

REVELATION Chapter 1

Teacher: John M. Brown, Olive Hill Church of Christ, Sunday Bible Class, June 2014

I. INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK, 1:1-8

A. The message John received:

1. Its origin: FROM GOD
2. Its time frame: SHORTLY COME TO PASS
3. Its characteristic: “SIGNIFIED” = “*sign – i – fied*”
4. John’s responsibility: HE BARE RECORD
5. The reader’s responsibility: READ, HEAR, KEEP
6. Who John addresses: GOD’S SERVANTS (v.1); SEVEN CHURCHES in Asia (v.4)

B. The description of God:

1. The Father: “*Him which is...which was...which is to come*” – Past, present, future
2. The Holy Spirit: “*seven spirits which are before his throne*” – Fulness! (cf. Isa. 11:2)
3. Jesus Christ
 - a. Faithful witness (John 5:31-47).
 - b. First begotten of the dead (Acts 26:23; 1 Cor. 15:20-23; Col. 1:18).
 - c. Prince of the kings of the earth (1 Tim. 6:15).
 - d. The One who loved us, washed us, made us kings and priests (1 Pet. 2:5,9).
 - e. He cometh with clouds – every eye shall see Him.
 - f. Alpha & Omega (first and last letters of Greek alphabet): is, was, is to come.

NOTE ON VERSE 6: In what way are Christians “kings”?

We reign with Christ! (1 Cor. 15:24-25; Revelation 5:8-10)

1. We reign in life through righteousness (Romans 5:17).
2. We reign with the apostles as we follow their teaching (1 Corinthians 4:8).
3. We reign by righteous judgment (1 Corinthians 6:2-3)
4. We reign by enduring (2 Timothy 2:12).
5. We reign by overcoming (Revelation 3:21).
6. We reign by ruling over the nations (Rev. 2:25-27; cf. Jeremiah 1:10; Matt. 5:5).

CHRIST REIGNS NOW! CHRISTIANS REIGN NOW WITH HIM!

II. JOHN'S REFLECTION OF HIS VISION FROM CHRIST, 1: 9-20

A. John's situation, vv. 9-11

1. He is a brother and companion in tribulation, the kingdom, and patience – on the isle of Patmos for the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ.
2. He describes himself as “in the Spirit” on the Lord's day – he heard a voice as of a trumpet (cf. Exodus 19:16).
3. John is told to write what he sees and send it to the seven churches in Asia.

B. John's vision, vv. 12-16

1. Seven golden candlesticks (the seven churches, verse 20).
2. The Son of man
 - a. Clothed with a garment down to the foot: **PRIESTLY** (Heb. 5:6)
 - b. Girt with a golden girdle: **HIGH PRIEST** (Ex. 28:39-40; Lev. 8:7; Heb. 6:20)
 - c. Head and hair white like wool: **ANCIENT – ETERNAL** (John 1:1-3; 14:9)
 - d. Eyes as a flame of fire: **ALL SEEING JUDGE** (John 2:24-25; Rom. 2:16)
 - e. Feet like fine brass: **A TRIED FOUNDATION** (see Dan. 10:5-7, 14)
 - f. Voice as sound of many water: **POWERFUL VOICE OF GOD** (Heb. 12:26)
 - g. Seven stars in His right hand: **AUTHORITY** (Matt. 28:18; Heb. 1:3)
 - h. Sharp two-edged sword goes out of His mouth: **WORD OF GOD** (Heb. 4:12)
 - i. Countenance as the sun: **GOD'S GLORY** (Matt. 17:1-5)

C. John's reaction, vv. 17-20

1. John fell at His feet: **WORSHIP, ADORATION**
(cf. Ezek. 1:28; 3:23; 43:3; Dan. 8:17; 10:7-10)
2. What Jesus tells John:
 - a. To not be afraid – He is the first and last: **OMINPRESENT!**
 - b. Jesus liveth - was dead, and is alive forevermore: **ETERNAL CONQUEROR**
 - c. Jesus is the One who has the keys of hell and death: **OMNIPOTENT**
3. Jesus instructs John to write: have seen, are, shall be (past, present, future)
4. “angels of the seven churches” = “messengers”: *personification of the prevailing spirit (life) of the seven congregations*