

THE BOOK OF REVELATION

CHAPTER ONE

"THE THINGS

WHICH THOU HAST

SEEN"

I. THE INTRODUCTION OF THIS BOOK (1-3)

A. Gives us first of all the subject of the Book (1) .
The word revelation comes from the Greek word apocalypse and means "unveiling" so this Book is an unveiling of Jesus Christ in¹ a way not seen hithertofore.

B. Tells us why this revelation is given and the channel by which it came (1 , 2)

1. This prophetic word about the Lord Jesus Christ is given "to show His servants things which must shortly (suddenly) come to pass (1) .

2. This word did not originate with John but it came through a fourfold sequence of transmission. God gave it to Christ -Christ gave it to an angel - an angel gave it to John and John bore witness to the churches of what he saw (2) .

C. Promises a threefold spiritual blessing for us

To consider (3) .

1. He that readeth it will be blessed.

2. He that heareth it will be blessed.

3. Thirdly he that keepeth the things that are written in it will be blessed.

II. THE SALUTATION OF JOHN TO THE CHURCHES (4-8)

A. Is one of grace and peace to them (4) . We should note that grace always precedes peace and it only comes through Jesus Christ.

B. Comes to them from God the Father, the Son,
and the Holy Spirit.

1. The reference to "Him who is and who was, and who is to come" is a reference to God the Father.
 2. "And from the seven spirits who are before His throne" is a reference to God the Spirit.
 3. "And from Jesus Christ" is God the Son.
- C. Magnifies the Lord Jesus by referring to His wonderful person and marvelous work on our behalf (5-8)
1. He is said to be the faithful witness and this is what He was revealing God to men (Jn. 14:9; -Heb. 1:1-3). He was faithful unto death (Phil. 2:8). 2. Notice as first begotten of the dead He is the firstfruits of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:23; I Tim. 6:15, 16).
 3. He is said to be the Prince of the Kings or the One who reigns as Supreme Sovereign (5) Note Col. 1:16, 17.
 4. He is the One that "loveth" us, gave Himself as a sacrifice, and shed His blood for our sins (5).
 5. He is the One that provided us access into the presence of God to offer spiritual sacrifices unto Him (6) Note Heb. 13:15, 16; I Pet. 2:9.
 6. He is the One that will come again in power and glory and bring about repentance for Israel as a nation(7) compare Matt. 24:30.
 7. Finally Christ is identified as the one co-equal and co-eternal with the Father (8).

III. THE THINGS SURROUNDING JOHN'S VISION (9-10)

- A. Point out to us that John was being persecuted just like other Christians and had been exiled for his testimony for Christ (9)
- B. Intimate to us that John was caught up in the Spirit into heaven where he was able to see beyond the church age to the things which would come to pass (10).

IV. THE VOICE WHICH JOHN HEARD (10-11)

- A. Came from the Lord Jesus Christ (10). These names present Him as the eternal God.
- B. Commanded him to write what he saw and send it to the seven churches in Asia (11).

V. THE VISION WHICH JOHN SAW (12-16)

- A. Involved first of all seven golden candlesticks or lampstands (12) These lampstands represented the seven churches in Asia and their work of giving forth spiritual light in a world filled with darkness (1:20)
- B. Presented the Lord Jesus in a completely different way from how John had known Him and seen Him (13-16).
 - 1. He was in the midst of the seven lampstands or churches (13).
 - 2. He was clothed with garments as of a priest and judge (13). Notice Aaron's robe (Ex. 28:2).
 - 3. His hair was like wool and white as snow (14). This symbolizes wisdom as the eternal One.
 - 4. His eyes were like a flame of fire (14). This symbolizes His ability to see the innermost impurities in those who stand before Him.
 - 5. His feet symbolize divine judgment (Ex. 38:30).
 - 6. His voice sounded like many waters and symbolizes His authority over all (Phil. 2:10-11, Psa. 29:2-10).
 - 7. In His right hand He held seven stars (16). These symbolized the angels or messengers of the seven churches (1:20). Since the Greek word for angel is the same for messenger it no doubt refers to the pastors of these churches.
 - 8. Out of His mouth went a two-edged sword (16). This symbolizes His judgment upon the wicked to slay them.

9. Finally His countenance was like the sun shining (16). This symbolizes the glory of the risen Saviour similar to what the apostles saw on the Mount when Christ was transfigured before them (Matt. 17:2).

VI. THE WAY JOHN REACTED TO WHAT HE SAW

- A. Was to fall at His feet in reverential fear and respect before Him (7)
- B. Was met with some comforting words from the Lord Jesus which identified Him as the resurrected Lord with power over death and hades (18) .

VII. THE COMMAND WHICH THE LORD GAVE TO JOHN

- A. Was to write about three things in particular (19). These three areas form a natural division of the Book of Revelation.
- B. Was followed by an explanation of the mystery of the seven stars and the seven lampstands (20) .