

Revelation

4-8-18



Revelation 1:1 (ESV)

The **revelation** of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his **servants the things that must soon take place.**

NT – How to live the Christian Life!

Revelation – What is going to happen to the world!

The Book of Revelation is contemporary!

Throughout history, there is a definite and ever recurring order of events. These cycles will happen with ever increasing intensity until world-wide on the Day of the Lord's return. This makes the book of Revelation pertinent to all people in all generations This is indicated at the end of Revelation.

Revelation 22:7 (ESV)

And behold, **I am coming soon.** Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.

We believe that Revelation is ultimately describing the **final judgment** and the **physical, bodily** return of Christ to the world. **However, in “every age” the book of Revelation continues to encourage the church when it is in persecution as well as to warn the church of Satan's multifaceted deception.**

Therefore:

Revelation 1:3 (ESV) O/H

Blessed is the one **who reads aloud** the words of this prophecy, and blessed are **those who hear**, and who keep what is written in it, for **the time is near.**

Therefore, I am going to be blessed for preaching Revelation and you are going to be blessed for hearing it☺ Since this book is “relevant” to all who read and hear theses words, **we see Christ identifying seven churches, which contained representative qualities of both obedience and disobedience which will be evidenced in churches throughout every age.** Therefore **all that is revealed is applicable to every age of church history.**

Now citing the whole Trinity, John makes a proclamation to the churches:

Revelation 1:4-6 (ESV)

John to **the seven churches** that are in Asia. Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come (God the Father), and from the seven spirits or sevenfold Spirit (the Holy Spirit) who are before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him (Jesus) who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Here at the beginning of Revelation, John jumps to the central theme of the Book of Revelation and central theme of all Christianity; **Jesus will return!**

Revelation 1:7 (ESV) O/H

Behold, **he (Jesus) is coming with the clouds**, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and **all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him.**

Christ's coming will be supernatural ("with the clouds") and when it happens "every eye" will see HIM! And when Jesus comes, there will be mourning among "all the peoples of the earth." Not only will Jesus' return be supernatural and cataclysmic, there will be a worldwide mourning because of the judgment HE brings on the earth.

Now John identifies himself and shares the how he received the revelation from Jesus!

Revelation 1:9-13 (ESV)

I, John, your brother and **partner** in the (suffering) and **the kingdom** and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet **¹¹ saying, "Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches..."** **¹² Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands (churches), ¹³ and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man (Jesus), clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest.**

Later in v. 20 Christ tells us that the "seven lampstands are the seven churches". If these churches are representative of all churches, the imagery represents the individual churches scattered among the nations. They are the light bearers of the gospel of Christ to the world.

We have imagined going to heaven and running and jumping into HIS arms and I believe that is accurate. However, that is not how Jesus appears when HE returns to earth. John goes on to describe how Jesus appeared to him.

Revelation 1:14-16 (ESV)

¹⁴ The hairs of his **head** were white, like white wool, like snow. His **eyes** were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵ his **feet** were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his **voice** was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶ In his right **hand** he held seven stars, from his **mouth** came a sharp two-edged sword, and his **face** was like the sun shining in full strength.

John's encounter with Jesus has a dramatic impact!

Revelation 1:17–18 (ESV) O/H **Bold**

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, **"Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸ and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades."**

Jesus' identifies HIMSELF as the "living One" as One who "died" and is now "alive forevermore". **This fact gives Jesus the authority over Death and Hell! Jesus then tells John to write down the things he has seen and that are going to take place in the future.**

Revelation 1:19 (ESV) O/H

Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and **those that are to take place after this.**

Now Jesus begins to reveal the mystery!

Revelation 1:20 (ESV) O/H

As for **the mystery** of the **seven** stars that 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 are the **seven** churches.

The number “7” is significant here and all through the entire Bible. It almost always is the number representing completeness. Therefore “7” churches is meant to represent “all” churches. Even though the words of Christ refer initially to the first-century churches located in particular places, **by the Spirit’s continual relevance** they transcend that time limitation **and speak to “all the churches” in every generation.**

Therefore, with the promise of Jesus’ return, the church through all ages says, “Come!”

Revelation 22:17 (ESV)

The Spirit and the Bride say, “Come.” And let the one who hears say, “Come.”

Prophetic Team

Hear from the Holy Spirit to change the current situation or impact the future