

The Revelation
of
Jesus Christ
Part One: Christ in His glory
Or
The Things Which Are

I Hot off the press.

Revelation 1: 9 *“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*

John establishes his relationship with his readers.

*“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in **tribulation**, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ...”* **Rev. 1:9a**

Who am also:

Your brother.

Your companion;

Companion- *Gr* – sugkoinonos *phonetic*: soong-koy-no-nos’

A participant with others in any thing, joint partners.

In tribulation.

Tribulation- *Gr* – thlipsis *phonetic*: thlip'-sis

- 1 A pressing, pressing together, pressure.
- 2 Metaphorically oppression, affliction, tribulation, distress, straits.

In the kingdom.

In patience.

Patience- *Gr* – hupomone *phonetic*: hoop-om-on-ay'

- 1 Steadfastness, constancy, endurance.
 - a In the NT the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings.
 - b Patiently, and steadfastly.
- 2 A patient, steadfast waiting for.
- 3 A patient enduring, sustaining, perseverance.

Was in the isle that is called Patmos.

Patmos was a rocky island about 13.5 sq miles in area where Rome placed many of it's political prisoners. It is of little distinction, except for it's isolation.

There was/is no special spiritual distinctiveness, except that John wrote Revelation there.

Why was John there?

He was there for 2 reasons.

1. *For the word of God.*
2. *For the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

Was “in the spirit” on the Lord’s day.

Revelation 1:10a *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day...”*

No doubt, seeing that it was Sunday, he was in a state of worship that led to the Spirit coming down to commune with him.

Heard behind him a great voice, as of a sound of a trumpet

A **great** voice.

Great- *Gr* – *megas* *phonetic*: meg’-as

1 Great.

a Of the external form or sensible appearance of things (or of persons)

1 In particular, of space and it’s dimensions, as aspects.

a) Mass and weight: great.

b) Compass and extent: large.

c) Measure and height: long.

d) Stature and age: great, old.

b Of number and quantity: numerous, large, abundant.

c Of age: the elder.

d Used of intensity and it’s degrees: with great effort, of the affections and emotions of the mind, of natural events powerfully affecting the senses: violent, mighty, strong.

- 2 predicated of rank, as belonging to.
 - a Persons, eminent for ability, virtue, authority or power.
 - b Things esteemed highly for their importance: of great moment, of great weight, importance.
 - c A thing to be highly esteemed for it's excellence: excellent.
- 3 Splendid, prepared on a grand scale: stately.
- 4 Great things.
 - a Of God's preeminent blessings.
 - b Of things which overstep the province of a created being: grand things, could be used of proud (*presumptuous*) things, full of arrogance and derogatory to the majesty of God.

As of a **trumpet**.

Notice it did not say that it sounded **like** a trumpet.

It did not have the tones, or musical qualities of the wind instrument (in the Hebrew it would have referred to the shofar, not our brass instrument)

But it DID have other qualities that it shared with the shofar:

Clarity-the 'clearness' of the voice.

Reverberation-the 'ringing' of the voice.

Power-the 'punch' of the voice.

In short, the voice very much got John's attention.

God's voice tends to do that.

Exodus 20:18-21 *“And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.”*

Jesus, then establishes His credentials.

Revelation 1:11 *“Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.”*

I am:

Alpha-the first of the Greek alphabet. Meaning that Christ is the first and the beginning.

Omega-the last of the Greek alphabet. Meaning that Christ is also the last and the ending.

Notice that these are not just words. They are both nouns and are capitalized, meaning that they are PROPER NOUNS. These are not just words, nor are they just nouns. Nor are they just proper nouns. These are both PROPER NAMES!

In the OT, it was common for attributes of God, particularly newly revealed attributes, to be reflected in a new name for God being revealed. This makes sense when you consider the vast, and unknowable nature of God.

He ‘reveals’ himself in the OT in “bite sized” pieces, which, by themselves, cannot show us all of who and what He is. They

show us small amounts of Him, so that we can understand.

But taken all together, we start to get a better understanding of just who and what the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob really was.

**For a more modern take, think of an image on a screen. We think of what we see as a seamless picture. And if Seen from a distance, your eyes and your brain can build a picture from the arrangement of what is displayed. However, this large picture is not “A” picture at all. It is made up of millions of tiny ‘pixels’, or points. When you get close enough, you can see the individual pixels. They do not give us much information, in and of themselves, of what the entire picture looks like. But as you begin to recognize other pixels and put them together, and, as your piece of the picture gets bigger and bigger, you’ll have to step back a bit. Eventually, as you get farther and farther back from the screen, those individual pixels, which told us very little alone, begin to show us a more complete image. The more pixels you have, the better your understanding of the picture as whole.*

This is true also of Christ. In both the OT and the NT, he is given names that help us to understand his nature, person, abilities and attributes.

This falls right in line with what we know from scripture about God.

Psalm 41:13 *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting, and to everlasting. Amen, and Amen”*

Psalm 90:2 *“Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”*

Psalm 106:48 *“Blessed be the Lord God of Israel from everlasting to everlasting: and let all the people say, Amen. Praise ye the Lord.”*

Isaiah 41:4 *“Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am he.”*

Isaiah 44:6 *“Thus saith the Lord the King of Israel, and his redeemer the Lord of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.”*

Isaiah 48:12 *“Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also and the last.”*

Isaiah 46:10 *“Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do my pleasure:”*

II Recognition.

Revelation 1:12-16 *“And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; and in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks one like unto the*

Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.”

It’s an interesting choice of words which John uses here:

“I turned to see...”

Remember, John was blind, his eyes having been put out by his Roman jailers.

But, not only did John turn to see-he saw!

*“Amazing grace, how sweet the sound; that saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now I’m found, t’was **blind, but now I see!**”*

What did John see?

- 1 Seven golden candlesticks.
- 2 Seven Stars in Jesus’ hand.
- 3 One like unto the Son of Man.
 - 1) Clothed with a garment down to the foot
 - 2) Girt about the paps with a golden girdle
 - 3) Head and hairs white like wool or snow
 - 4) Eyes were like a flame of fire
 - 5) Feet like unto fine brass
 - 6) Voice as the sound of many waters
 - 7) In his right hand, seven stars

- 8) Out of his mouth, a sharp, two edged sword
- 9) Countenance shining as the sun

What was John's reaction?

The same as ANYONE who has EVER seen him.

He fell at his feet as dead.

Christ revived him with a touch of his right hand...

...and further identified himself.

I am:

- 1) The first and the last
- 2) He that liveth, and was dead, and am alive forevermore
- 3) Holder of the keys of hell and of death

III Rounding out the keys.

Keys to open the book of Revelation.

- 1 The 4 methods of interpretation.

Historicist-Panoramic view of history.

Preterist-Fulfilled shortly after written.

Idealist-Just moral lessons and stories.

Futurist-Mainly prophecy, yet to be fulfilled.

2 The seven rules regarding prophecy.

- 1) Prophecy is history written beforehand.
- 2) Same meaning for words of prophecy as history.
- 3) Don't seek hidden meanings.
- 4) Prophecy doesn't have to be fulfilled to understand.
- 5) Don't reinterpret God.
- 6) Take all prophecy as literal, unless you can't.
- 7) Let the Bible interpret itself.

3 Determine *WHEN* things happening.

Revelation 1:19

- 1) Write the things which thou hast seen. *The things which are now past.*
- 2) Write the things which are. *The things in the present.*
- 3) Write the things which shall be hereafter. *The things in the future.*

4 Determine *WHERE* things are happening.

IV First mystery solved.

Revelation 1:20 *“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches”*