

Revelation: The Time is Near

## The Beginning and the End

Revelation 1:4-20

**A lot of people tend to be afraid of this book:**

- Because of the mystery
- Because of the judgment
- Some both

**But if we remember what we read last week...there's a blessing**

- If we read
- Hear
- Keep

**Read > hear/understand > keep**

**But Revelation is not understandable!**

It is if we are paying attention, are open to what it is saying and pray that the Spirit would give us understanding

**[Jhn 16:7-15 NKJV] 7 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 "of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 "of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; 11 "of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. 12 "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear [them] now. 13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own [authority], but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. 14 "He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare [it] to you. 15 "All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare [it] to you.**

**1 - The Holy Spirit WILL declare the things of God to us**

**2 - Jesus wanted to tell the disciples a lot of things, but they weren't ready yet. I get the sense that what he reveals to John is some of that**

[pray]

**Revelation speaks of the judgment of the end. The judgments on the inhabitants of the Earth, the final judgment for believers, the condemnation of the Enemy and the fallen angels, and the similar demise of those who follow them.**

**God desires no one go to hell. Hell was created for Satan and the fallen angels.  
If you go to hell, it's because you chose it by following anything other than Jesus.**

## **1:4-**

**John, the apostle, “whom Jesus loved” raced Peter to the tomb, rested on Jesus at the last supper**

### **Seven Church in Asia**

Asia minor, modern day Turkey. Western region. Paul's missionary journeys.  
We'll look more closely at them in Ch's 2-3

**In this book of judgment, the first message to the churches and to the reader is  
GRACE and PEACE**

From GOD. God always gives a message of an opportunity for peace in judgment. His judgment is never a threat, but a consequence, a right result for evil equations.

### **Who Is, Was and Is to Come**

God's timelessness. Uncreated. Unending. Always being  
I AM that I AM  
YAHWEH

Apparently the Greek is “awkward” meaning John was trying to most accurately trying to convey the Hebrew for God

### **Seven Spirits**

Title/name for the Holy Spirit. 7 is number of completion, perfection. In a sense a spirit isn't complete without a body, but the Holy Spirit is complete in and of Himself. Yet he still chooses to indwell us. Unlike evil spirits who seek to embody us for their own benefit, He embodies us for our benefit.

**Isaiah 11:2** 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 **fear** of the Lord.

### **We see the Trinity**

Father, Spirit and Son

### **Jesus is the faithful witness**

If we've seen Jesus, we've see the Father he tells us

But, he is the accurate representation of God. Accurate Word of God. No one and nothing else communicates who God is better than the Living Word.

### **Firstborn from the dead**

Jesus was the first to receive resurrection unto eternal life  
(compartments of hell, dead rise on the last day to final judgment)  
(caught up in the air, dead rise first and we meet them)

**[1Co 15:45-49 NKJV] 45 And so it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being." The last Adam [became] a life-giving spirit. 46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural, and afterward the spiritual. 47 The first man [was] of the earth, [made] of dust; the second Man [is] the Lord from heaven. 48 As [was] the [man] of dust, so also [are] those [who are made] of dust; and as [is] the heavenly [Man], so also [are] those [who are] heavenly. 49 And as we have borne the image of the [man] of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly [Man].**

**Jesus became a man to take on the sin of mankind.  
Jesus was the first to rise to eternal life that we might follow him.**

**Being born again as a spiritual man that we might raise to life after death.**

### **These are amazing things.**

I think we say them, or even believe them as "believers," but do we honestly and really get a practical picture of what's going on and what's going to happen? We will raise from the dead to live on like Jesus!

**Ruler over the kings of the earth** - whether they like it or not, He is King of kings and Lord of lords. Everyone will bow, even if they don't know.

Like the "Not my president" folks, it doesn't change the fact of who's in office.  
Just because the world lives like they're in charge or Satan is in charge, Jesus has the final say.

### **John gives glory to Jesus**

Washed us from our sins in his **own** blood.  
This is no ordinary king.

We are kings and priests...so much to unpack here...but a king couldn't be priest...Saul's problem. David couldn't build the temple because of the blood on his hands.

But, we are kings and priests.

If you realize that and then read the scriptures, you might think differently about drinking alcohol and your calling in life.

