

# Revelation of Jesus Christ

## Study 1

### Introduction to the Study.

Winston Churchill once described the former Soviet Union as **“a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma”**

Many Christians view the book of Revelation in much the same way. Their

Bewildered by its mystifying symbolism and striking imagery, many believers (including some pastors, who never preach through the Revelation) avoid serious study of the book.

Even John Calvin, the greatest commentator of the Reformation, who wrote commentaries on the other books, did not attempt to write a commentary on the Revelation.

But they miss out on the promises of the book [Verses 1:3;22:7](#) Read

Those who ignore the Revelation deprive themselves of a rich treasure of divine truth.

The Revelation take a high view of God’s inspired Word.

It claims divine inspiration for itself [1:2](#) Read

The Revelation reveals God the Father in all His glory and majesty, describing Him as holy ([4:8](#)) omnipotent ([4:11](#)), wise ([7:12](#)), sovereign ([4:11](#)), and eternal ([4:10](#)).

The Revelation details the depths of man’s depravity. Despite experiencing the final outpouring of God’s devastating wrath and judgment on sinful mankind, people will nevertheless harden their hearts (like Pharaoh before them) and refuse to repent ([9:20-21](#))

Scripture contains no clearer summation of the doctrine of redemption than that of the Revelation ([1:5](#))

The Revelation contains one out of every four references to angels in Scripture.

The Revelation warns the church of the dangers of sin and compromise with the world (chapter 2 and 3) and teaches how to properly worship God. Chapters 4 and 5

The Revelation is preeminently the Revelation of Jesus Christ, it describes Him by many titles, including:

The faithful witness ([1:5](#))

The firstborn of the dead (1:5)

The ruler of the kings of the earth (1:5)

The Alpha and the Omega (1:8; 21:6)

The first and the last (1:17)

The living one (1:18)

The one who holds the seven stars in His right hand,  
the One who walks among the seven golden  
lampstands (2:1)

The One who has the sharp two edged sword  
(2:12)

The Son of God (2:18)

The One who has eyes like a  
flame of fire, and feet like  
burnished d bronze (2:18)

The One who has the  
seven Spirits of God and  
the seven stars (3:1)

The one who is Holy and True (3:7)

The holder of the key of David, who opens and no one will shut and who shuts and  
no one opens (3:7)

The Amen, the faithful and true Witness (3:14)

The beginning of the Creation of God (3:14)

The Lion that is from the tribe of Judah (5:5)

The root of David (5:5)

The lamb of God (5:6; 6:1; 7:9-10; 8:1; 12:11; 13:8;  
14:1; 15:3; 17:14; 19:7; 21:9; 22:1)

The Lord Holy and True (6:10)

The One who is called Faithful and  
True (19:11)

The Word of God (19:13)

The King of kings, and  
Lord of lords (19:16)

Christ the Messiah  
ruling on earth with  
His glorified saints  
(20:6)

And Jesus the root and descendant of David, the bright morning star (22:16)

The Revelation affirms the full deity of Jesus Christ.

Far from being the mysterious incomprehensible book man imagines it to be, Revelation's  
purpose is to reveal truth, not to obscure it.

That fact is evident in its title “The Revelation of Jesus Christ” primarily in His second coming glory.

*Apokalupsis* (Revelation) could be translated “an uncovering, an unveiling, or a disclosure”

*Apokalupsis* describes something or someone that was formerly hidden, but now becomes visible.

The Revelation unveils truths about Jesus Christ, and makes clear features of prophetic truth only hinted at in the Old Testament and other New Testament books.

This clarity is often obscured by a rejection of the principles of literal interpretation in favor of an allegorical or spiritualizing hermeneutical method.

Such approaches attempt to place Revelation’s account in the past and present rather than the future.

But once the plain meaning of the text is denied, and interpreter is left to his own imagination, and the truth of this book are lost in a maze of human inventions void of authenticity.

Some who study Revelation do so seeking evidence to support their own (often bizarre or sensational) eschatological views.

But they miss the point.

