

Revelation Chapter One

- Revelation is the unveiling of Jesus Christ [1:1-3].
 - The Greek word ἀποκάλυψις (apokalupsis) means an unveiling or revelation.
 - God the Father instructed His Son Jesus Christ to unveil Himself in a vision to John which was communicated (explained) by His angel [1:1].
 - John then testified to the Church concerning the unveiling of Jesus Christ and those who heed the message of Revelation are blessed because “the time is near” [1:2-3].
- John addresses his message to the local churches under his apostolic authority [1:4a].
 - These churches are in Asia Minor, which we know as the nation of Turkey.
 - These churches are Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea [1:11].
 - Other Asian churches mentioned in the N.T. are Troas [Acts 16:8, 11; 20:5-6; 2 Cor 2:12; 2 Tim 4:13], Miletus [Acts 20:15, 17; 2 Tim 4:20], along with Assos, Mitylene, Chios, and Samos [Acts 20:13-17].
- The phrase “Him who is an who was and who is to come” is a reference to God the Father [1:4].
- The phrase “the seven Spirits who are before His throne” is a reference to God the Holy Spirit [1:4].
 - In Isaiah 11:2-3 we see the Holy Spirit referred to as six different “spirits”.
 - In Rev 3:1 and 5:6 the seven Spirits are mentioned in a context that applies to the Holy Spirit.
 - This is a Trinitarian sentence in which all three persons of the Godhead are referenced.
- Jesus Christ is described and His role at the second coming is highlighted [1:5].
 - He is the faithful witness [Rev 3:14].
 - He is the firstborn of the dead [1 Cor 15:20; Col 1:18].
 - He is the ruler of the kings of the world [Rev 19:16].
- Jesus Christ as Head of the Church [1:6].
 - He loves us [Rom 8:37] and released us from our sins by His blood [John 8:34-36].
 - He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to God and His Father [Rev 5:10; 20:6].

- The Second Advent is described [1:7].
 - He comes with the clouds [Acts 1:9-11] (this could be a reference to “clouds” of saints/angels).
 - Every eye will see Him (as opposed to the Rapture when only believers will see Him).
 - The families of the earth will mourn over the One whom they pierced [Zech 12:10-14].
- Jesus Christ declares Himself to be the α and ω , co-equal with God the Father [1:8].
 - α and ω = His eternal life [Isa 41:4; Rev 21:6; 22:13].
 - The Almighty = His sovereignty [Rev 4:8; 11:17].
- John was physically located on the island of Patmos where he had been exiled, but in his spirit he was transported to another time and place [1:9-10].
 - The phrase ἐν πνεύματι (en pneumatī) is used several times in Revelation to refer to this out-of-body spiritual transport [Rev 4:2; 17:3; 21:10].
 - John heard a voice that sounded like a trumpet and turned to see the vision of the Lord [1:10, 12].
- John’s vision must be accepted as revealed and taken literally in terms of the reality it represents.
- In a vision John sees the Lord Jesus Christ as High Priest and Head of the Church [1:12-16].
 - The seven golden lampstands are the seven churches John oversaw as an apostle [1:12, 20].
 - In the midst of the golden lampstands was the Son of Man, Jesus Christ [1:13 cf. Dan 7:13; Rev 14:14].
 - He appeared as the Ancient of Days and wore the garments of the High Priest [1:13-15; Dan 7:9; 10:5-6].
 - He held seven stars in His right hand, representing His headship over each “messenger” [1:16 cf. 1:20].
 - He was wielding the two-edged sword of judgment [1:16 cf. Rev 2:12, 16] which has dispensation of Israel (Tribulation/Millennium) significance [Rev 19:15, 21].
 - His face was like the shining sun – the glory of the Lord which lights up the world in the dispensation of the Fullness of the Times [1:16 cf. Rev 21:23; 22:5].
- Seeing the glorified Christ, John collapsed [1:17].
 - John had been comfortable enough to recline on Christ’s bosom in the upper room [John 13:23, 25].
 - Paul fell when he saw Christ in a vision [Acts 9:4].

- As we have seen the angel Gabriel comfort Daniel, Jesus Christ comforted John [1:17-18].
 - He placed His hand on John and told him not to be afraid [1:17].
 - He made sure John knew exactly who He is [1:17-18] teaching an incredible lesson as He did.
 - He restates the α and ω as the first and last [1:17].
 - He is the living One (alive forevermore), but once was dead [1:18].
 - He holds the keys of death and Hades [1:18].
- Jesus Christ gave God's outline for this book [1:19].
 - The things which you have seen [chapter 1].
 - The things which are [chapters 2 & 3].
 - The things which will take place after these things [chapters 4 through 22].
 - This outline also reaffirms God's dispensational plan for the ages.
- Jesus explained the stars and lampstands [1:20].
 - The lampstands are the local churches.
 - The stars are the "messengers" of the churches.