

REVELATION CHAPTER 1

Chapter Context

The apostle John begins this chapter by stating that he received the revelation of Jesus Christ by divine activity. God sent this vision to John while he was on the island of Patmos, likely as a punishment from the Roman government. This book follows John's four prior messages contained in the New Testament: The Gospel of John and the letters 1, 2, and 3 John. Chapters 2 and 3 tell what Jesus dictated to seven churches in Asia Minor, while the rest of John's message concerns future events.

4 Main Divisions

The introductory chapter of the book of Revelation, it contains 4 main divisions:

Revelation 1:1-6 – John's introduction to this book

Revelation 1:7-8 – John describes Christ's second coming in wrath against sinners

Revelation 1:9-11 – John's commission (calling) to write the book of Revelation

Revelation 1:12-20 – John's vision of Christ in the midst of His local churches

SUMMARY OF EACH DIVISION OF CHAPTER:

1. Revelation 1:1-6 – John's introduction to this book.

In this section of Revelation, we saw the book's author was God and was written to seven local assemblies of believers in existence in John's day.

We also saw how the book was handed down from God to Jesus Christ, to His angel, to the Apostle John. John was then to deliver this message to seven specific local churches of Asia.

Also, we had the true nature of the book revealed to us. It was a book that's purpose was to reveal Christ and events that must shortly come to pass through the use of symbolism.

Finally, we saw John's greetings to these churches. His greeting centered on the great blessings the members of the churches had received through the ministry of the Holy Spirit and the sacrificial death of Jesus. He closed his greeting by describing many different blessings that come to man through the death of Christ through faith in Him.

2. Revelation 1:7-8 – John describes Christ's second coming in wrath against sinners.

In this section of Revelation, we are given a warning about the second coming of Christ, and His great wrath that will fall upon sinful mankind.

Also, we saw a reminder of Christ position as Creator, Originator and Perpetuator of all creation.

All these truths of Christ reveal Him as the Almighty God.

3. Revelation 1:9-11 – John's commission (calling) to write the book of Revelation.

In this section of Revelation, we are told of John's current condition, being a prisoner held on the isle of Patmos.

Also, John explains to us that he received a vision from God that directly called Him to deliver this message to the seven local churches of Asia: Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.

4. Revelation 1:12-20 – John's vision of Christ in the midst of His local churches.

In this section of Revelation, John receives a vision of Christ which emphasizes His close relationship and communion with His assemblies.

In this vision, we saw Christ standing in the middle of a circle of candlesticks, each representing local assemblies. The pastors of these assemblies are symbolized by seven stars that are being held in the hand of Christ.

Much can be learned about Christ through the symbolic description we are given. In this vision, we see Christ as perfectly righteous; our great High Priest; pure and without blemish of any kind; possessing perfect truth, understanding, and wisdom; flawless in rendering and executing judgment upon mankind.

And, finally, in this vision we see the great authority, power and importance of the Word of God being symbolized through the sharp, two-edged sword that is seen coming out of the mouth of Christ.

This section is a perfect introduction to the individual messages to the church that will be given to John in chapters 2: and 3: