

## *Preview of the Book of Revelation*

The word revelation comes from the Greek word *apokalupsis*, meaning “a disclosure or unveiling” literally “to take off the cover.” Too often we think of the book as mystical or non-understandable, when God's purpose is entirely opposite. Five times a voice from heaven told John, the writer, about something- that He would show him (1:1, 4:1; 17:1; 21:9; 22:6). God also pronounces a blessing upon those who read, hear, and keep the words and sayings of this book (1:3). He also emphasized that the book is not sealed (22:10).

The Book of Revelation is an unfolding of the Person of Jesus Christ. This theme must permeate our thinking as we study. Christ is depicted in many figures, Such as the Son of Man (1:13), a Lion (5:5), a Lamb (5:6), and a white-horse rider (19:11). He is repeatedly portrayed as the majestic Lord of heaven and as the worthy administrator of God's judgments upon the earth.

Revelation contains many practical and prophetic lessons. To study the book without amply considering both emphases would be unfair. This study should broaden our Bible knowledge, help us to understand better the time in which we live and inspire us with a new vision of God's holiness and faithfulness.

### *I. The outline of the book (Chapters 1-19)*

- A. First division “the things which thou hast seen” (chapter 1)
- B. Second division—“the things which are” (chapters 2, 3)
- C. Third division— “the things which shall be hereafter” (chapters 4-22)

### *II... The theme of the book*

- A. Redemption for the saints—the redeemed (5:9; 14:3, 4)
- B. Judgment for the ungodly—the earth dwellers (6:10; 1 1:10: 13:8)

### *III. The sevens of the book*

Seven is the number of completeness. Seven is mentioned at least fifty-four times, seven churches, seven seals, seven trumpets, seven vials, seven spirits of God, and so forth. The seven blessings of the book are notable.

### *IV. Interpretive guidelines of the book*

A. The relation of other prophetic Scriptures passages, especially the Book of Daniel, along with other prophecies, should be studied. Most of

the figures comparable are as follows:

1. "A time and times and the dividing of time" (Revelation 12:14; Daniel 7:25)

2. Michael the angel (Revelation 12:7) Daniel 10:13; 12:1)

3. The ten-horned beast (Revelation 13: 1; 17:12, 13; Daniel 7:7, 8)

4. "War with the saints" (Revelation 13:7; Daniel 7:21)

5. A blaspheming ruler (Revelation 13:5, 6- Daniel 7:25)

6. The ten kings (Revelation 17:12 Daniel 7:24)

7. The destruction of the beast (Revelation 19:20 Daniel 7:1 1

B. The synonymous time notes

1. Forty-two months (11:2 13:5)

2. One thousand, two hundred sixty days (1 1:3; 12:6)

3. A time, and times, and half a time" (12:14)

C. The use of proleptic style - sometimes written as though it had already happened. Examples: 6:17 12:7; 13:1; 19:11 20:2. (*Proleptic is defined as the description of something as existing or occurring before it could have done so*)

D. The sudden change from earthly activity to heavenly scenes. (Example: Revelation 14:1-5.)

## Lesson 4 – 22 November 2009

### The Glorified Christ

**Lesson Scope:** [Revelation 1](#)

#### **Lesson Focus**

John was banished to the isle of Patmos by the emperor Domitian, who ruled Rome from A.D. 81-96. On this rocky, barren island in the Aegean Sea, John received the Revelation.

This is the Revelation of Jesus Christ. In it is portrayed the conflict of the ages. There is no question as to the outcome of this conflict between God and Satan: Jesus Christ and the redeemed are clearly portrayed as the victors.

Revelation is written to the churches so that they would know about the things that would "shortly come to pass." It speaks of Jesus' return and the happenings surrounding this event. It also unfolds to us the person of Jesus. He is the eternal one (1:8), the Prince of the kings of the earth. His central position among the candlesticks identifies Him as the source of power for the church.

Jesus Christ is the highly exalted Son of God. From this glorious position He administrates the church on earth.

Study until you have a clear impression of Jesus and His glorified position. Notice that, in spite of His greatness and authority, He is interested in revealing to His servants what will happen (1:1). These things are written so we might not be alarmed but know that all things are under the control of our sovereign Lord.

**Lesson Aim:** To help us see the transcendent glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### **Theme Verse**

[Philippians 2:9](#). Wherefore God also has highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name.

