.*** *Acquainting John with His former sufferings: I was dead;* the very same thing that John saw upon the cross, dying for the sins of men.
- ***I am alive forevermore. Amen. Referring to His resurrection and life.*** *Jesus is saying: I live, and am alive for evermore,* having conquered death and opened the grave, and am partaker of an endless life.
- ***And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.*** **With His office and authority, having** a sovereign dominion in and over the invisible world, opening and none can shut; shutting so that none can open, opening the gates of death when He pleases! Opening the gates of the eternal world, of happiness or misery, as the Judge of all, from whose sentence is without appeal!

Rev 1:19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this (*meta tauta*).

- **Now John is commanded. Here is the key to the book of Revelation and it is one of the most important verses** to unlock the mysteries of this book.
- ***After this!*** In the Greek is *meta tauta*, literally, after these things. The Lord tells John that the Book of Revelation will have three divisions: the **first division is to write the things that he has seen.** That is, the vision of the glorified Christ, that he described for you here in chapter one. The **second thing or the second division is the things which are.** Now as it turns out, these are the things of the seven churches or the complete church history. As we look at the seven churches in chapters two and three, Jesus is writing of the things which are.
- **The interesting thing about the seven churches is that each of the church and the descriptions** of the churches are periods of church history. One can see the relationship to the messages to the churches to the various eras or ages of the church or the church history and you can see how they apply historically to the church. As we get next week to the beginning of the letters to the seven churches, we will observe how that they were messages to churches that existed at that time and relate to the condition of those churches.

- **But we will find a secondary interpretation** and that is, as we see them in periods of church history, the major divisions of church history will be discovered in the messages to the seven churches.
- **Thirdly, we will see that there are churches today that fit in these different categories.** We will see that there is actually a threefold interpretation as we give the messages to the churches and you have the full, the seven churches are the complete church history in these letters to the churches by Jesus Christ in chapters two and three.
- **Then he is to write the things, the third section of the book, the things which will be after these things.** When you get to chapter four, (*Rev 4:1*) *After these things (meta tauta) I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard was like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this (meta tauta).* It begins with the same Greek words, *meta tauta*, which lets you know that you are now entering into the third section of the book. To sort of confirm it, the word is used or the phrase *meta tauta* is used twice. Twice repeated to let you know we are entering into the third section of the book. It is also used in (*Rev 19:1*) *After these things (meta tauta) I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God!*
- **After what things? After the things of chapter two and three.** It is very easy and logical to see. You have your church history encapsulated in chapters two and three when you enter into chapter four, we then begin to go into the future, and we are going to see things that are going to take place after the church is removed from the earth. Now after these things, the door is open in heaven. As go through it, we must remember the three divisions!
- **John writes here in chapter one the things that he saw.** Chapters two and three, **he will write the things which are.** In chapter four, he will write the things and from the four to the end, we will get into the future, **the things that are going to take place in heaven,** the things that are going to take place on earth after the church history has been completed. After the ministry of the church is finished. Then you will go into the future, and you are going to see the things that will take place after the things of the church.
- **That is the key to the book. It is the three divisions of the book that the Lord gives to John.** If you see that, then the whole thing will just unlock and make sense. If you miss that, then you will be like so many ministers that say, Well, I just do not get into Revelation because no one understands it. It is a sealed book and all. No, it is not! It is very plain! It is very clear, and the Lord gave you the key. There is no excuse for not seeing the way things are laid out because God tells you very clearly here at the beginning, the three divisions.
- **Now the Lord goes back and explains this vision that John saw of Christ.** Remember, He was walking in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. He was holding the seven stars in his right hand. The Lord explains that now to John. He said,

Rev 1:20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

- ***The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand.*** That should just bring tremendous comfort, joy and strength to pastors and ministers, because Jesus was holding the seven stars in His right hand, which are the ministers of the churches. What an awesome feeling of knowing that Jesus is holding me in His right hand. What a blessing and what a thrill! *"The seven stars are the seven angels or the messengers of the seven churches:"* The word angels literally messenger.
- ***And the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*** Again, where was Jesus? Walking in the midst of the churches. What did Jesus say to His disciples? (*Mat 18:20*) *For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.* Jesus walking in the midst of His church. What a thrilling concept! Just to realize that tonight, Jesus is walking here in our midst. He is right here in the midst of His church! He is here to minister to the needs within the church. The needy ones within the church. Who is He most interested in? Whoever you are here tonight who has the greatest need, you are the one He is most interested in! He was always interested in the person with the greatest need. All you have to do is just reach out in faith and touch Him.
- ***Consider the menorah, which is in many churches.*** It is a likeness of the menorah that was in the tabernacle and later in the temple with the seven branches complete. It was a symbol that God wanted Israel to be the light of the world. Now in the church, it becomes a symbol of the presence of Jesus Christ within the church and He said to us, (*Mat 5:14*) *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. "You are the light of the world."* The seven-armed menorah is the symbol of the presence of Jesus within His church. It is a symbol of the fact that Jesus, whenever we gather together here to worship Him, as long as there is just two or three of us, He is here in the midst of us!
- ***This will become significant next week as we study the message of Jesus to the church of Ephesus.*** We need to notice the warning that He gives to the church of Ephesus as He introduces Himself, as the One who

walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands. But unless they repent and have some real changes, what will He do? He will remove the lampstand out of its place or the warning that He will remove His presence from the church. We will that next week. You will be blessed if read it ahead this week.

SUMMARY POINTS:

- ***The Revelation of Jesus Christ!*** The book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ and the future of Jesus Christ. The word, revelation means unveiling. Not sealing or concealing! It is a book that opens up the truth to the hearts and to the lives of those who are seeking truth.
- **A built-in blessing is given to us in verse three!** The promise to anyone **who reads, who hears and who keeps** the thing which are written in this Book will be blessed! As you read, you will be blessed. As you hear the words of this prophecy, you will be blessed. But more importantly, as you obey, you will be blessed!
- **Seven things concerning the exaltation of Jesus Christ.** He is:
 - ✓ **He is first of all, “*the faithful witness.*”** He is the faithful witness to the revealed will of God, who has now spoken to us by His Son. (*Joh 1:18*) *No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him. Joh 10:30* *I and My Father are one.*” He was a faithful witness of the Father.
 - ✓ **He is the “*firstborn from the dead.*”** That is, the first one to rise from the dead in a glorified body.. Who will by the His own power, raise up His people from their graves to everlasting honor!
 - ✓ **He is the “*ruler of the kings.*”** When He comes, there will be upon His robe the declaration, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. The ruler over the kings! He is King over all!
 - ✓ **To Him who loved us!** Jesus said, (*Joh 15:13*) *Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends.* To Him who loved us and because He loved us:
 - ✓ **He Washed us from our sins in His own blood.”** John said, (*1Jn 1:7*) *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.* He washed us from our sins in His own blood.
 - ✓ **He has made us kings and priests to His God and Father.”** It is a kingdom of priests. Jesus is the King. We are a kingdom of priests! That will come in the millennial age. We will be a kingdom of priests to our God.
 - ✓ **To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever.”** Or *aionas ton aionon*, from the ages to the ages, Amen. It is the strongest term that you can use in Greek for eternal. *Forever and ever! Amen!*
 - ✓ **He is coming back! Behold, He is coming with clouds**
 - ✓ **He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**
- **Verse 19 - A Divine outline, to** unlock the mysteries of this book.
 - ✓ **The first division is John is to write the things that he has seen.** That is, the vision of the glorified Christ that he described for you here in chapter one.
 - ✓ **The second thing or the second division is the things which are.** These are the things of the seven churches or the complete church history.
 - ✓ **Then he is to write the things, the third section of the book, the things which will be after these things of chapter two and three.** It is very easy and logical to see. When you enter into the future in chapter four, the things that are going to take place after the church is removed from the earth. Now after these things, the door is open in heaven. As we go through it, we must remember the three divisions!
- **We know the Book of Genesis is that of the beginnings. The Book of Revelation is the book of the consummation of all that was prophesied throughout the Bible, giving us insight into the future!**
- **How well do you know His Word? How well do you know Him? The Him who is. The Him who was. And the Him who is to come!**
- **How well do you know His magnificence and what is coming for all believers? How well do you know the terrifying and awfulness of those who choose to reject Him, as we will see in chapters 6-18?**
- **Are you ready for Him who is to come? Are we redeeming each of the days, of which there are fewer and fewer remaining?**
- **How committed am I to finishing well, being the witness, He would have me to be?**
- **How much am I longing for that day of meeting Him face to face, coming directly into His presence and being with Him and all believers, “forever and ever”?**

CLOSING SONG:

TURN YOUR EYES ON JESUS – Helen Lemmel, Michael W. Smith (1:24)

Turn your eyes upon Jesus, Look full in His wonderful face,
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim, In the light of His Glory and Grace.

CLOSING PRAYER: