

Behold: Blessings of the Revelation!**BEHOLD: The Revelation!**

January 7, 2026

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ,” as the opening words indicate, is a very visual book! Revelation calls us to “Behold” some 27 times and is commissioned by God for the blessing (12x) of “His bond-servants.” With the eyes of our hearts wide open, let’s read and heed what God has for us today!

A Communication from God Rev 1:1-6**The Preface** — Jesus Christ unveiled in impending events

This book (by divine inspiration) contains: (2 Pet 1:16-21)

- The word of God
- The testimony of Jesus Christ
- The visions shown to John the Apostle

Blessed: those who read/hear/heed these words of prophecy!

The Salutation — a letter to 7 local churches in Asia (Turkey today)

Grace (God’s loving favor), Peace (God’s sovereign presence)

- “Him who is, who was, who is to come” (1:4, 8)
- “seven spirits” full ministry (Isa 11:3; Rev 3:1, 4:5, 5:6)
- “Jesus Christ... faithful witness ... firstborn of the dead ... ruler of the kings of the earth” (Rev 19:16)

The Dedication — to Jesus Christ be eternal glory & reign

Because of His love for us, freeing us from sin by His blood

... making us citizens of His kingdom, priests to God

Approach — *convictions that underlie interpretations*

Idealist: **Preterist:** **Historicist:** symbols variously applied

Futurist: visions of ch 4-22 describe future literal events

The Key Event: Jesus Christ Revealed Rev 1:7-8

Behold, He 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. Even so. Amen. (cp 19:1-16)

(Matt 24:30; Zech 12:10-12; Jn 19:37)

Faithful fulfilment of promise (Dan 2:44; Tit 2:13) affirmed by **the Lord** (authority) **God** (might) = Almighty (both forever) **Alpha & Omega** (beginning & culmination of all) **Is, was, will be** (eternally present sovereign now, then, future)

A Commission from God Rev 1:9-20**The Circumstance** — John, on Isle of Patmos, Aegean Sea, 95 AD

Brother (believer), team member (bond servant) in the kingdom
Tribulation & perseverance (common to all believers in Christ)
Exiled by Rome due to Bible teaching & telling people of Jesus
Sunday, “in the Spirit” of worship and prayer (Acts 10:9-10, 22:17)
Voice like trumpet – write what you see, send it to 7 churches

Why use visions? Even when related in words ... mental images: have immediate “gut” impact “all at once” on several levels.

Emotions – fear, joy, dread, awe, love, kindred

Physical – adrenalin, kneel, flee, approach, etc.

Intellectual – sense character, intent, personal relevance

Will – faith, worship, rejection, oppose, etc.

The Vision of the Lord of the Local Churches

7 gold lampstands = the 7 local churches (vs. 11,20)

One like the Son of man (Dan 7:9-14, 10:6; Mt 9:6; 20:28; Rev 14:14)

full robe, gold sash, pure white hair, eyes like fire,

feet like molten brass, voice like roar of waters

7 stars in right hand, sword from mouth, face like sun

(penetrating insight, wisdom, purity, authority as judge!)

7 stars = angels/messengers of 7 churches

John’s reaction: Overwhelming fear > passed out

Jesus’ response: Fear not! I AM alive! I hold the keys!

The Commission – “write therefore ...”

Things which you have seen (ch. 1)

Things which are (ch 2-3)

Things which shall take place (ch 4-22)