

Chapter I

Introduction to the Book of Revelation

The book of Revelation is a book about Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:1, *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John: (KJV)*

The revelation OF Jesus Christ is the revelation FROM Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ gave this revelation from God to John by means of an angel. (Rev. 1:5) The phrase *which must shortly come to pass* does not mean things will come to pass soon; but when they do begin to happen they will come swiftly or speedily. The word is not necessarily *immediately* but *quickly* when it begins to happen. The same Greek word is used in Luke 18:8 and translated *speedily*. It is also used in Romans 16:20, “And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly.”

The prophecy of Revelation was not written to satisfy intellectual curiosity about the future. It was written so that the Church might be able to live in the will of God by keeping the word of this prophecy. No matter what generation or dispensation we live in, as Christians we find ourselves caught in a struggle between Jesus Christ and the Antichrist or between good and evil. John wrote so that we can be steadfast and have unswerving loyalty to Jesus Christ in the face of demonic pressures and persecutions. To the Believers that endure to the end the Lord promises the Blessing. The book of Revelation was so neglected by the Church and its meaning confused by many. It contains more promises of blessing than any other book of scripture with the exception of the book of Matthew.

The book of Revelation is the newspaper of tomorrow but it is also a handbook for today.

The Living Bible version of Revelation 1:1 reads, *This book unveils some of the future activities soon to occur in the life of Jesus Christ. God permitted him to reveal these things to his servant John in a vision; and then an angel was sent from heaven to explain the vision's meaning.*

The Seven Beatitudes in Revelation

1. Revelation 1:3: **Blessed** is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.
2. Revelation 14:13: And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, **Blessed** are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.
3. Revelation 16:15: Behold, I come as a thief. **Blessed** is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.
4. Revelation 19:9: And he saith unto me, Write, **Blessed** are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.
5. Revelation 20:6: **Blessed** and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.
6. Revelation 22:7: Behold, I come quickly: **blessed** is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.
7. Revelation 22:14: **Blessed** are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

22. Symbols Interpreted in Revelation

Text	Symbol	Interpretation
1:20	Seven stars	Angels of the seven churches
1:20	Seven lampstands	Seven churches
2:9; 3:9	Synagogue of Satan	Those who say they are Jews but are not
4:5	Seven blazing lamps	Seven spirits, or sevenfold Spirit, of God
5:8; 8:3-4	Golden bowls of incense	Prayers of the saints
7:9, 13-14	Great multitude	Those wearing white robes who have come out of the Great Tribulation
8:10-11	Great blazing star	Named Wormwood, meaning bitterness
9:11	Angel of the Abyss	Hebrew name is Abaddon, Greek name is Apollyon, both meaning Destroyer
11:3-4	Two witnesses	Two olive trees and two lampstands that stand before the Lord of the earth
11:8	Great city	Sodom and Egypt, where also the Lord was crucified
12:5	Male child	Son who will rule all nations with an iron scepter
12:9; 20:2	Great Dragon	Ancient Serpent, Devil, Satan
12:17	Offspring of the woman	Those who obey God's commandments and hold to the testimony of Jesus
13:18	666	Number of the Beast and a man's number
14:1, 3-4	144,000	Virgins redeemed from the earth who did not defile themselves with women
16:13-14	Three evil spirits	Demonic spirits that perform miraculous signs and gather the kings for battle
16:16	Harmagedon (Armageddon)	In Hebrew, place where kings are gathered for the great battle
17:1, 15	Many waters	Peoples, multitudes, nations, and languages
17:3, 5	Woman sitting on a scarlet beast	Mother of prostitutes and of the abominations of the earth
17:3, 5, 18	Woman sitting on a scarlet beast	Great city Babylon that rules over the kings of the earth
17:3, 7, 9	Seven heads of scarlet beast	Seven hills on which the woman sits
17:3, 7, 10	Seven heads of scarlet beast	Seven kings: five fallen, one is, one has not yet come
17:3, 7, 12	Ten horns of scarlet beast	Ten kings who have not yet received a kingdom but will rule for one hour
19:8	Bride's fine linen	Righteous acts of the saints
19:11, 16	Rider on a white horse	King of kings and Lord of lords
20:5	1,000 years	First resurrection
20:8	Gog and Magog	Nations in the four corners of the earth
20:14; 21:8	Lake of fire	Second death
21:2, 9-10	Holy City, New Jerusalem	Bride, the wife of the Lamb