

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Lesson 1

John's Epiphany of the Glorified Christ

The Apostle John was a historical person. John wrote this letter to seven literal churches in literal Asia Minor. This was confirmed as such by all the next generation theologians like Justin Martyr, Tertullian, Clement and Irenaeus. It was written during the time of Roman Emperor Domitian (90-95 A.D.) who intensely persecuted the church. It would seem reasonable that in the midst of persecution the church should be given a book of such assurance, which gives them an explanation of God's purposes and also a promise of ultimate triumph and reward. Read Revelation Chapter 1.

1. Who is this revelation from? Who gave it to him? How was it communicated to John? (Rev 1:1). Would you say this claims to be divinely inspired? Is it an eyewitness account?
2. Who did John write this epistle to (1:4)? What is promised to "he who reads, hears and heeds the prophecy" (1:3)?
3. Revelation 1:5-6 gives 3 titles that describe Jesus' person and 3 statements about his work; what are they? Would these provide comfort to a suffering church?
4. What promise for the future is given in Rev 1:7? Does this correspond to Daniel 7:13-14, Zech 12:10, Math 16:27, 24:30 and Acts 1:11? Therefore, is Scripture consistent in spite of being written at different times and by different men?
5. In Rev 1:9-11 John sets the scene of the times and his circumstances. Do you think Patmos was a vacation spot on a pleasure cruise? Why was John there? What did he hear? Did the other Apostles who wrote the Bible have similar experiences (Acts 22:17-18)?

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6. The golden lampstand in the Temple was to provide “light”. Besides Christ, who symbolically represents spiritual light in a dark world* (Rev 1:12, 20; Math 5:14-16, 1 Peter 2:12, Phil 2:15)?

7. Who stood in the midst of the lampstands which represents the churches (v. 20)? Could this mean that in spite of the persecution, Jesus was standing with His churches and supporting them?

8. Dwell on the apocalyptic, symbolic description of the glorified Christ in Rev 1:13-16. Make a list of all the similes and categorize each as to Christ’s prophetic offices of High Priest, King, and Judge.

9. What was John’s response to this overwhelming vision (v. 17)? Is this consistent with man’s response throughout the Bible when confronted with the glory of God (Gen 17:3, Joshua 5:14, Isa 6:1-5, Ezekiel 1:28)?

10. Compare what Jesus says about Himself in Rev 1:17-18 to the description of God in Rev 1:8. What does this tell you about the deity of Christ? Review other passages about the eternity and power of Jesus such as John 1:1-4, 14, 18, 14:9, Phil 2:5-8 and Hebrews 1:1-3. According to these passages, has Christ existed eternally? Does he have the power of God? Who created all things? Who led a perfect life (Heb 4:15, 2 Cor 5:21)? Why do we need Jesus in our life (Heb 10:10-14, Rom 3:21-26, 1 Cor 1:30, 2 Cor 5:17-21, Gal 1:4, Eph 2:1-9, Phil 3:8)?