

COMMENTARY

Revelation Chapter 1:

vs. 1-3

John recorded his vision around 96-98A.D. The revelations was given to Jesus by God who then sent it by His angel to John who was in exile on the isle of Patmos. John was in exile because of his faith in Christ. He states that he wrote all that was shown to him and that we will be blessed if we will read it and take it to heart. John says the time of these events transpiring is near. Since this is the case, he is not trying to show us exactly when all this will take place and we should not study this book with the thought of trying to determine the coming of our Lord for nobody knows the time for it will come as a thief in the night (Matthew 24:36-51).

vs. 4- 8

John identifies himself as the writer and that his original readers were the 7 churches in Asia Minor. He states that grace and peace that we enjoy as Christians comes from God, Holy Spirit and Jesus. This same Jesus is worthy of glory and power for He has freed us from our sins and has made us a kingdom and priests to serve God. This same Jesus will return in majesty and all shall see Him come.

vs. 9-20

John now begins with his message to the 7 churches. He states that the visions came one Lord's day when his attention was caught by the sounding of a trumpet and the sound of a voice. Then he says, he was told to write the letter as he is now doing.

Before him, appeared 7 golden lampstands (representing the 7 churches-- see vs. 20) and one like the Son of Man (Jesus Christ) among them. This shows that He is among His people. A description is given which is best pictured as Jesus, so radiant that everything about Him appears white. The double edged sword proceeding from His mouth would represent the word of God, which He spoke (Heb. 4:12 God's word represented as a two-edged sword). The 7 stars that He held in His hand would represent the angels of the churches and show that Jesus was in control of even them.

Jesus identifies Himself to John and then explains some of the figures that he sees to help John and us in our understanding.

[Many figures are used in Revelation because it was written during a time of persecution and the figures would help it to get past the unsuspecting authorities, who would not realize what it was.

STUDY GUIDE

Revelation Chapter 1:

1. Who is blessed?
*Read Revelation
& Acts in*
2. How is Jesus described and what does John state Jesus has done?
3. What will be the response of people when Jesus returns?
4. How is Jesus described in verses 13 - 16?
5. How does Jesus describe Himself in verses 17 & 18?
6. What was John to write?
7. What do the 7 stars & the 7 gold lampstands represent?

BONUS:

1. What have you learned about John in this chapter? How is he an example to Christians today?
2. What do the descriptions of Jesus mean to you? How do you respond knowing what all He is and represents?
3. How would you feel if you were 1 of the 7 churches? IS this any different than having God's Word given to us today (the Bible)?