### **But that's us in heaven, too**

Ruling and reigning with him, casting our crowns

But also offering him praise and worship throughout eternity  
And that doesn't mean sitting on a cloud with a harp

### **Jesus is coming on the clouds**

He went up on a cloud in the ascension

**[Act 1:9-11 NKJV] 9 Now when He had spoken these things, while they watched, He was taken up, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. 10 And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This [same] Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."**

### **Every eye will see him**

When Jesus comes back, nobody is going to miss it.

I don't think it's going to need to be televised. "What if he's on the other side of the planet, Jerusalem"

Like Doc said to Marty, "You're just not thinking 4th dimensionally"

When he's coming back, dimensions are being ripped apart, the sky receding as a scroll as we'll see...you'll be able to see from wherever you are.

I'm not so worried about it, He'll be right on front of me as we ride back on our horses to battle.

### **Even they who pierced him**

Referring to Israel, the Jewish people. Obviously the Romans crucified him, but John and many of the early believers were Jewish converts. Jesus isn't done with the Jewish people. There is a plan for them to come to him, as we'll see. And we're not to treat them like the villains. Because in truth, we ALL crucified him.

### **Every tribe will mourn because of him.**

The torment of judgment and that this is the truth and the end and you rejected it starts coming to light. Deception is no more.

### **Even so, amen.**

Even though this spells out the end of life for some and the beginning of their eternal death

Even so. Let God come and let his will be done.

He certainly gave them enough time and opportunity.

**Again, Revelation has been available to read for thousands of years telling what will happen. There will be no surprises.** They are all mourning. None are filing a complaint that they didn't have an opportunity.

### **Famous name Alpha and the Omega**

Like a-z of Greek alphabet

Interesting Jesus is in a sense using Gentile terms here, speaking to the world

*The italics.. Beginning and End.*

*Not the iphone, but iphone. **Embodiment of the term.***

**Jesus is Beginning. He is End.**

**[Jhn 1:1-5 NKJV] 1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was in the beginning with God. 3 All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. 4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. 5 And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.**

**Was and is and is to come. All active.**

Again, eternal. Not bound by time. Definite. Assured.

**The Almighty**

God cannot be stopped. It's a good thing He is a good God.

Even though evil seems to be winning, mind you, it is only having its day. And its days are numbered.

**:9-**

**Brother and companion in tribulation**

Not THE tribulation. But on earth we do have trials.

John the apostle, doesn't claim superiority in this. Brother to us and companion. These men and women of the Bible were just like us, they bore witness of the things they saw God do in their lives.

**Island of Patmos.** Island between Asia minor and Greece in the Aegean Sea.

Still called Patmos today.

Written AD 96

**Prison island**

Church history/legend speaks of John being boiled alive and not dying so they exiled him

*Death or exile...exile...death, by exile*

John is in prison for the gospel and God gives him this amazing book.

**In the Spirit on the Lord's day.**

Sunday. The Lord's day. Day of Resurrection. He would have said sabbath if he meant the Jewish sabbath.

He's spending time with God. Do you and I get alone with God? Would we say we just went to church or were we in the Spirit? There is a difference.

I think many times people miss out on God because they haven't spent that time in the Spirit.

**He's praying. He's worshipping. He's thinking about the scriptures. Maybe looking off at the ocean, maybe eyes closed**

**And BOOM. A LOUD VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET BEHIND HIM.**

Not jazz, think like the shofar/rams horn. Loud, guttural. Deep power and authority sound that rattles the body, mind and soul.

**Jesus identifies himself as the Alpha and the Omega, first and last  
Gives John instructions to write down what he sees and give to those 7 churches**

Talk about an answer to prayer and hearing the voice of God!

Ephesus  
Smyrna  
Pergamos  
Thyatira  
Sardis  
Philadelphia  
Laodicea

**John understandably turns to see**

Can you imagine what he was thinking or feeling? I would be terrified, in awe.

*Hearing fire siren and be startled wondering if it was the rapture*

**Seven golden lampstands**

This is where people start getting tripped up...but as we've read, they're explained in a minute, by Jesus himself

Golden lampstand in the tabernacle, but it was one lampstand with seven flames.

Walking in the middle of them, not sure what orientation they are, but I imagine walking through an arrangement, almost as if checking on the flames as the priest might in the temple

Human in appearance, looking like Jesus in bodily form

Garment down to his feet

Golden sash

Very much priestly looking. Priests wore linen robes, high priest had the breastplate with stones on it

Head and hair super white “old age, timelessness, wisdom”  
 white as snow, purity  
 Eyes like fire - fire, judgment

Seriously...picture this! Why isn't this a movie?! It would be terrifying and awe-some.

Feet like fine brass, refined in a furnace.  
 Brass = judgment and sacrifice.  
 Strongest metal known to the ancients  
 “Blessed are the feet of those who spread the gospel...”

Sound of many waters...  
 You can hear and feel the sound of a waterfall and moving water from far away. It drowns out all other sound and draws you to it.  
 Powerful  
 Washing  
 Water is a good thing for us. We need it for life.

### **Picture this figure**

Right hand, seven stars.  
 He stretches out the heavens like a curtain

**[Psa 104:1-9 NKJV] 1 Bless the LORD, O my soul! O LORD my God, You are very great: You are clothed with honor and majesty, 2 Who cover [Yourself] with light as [with] a garment, Who stretch out the heavens like a curtain. 3 He lays the beams of His upper chambers in the waters, Who makes the clouds His chariot, Who walks on the wings of the wind, 4 Who makes His angels spirits, His ministers a flame of fire. 5 [You who] laid the foundations of the earth, So [that] it should not be moved forever, 6 You covered it with the deep as [with] a garment; The waters stood above the mountains. 7 At Your rebuke they fled; At the voice of Your thunder they hastened away. 8 They went up over the mountains; They went down into the valleys, To the place which You founded for them. 9 You have set a boundary that they may not pass over, That they may not return to cover the earth.**

**[Isa 40:12 NKJV] 12 Who has measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, Measured heaven with a span And calculated the dust of the earth in a measure? Weighed the mountains in scales And the hills in a balance?**

**Out of his mouth, a sharp two-edged sword. PICTURE IT.**

**[Heb 4:12-13 NKJV] 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. 13 And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things [are] naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we [must give] account.**

**Countenance like the sun in its strength. So bright it burns your eyes to look at.**  
Radiant, glowing. We'll see later that the new heavens and new earth don't need a sun.

The sun itself is a picture of God in creation.

Mount of transfiguration

**[Mat 17:1-3 NKJV] 1 Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, led them up on a high mountain by themselves; 2 and He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light. 3 And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, talking with Him.**

Jesus giving the disciples a little taste of what he is really and truly like. There's no mistaking him for God then.

Moses would have to cover his face with a veil as he would glow from being in God's presence on the mountain

**What John says next makes the most sense**

"When I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead"

Um yeah, we ded.

**Jesus doesn't just say "do not be afraid" he lays his hand on John His right hand. Hand of power and authority.**

**Behold, I am alive forevermore!** John, don't worry. I'm God, I'm alive, you have no reason to be afraid of me. You know me. I've washed you. Do not be afraid. I have power over life and death.

**Keys of hades and death**

The devil is not in charge of hell. He doesn't run a party down there. Jesus has the keys to the physical/spiritual place and death itself.

Again, Hades was a big deal in Greek/Roman religion

Abraham's bosom two compartments, hell and the abyss/lake of fire.  
Deeper study for another time.



### **Jesus repeats the instructions**

Write the things which you have seen, which are, and which will take place

Perhaps even the gospel, but the vision of Jesus here, the things he's about to show him which are currently (letters to the churches) and the future events he will see from his trip to eternity

### **Jesus explains the mystery right here**

Seven stars are seven angels of the churches. Angel means messenger. It doesn't mean that there is an angel in charge of each church, we'd get a cult like Mormonism or JW's getting visions from angels.

But I'm sure there are angels watching over the churches in a sense doing battles in spiritual realms

But it's the messenger of the church, perhaps the senior pastor. They represent the leadership.

I think it's all of the above. Sometimes it's dangerous to fall into one camp. Especially with spiritual vision.

Spiritual sights, like we'll see here, are often interesting, weird, scary or amazing. They have a direct tie in with physical places, people, events and times. But the physical is manifested in other ways.

Elisha and his servant

### **Seven lampstands are the seven churches**

These specific churches, we'll talk about church ages in another study, and probably even specific congregations (both in singular form and types of believers)

### **What a vision.**

John is to write these things down that we may READ, HEAR and KEEP what the ALPHA AND OMEGA has revealed about himself, about the church, judgment to come and heaven afterward.

Are you ready?