

REVEALING REVELATION: THE CHURCH ON EARTH (1-3)

Revelation 1:1-8. *Listen Up!* Father God sent this revelation about Christ Jesus to show His slaves [δούλοις] what must take place, soon [quickly?]. A messenger was sent to me, His slave John, and I am testifying to everything I saw: the logos of God and the witness [μαρτυρίαν, mar-tur'ian, 3141] of Christ Jesus Himself.

Why Listen? Closer to the Lord God is the one who reads this prophecy, and closer to the Lord God are those who hear, and take it to heart. The time is near.

I am John writing to [“the” is not there] seven churches in Asia Minor, greetings of mercy and reconciliation are extended from:

He—Who Is, and

Who Is to Come, and

Who Is Holy Spirit

and from

Christ Jesus—

the faithful witness, the first ever born from the dead, sovereign to all kings of the earth.

May glory and power forever and ever be given to He who loves us, and has freed us from the consequences of our evil by His redemptive blood, and made us into a kingdom of priests to serve Father God! Truly.

Behold, He is coming with [μετα, not εν, “in”]. Everyone will see Him, even those who killed Him. All will mourn because of Him. So it shall be, truly!

Q To whom is this revelation addressed; i.e., for whom was it written? Who provided this revealing?

Q When will all this prophecy take place [e.g., “soon” and “near”]? Note the differences in questions...

1. *Preterist*: When did this take place? (Assumes events have already taken place.)

2. *Historicist*: How was this prophecy fulfilled? (Assumes a historical record from Patmos onward.)

3. *Futurist*: How will this prophecy take place? (Describing the endtimes.)

4. *Idealist*: Why did John say “the time is near” when it was written 1900 years ago? (Metaphor.)

Q How is the Christ described here? “Firstborn from the dead?” King of all *earth* kings?

Q How did His blood free us from the consequences of our evil (i.e., “sin”)? Make us a kingdom, and priests in that kingdom?

Q Why will we who pierced Him mourn? Who did not pierce Him and will not mourn?

Q What claims to divinity did the LORD GOD claim in verse 8? So what?

REVELATION 1:1-8

The revelation of Jesus [the] Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

⁴ John, to the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits [or the *sevenfold Spirit*] before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus [the] Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ Look, he is coming with [μετα, not εν] the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him.

So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Revelation 1:9-20. *John's assignment*. As John your brother and companion in suffering, the kingdom, and endurance that is our in Jesus, I was on Patmos because of the testimony of Jesus and the authority of the LORD GOD. On the LORD'S day I was in Spirit [spirit?], and I heard a loud voice, loud as a trumpet. The voice said to write to the seven churches – Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

When I turned, I saw golden lampstands, and among them was one similar to a “son of man.” He was dressed in a long robe with a golden sash. His head was white as snow; his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were bronze glowing in a furnace, his voice like rushing waters. In his right hand, he held seven stars; from his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword. His face? Like the sun, shining brilliantly.

Of course, I fell down at his feet as dead. Then he reached down to me, with his right hand: “Do not be afraid—I am the alpha and the omega. I am the one who lives. I was dead, and look, I am alive, forever and ever. I hold the keys of death and Hades itself.”

So, John, write what you have seen, what is now, and what will take place later. The mystery? The seven stars in my right hand are the messengers to the seven lampstands, my seven churches in Asia Minor.

Q To whom was John referring when revealing in verse 13 that among the lampstands stood someone “like a son of man?”⁶ So what?

Q With what hand did He hold 7 stars? With what hand did he reach down to comfort John? So?

Q Why would the Christ, or John, use “Hades”⁷ (an un-Biblical word) to describe hell?

Q Which interpretative approach (*Preterist, Historicist, Futurist, or Idealist*) is supported by the Christ's instructions in verse 19?

⁶Daniel's revelation to Belshazzar, King of Babylon, while Daniel was in captivity was:

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all peoples, nations and men of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” (Daniel 7:13-14, NIV)

⁷“In Greek mythology, Hades is both the land of the dead and the god who rules there. Hades the god (who the Greeks also called Pluto) is the brother of Zeus and Poseidon, who rule the skies and the seas. The realm called Hades, where he rules with his wife Persephone, is the region under the earth, full of mineral wealth and fertility and home to dead souls.” See [Merriam-Webster.com/dictionary/Hades](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Hades) as downloaded 11/2/2024. “Hades” is used in the New Testament 10 times, by the Christ, Peter, and John.

REVELATION 1:9-20

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the [“the” in not there] Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,¹¹ which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

¹²I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,¹³ and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” [Daniel 7:13] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest.¹⁴ His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire.¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters.¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.”

¹⁹Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.”