## Lesson Text

### His Glorified Position

Rev. 1:1-11

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: <sup>2</sup>Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. <sup>3</sup>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. <sup>4</sup>John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; <sup>5</sup>And from Jesus Christ, *who is* the faithful witness, *and* the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, <sup>6</sup>And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup>Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they *also* which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. <sup>8</sup>**I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.**

<sup>9</sup>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. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup>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.**

### His Glorified Person

Rev. 1:12-20

And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; <sup>13</sup>And in the midst of the seven 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. <sup>14</sup>His head and *his* hairs *were* white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes *were* as a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and

his voice as the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, **Fear not; I am the first and the last: <sup>18</sup>I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death. <sup>19</sup>Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter; <sup>20</sup>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.**

### **Questions for Study**

#### **His Glorified Position**

1. What is the revelation of Jesus Christ? What is its purpose?
2. How is Christ's glory revealed by His dealings with men?
3. Discuss the attributes of Christ given in verse 8.
4. How should Christ's exalted position encourage the saints?

#### **His Glorified Person**

5. Discuss the meaning of Christ's presence in the midst of the candlesticks.
6. How does Christ's appearance express His divinity?
7. What should our response be to the Son of God?
8. What are the keys of hell and of death?

### **Analyzing the Passage**

This book reveals Jesus, the eternal Son of God, our Saviour, who is higher in rank than any earthly king (1:5). It is written to prepare the reader for Christ's ultimate victory (1:3). No one will miss this event. To many it will be a tragic happening, bringing them indescribable grief (1:7).

Alpha (1:8) is the first letter of the Greek alphabet: Omega is the last. Jesus is eternal. His power brought all things into existence and will also affect their end.

The seven churches (1:11) were actual churches in Asia Minor perhaps John was personally responsible for them.

Jesus' position in the midst of the candlesticks (1:13) represents His loving

omnipresence. It also shows His omniscience and omnipotence. His golden girdle speaks of His faithfulness and righteousness. His head and hair 'white like wool' (1:14) symbolize absolute purity and infinite wisdom. His look is searching and penetrating as a flame, nothing can be hidden from it. His feet "like unto fine brass" typify unerring judgment. His voice as the sound of many waters- is authoritative, arresting and majestic. Holding the seven stars in His right hand shows His authority over the church. The two-edged sword is His Word, able to meet all of man's need (Hebrews 4:12). His countenance shines perpetually never faltering or waning. This eternal, majestic One controls the destiny of all mortals (1:18).

## **Principles and Applications**

### **His Glorified Position**

1. *Jesus is God's divine revelation to man (1:1).*

God's intention was to fellowship with man, but sin ruined the possibility of a relationship. Jesus restored that loss by living as a perfect man and giving His life on the cross. He is the central figure in all of human history, offering forgiveness and reconciliation to all men. Unfolding end-time events will convince everyone that Jesus deserves all praise and worship (Isaiah 45:23-24).

2. *The glory of Christ is founded upon His redemptive work for man-kind (1:5).*

Man cannot solve the sin problem: he cannot save himself. Only the sinless One was worthy to pay the price of sin. His willingness to humble Himself to endure the death of the cross earns Him the right to all glory (Phil.2:10-11)

3. *The glory of Christ is revealed by His dealings with men (1:6-7).*

Who but Christ could take ruined man and elevate him to become a royal priesthood (1 Peter 2:9)? Spotless lives, directed by the Spirit, are a daily revelation of glory. The ungodly will acknowledge Christ's greatness by their fear of His presence and by bowing their knees and confessing Him as King (Romans 14:11).

4. *Jesus eternal existence identifies Him as the Almighty (1:8).*

He is the sovereign Creator of all things (Colossians 1:16). He not only created all things but also sustains them and will bring them to an end. Our lives are in His hand; all our plans are subject to the sovereignty of Alpha and Omega (James 4:15).

5. *The glory of Christ abides among the churches (1:11-13).*

Christ loves to dwell among His people. It is His redemptive work that makes this fellowship possible. Permitting sin in the church severs this relationship and results in our candlestick being removed (Revelation 2:5).

**His Glorified Person**

6. *The divine attributes of Christ reveal His glory (1:13-16).*

No other display has ever matched the majesty of Christ. Every feature is consistent with His character. As we allow His grace to perfect us, it is possible for us to stand blameless in His holy presence.

7. *The glory of Christ produces humility, and surrender in His people (1:17).*

A true understanding of ourselves reveals our utter unworthiness. Even the saints feel defiled and undone in His holy presence (Isaiah 6:5). The least we can do is meekly comply with His holy will.

