

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

chapter 1

Lesson 1

The book of Revelation is aptly referred to as “The Revelation of Jesus Christ”. John was instructed to write *the things which he had seen, the things which are, and the things that would take place* (Revelation 1:19). Thus this book reveals both prophesies and Jesus, Himself. There is a promise of blessing to those who *read and hear* the words contained in this book (Revelation 1:3). What an exciting time is set before us as we learn more of our Savior and His plans.

OBSERVATION: Read Revelation 1

1. Read through this week’s verses using both your Observation Worksheet (the last page of this homework) and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they are about?
2. Key words help us to better understand the verses. We have listed below key words. Mark each one in a distinctive way (either with a symbol, highlighting, or some form of boxing, circling, or underlining). Mark each of the key words each time they are used in the text. Remember to mark any personal pronouns that refer to the *Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit*. You may find it difficult to identify whether a word is speaking of the *Father* or *Jesus*. For the purposes of this study, mark the words both ways.
Key Words: *God/Father, Jesus, Holy Spirit, and seven*.
3. The contrasting word *but* is used in verse 17. Mark the word and record what is being contrasted.
4. Make a list of what this chapter clearly reveals about Jesus.

5. The number seven is mentioned twelve times. Make a list of the words described in sevens.

THE INTRODUCTION: Read Revelation 1:1-3

1. The word *Revelation* means a disclosure or unveiling. What do you think about when you consider these words?
 - a. Who is unveiled in this *Revelation*?
2. Notice the progression of *the Revelation of Jesus Christ* from verse 1:
 - a. Who is the source of (who *gave*) the *Revelation*?
 - b. Who is the *Revelation* about?
 - c. How was it *sent*?
 - d. To whom was it *sent*?
 - e. Who was it given to *show*?
 - 1). Which of the above are you?
 - a.) Why should a believer in Jesus Christ be called a *servant*?
3. Notice the imperative used in verse 1, *things which ___ ___ ___ shortly take place*. What does this imply about the these *things*?
 - a. According to Romans 13:11-14, *knowing the time*, how are we to live in light of these coming events?
4. From Revelation 1:2, record the three things John *bore witness to*.
 - a. Considering John's sources, how valid do you personally consider the words he has written in this book?
5. To whom is a blessing promised in verse 3?

- a. Define the word *hear* as you understand God's intention for you as you *read* and *hear the words of this prophecy*.
- b. What *blessing* do you hope to receive from studying *Revelation*?

THE GREETING: Read Revelation 1:4-6

1. The three Persons of the trinity are represented as the source of this letter. Using verses 4,5, describe Them. Note: you will be asked to record what Jesus has done in question #2.

Challenge: It is believed that the *seven Spirits* represent the seven aspects of the Holy Spirit as revealed in Isaiah 11:2. What are they?

2. According to Revelation 1:5,6, what has Jesus done for *us*?
 - a. Bask in the wonder of these truths as you read the words of the following verses and answer related questions.
 - 1.) What did God do to prove His *love* for us? Romans 5:8
 - 2.) What is the promise to believers who *confess their sins*? 1 John 1:9
 - 3.) What is the purpose of our *priesthood*? 1 Peter 2:5,9
 - b. Notice the progression: *loved us* → *washed us* → *made us kings and priests*. What are your thoughts as you consider the order of what Jesus has done for you?

THE ANNOUNCEMENT: Read Revelation 1:7,8

1. What is the attention-grabbing word at the beginning of Revelation 1:7?

a. According to Revelation 1:7, what will *every eye* see?

b. Summarize what the following Scriptures say about Christ's return:

Zechariah 12:10

Matthew 24:30

Acts 1:9-11

2. John's response to this amazing truth was to say, *Even so, Amen* (Revelation 1:7b). *Amen* means so be it. What is your response to this amazing truth?

3. What is Jesus' self-description in Revelation 1:8?

a. Liken this to the following descriptions of God. Share your discoveries:

Deuteronomy 33:27

Isaiah 9:6-7

Isaiah 57:15

4. How are you encouraged by the eternal character of Jesus?

WHAT JOHN HEARD: Read Revelation 1:9-11

1. Using verse 11, what did John hear?
 - a. Refer to Jesus' claims in Revelation 22:13. Who did He declare Himself to be?

WHAT JOHN SAW: Read Revelation 1:12-16,20

1. John saw two objects in sets of seven. What were they?

seven _____

seven _____

- a. Using Revelation 1:20, identify these objects and record your findings next to the blank lines above.
2. Who was *in the midst of the seven lampstands*?
 - a. How did John describe this *One like the Son of Man*?

WHAT JOHN DID: Read Revelation 1:17,18

1. Most of John's time spent with Jesus was viewing Him as a suffering Servant. What do you think it was like for John to see Jesus in His majesty as described in verses 13-16?
 - a. Record John's response. Verse 17
 - 1.) Rather than rebuke, what was Jesus' response?
 - a.) What does verse 18 reveal that identifies this *One like the Son of Man* as Jesus?

INSTRUCTIONS TO JOHN: Read Revelation 1:19

1. Revelation 1:19 contains the outline and key to understanding the book of Revelation. Record the three *things* John was to *write*.

REVIEW: Read Revelation 1

1. Revelation 1:5 describes Jesus as *the faithful witness*. In what ways has Jesus faithfully been a *witness* to what God is like and His message?
2. A chief purpose for what God has done for you is His glory. How has your salvation *glorified* God?
3. Many phrases were used to describe Jesus in Revelation 1. What thoughts were provoked as you considered some of them?
4. What truths or statements in Revelation 1 have inspired you to pursue God's blessing by reading and hearing its prophecies?
 - a. What *blessings* do you anticipate?

*And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east.
His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.
- Ezekiel 43:2*

Observation Worksheet

Revelation 1

¹ 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, ² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³ 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. ⁴ 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, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷ 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. ⁸ "I am 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." ⁹ I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, 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, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea." ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, 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. ¹⁴ His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. 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. 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. ¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. 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.