8. *Viewing Christ's glory inspires and strengthens God's people (1:17).*

We view this glory by faith through the revelation of the Word. Someday we will see Him face to face and be like Him (1 John 3:2). Meanwhile, He is capable of enabling us to fulfill our calling. Applying His blood to our hearts allows us to commune with Him in spirit.

9. *Christ's divine power and authority display His glory (1:18).*

O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory"" (1 Corinthians 15:55). Christ utterly defeated death by rising from the dead. He will finally empty the graves, call all men of all time to judgment and confirm their eternal destiny.

**Important Teachings**

1. Jesus is God's divine revelation to man (1:1).
2. The glory of Christ is founded upon His redemptive work for mankind (1:5).
3. The glory of Christ is revealed by His dealings with men (1:6-7).
4. Jesus' eternal existence identifies Him as the Almighty (1:8).
5. The glory of Christ abides among the churches (1:11-13).
6. The divine attributes of Christ reveal His glory (1:13-16).
7. The glory of Christ produces humility and surrender in His people (1:17).
8. Viewing Christ's glory inspires and strengthens God's people (1:17).
9. Christ's divine power and authority display His glory (1:18).

## Answers to Questions

1. *What is the revelation of Jesus Christ? What is its purpose?*

This revelation is the disclosing of future events and the role that Jesus Christ fills in those events. The implications, however, are much broader. Through these events our Lord is revealed for who He truly is—our Saviour, the Sustainer, the Judge, our High Priest, King of kings, and Lord of lords. Through this revelation His position and character are more clearly evident.

The purpose is to show us what will "shortly come to pass." Knowing these things keeps us prepared and assures us that things are controlled and moving according to God's timetable.

2. *How is Christ's glory revealed by His dealings with men?*

His glory is revealed by His redemptive work, which is progressing to culmination at the end of time. The unity and blessedness of the church give evidence of His glory. The wailing of nations will be their own admission of the Lord's right to be their Lord.

3. *Discuss the attributes of Christ given in verse 8.*

Alpha and Omega depicts His eternal existence. He does not just exist eternally; He is the beginning—the Creator of all things—and the ending—the sustainer and conclusion of all things. He is unchanging and all-powerful.

4. *How should Christ's exalted position encourage the saints?*

Christ is qualified to be our Redeemer. As the Almighty, He is not threatened by any opposition. His position predetermines the outcome of the saints' warfare against evil.

5. *Discuss the meaning of Christ's presence in the midst of the candlesticks.*

His presence in the midst portrays His omniscience and omnipresence. It indicates His closeness to and His involvement with the affairs of His people (Hebrews 4:15).

6. *How does Christ's appearance express His divinity?*

His garments portray dignity and rank. His hair white as wool and snow depict purity and majesty. His eyes are all-seeing, penetrating to the deepest recesses of men's lives. His feet represent His true and just dealings with men. His voice is authoritative; it cannot be disregarded or refuted. He speaks truth that is capable of penetrating deep into men's hearts (Hebrews 4:12). His countenance continually shines upon His people; never does He

grow weary or become distracted.

*7. What should our response be to the Son of God?*

We should be humbled and see ourselves as unworthy of His attention. We surrender to His wishes for our life.

We see Christ as the one who is capable of meeting our spiritual needs. We trust His sustaining power to keep us. We commit our soul to Him because He has the keys of hell and of death.

*8. What are the keys of hell and of death?*

The Greek word for hell in this passage is Hades (the grave). Christ has authority over death; His power will raise the dead from the grave. He said, "I am the resurrection, and the life." He has the ability to bring things to final disposition.

### **Summarizing the Lesson**

I am he that liveth, and was dead:... behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen. On earth Christ humbled Himself and gave His life to redeem mankind. His redemptive work elevates Him above every name that is named (Ephesians 1: 19-23). He is the Sovereign of creation. Someday soon "He cometh with clouds: and every eye shall see him.... Even so, Amen."

### **Research Guide**

1. For an overview of Christ, read the chapter titled "God the Son" in *Doctrines of the Bible*. (Daniel Kauffman, Editor)
2. Read Philippians 2:5-11. Notice that Christ's glorified position is a result of the redemptive work He accomplished.
3. Read verses in Nave's Topical Bible under "Jesus, the Christ—Creator." His control and authority are unquestioned if we see Him as Creator.