The Revelation portrays Christ’s ultimate triumph over Satan, depicts the final political setup of the world system and describes the career of the most powerful dictator in human history, the final Anti-Christ

The date of the Book of Revelation is put at AD 96 during the reign of Domitian Emperor of Rome

It was written during a time of persecution of the Church, John had been exiled to Patmos, at least one believer had experienced martyrdom (2:13) and more persecution loomed on the horizon (2:10)

There are four approaches to this study that are taken by those who would study this book. They are:

1. The *preterist* approach, they view the book as a historical record of events in the first-century Roman Empire
2. The *historicist* approach, finds in Revelation a record of the sweep of church history from apostolic times until the present, usually by allegorizing
3. The *idealist* approach sees depicted in Revelation the timeless struggle between good and evil that is played out in every age. It ignores that the book claims to be prophecy as do the first two views.
4. The *futurist* approach sees in chapters 4-22 predictions of people and events yet to come in the future.

Only this approach allows Revelation to be interpreted following the same literal, grammatical –historical hermeneutical method by which non-prophetic portions of Scripture are interpreted.

Anything other than the futurist approach leaves the meaning of the book to human ingenuity and opinion.

The futurist approaches takes the book's meaning as God gave it.

So as we study we will take this straight forward view and accept what the text says. We will take the book as it comes in then normal fashion of language

Give out the outline

## BACK TO THE FUTURE: Revelation 1:1-6

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,  
 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.  
 3 Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.  
 4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,  
6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Many people are fascinated, even obsessed with the future. They faithfully read their horoscopes, seek out Tarot card readers, have their palms read, feed on futuristic science fiction material, or call one of the many psychic hot lines advertised on TV.

Some people delve more deeply into the occult, seeking our mediums (like King Saul), futilely and sinfully attempting to obtain information about what is to come by consulting the dead on behalf of the living (Isa 8:19)

19 And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? Should they seek the dead on behalf of the living?

The dead cannot of course respond to such efforts at contact, but demons do, masquerading as the dead and propagating lies.

All such attempts to discern the future, however, are in vain.

There is only One who knows and declares the future, God (Isa 44:7; 45:21)

7 And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and shall come, Let them show these to them.

21 Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the Lord? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.

Only in Scripture can truth be found about the future

The Old Testament Prophets, particularly [Isaiah](#), [Ezekiel](#), [Daniel](#), and [Zechariah](#) provide glimpses of the future.

So did our Lord Jesus in His Olivet Discourse, along with Peter and Paul in their inspired writing.

But the book of Revelation provides the most detailed look into the future in all of Scripture.

It is the fitting capstone of God's revelation to man in the Bible, the book of Revelation unveils the future history of the world, all the way to history's climax in the return of Christ and the setting up of His glorious earthly and eternal kingdom.

The book is given to us in eleven characteristics as given by John

1. Its Essential Nature

a. The revelation ([1:1a](#))

These two words are essential to understanding this book. This is the last chapter in the story of redemption. It tells how it all ends. It is clear and detailed. It is a revealing of the final chapter in our redemption as a church and individual believer.

2. Its Central Theme (of Jesus Christ [1:1b](#))

a. While all scripture is revelation from God ([2 Tim 3:16](#)) in a unique way the book of revelation is the revelation of Jesus Christ. It contains revelation from Jesus Christ but also is a revelation about Him. It reveals Christ in His Exaltation while the gospels reveal Him in His humiliation.

3. Its Divine Source (which God gave Him [1:1c](#))

a. The book of Revelation is the Father's gift to the Son in a deep and marvelous sense. It was part of the reward for His perfect, humble, faithful, holy service. The Father promised to exalt His Son. Paul explains: ([Phil 2:5-11](#))

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus,  
6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be  
equal with God,  
7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a  
bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men.  
8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself  
and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the  
cross.  
9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the  
name which is above every name,  
10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in  
heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,  
11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to  
the glory of God the Father.

Christ's exaltation, promised in the last 3 verses (9-11) of the  
passage above is described in detail in the book of Revelation.

It contains the full disclosure of the Glory, that will be Christ's at  
His return, His ultimate reward from the Father for His faithfulness  
during His humiliation.

The first token of the Father's pleasure with the obedient Son was  
His resurrection, the second was His ascension, the third was the  
sendoff the Holy Spirit, and the last was the gift of the book of  
Revelation, which promises and reveals the glory that will be  
Christ's at His second coming

The book of Revelation details the Sons inheritance from the Father

Unlike most human wills, however, this document can be read  
because it is not a sealed, private document.

But not everyone has the privilege of understanding it, only those to  
whom God unveils it by His Spirit.

4. Its Human Recipients (to show His bond-servants (1:1d)
  - a. To further exalt and glorify His Son, the Father has graciously granted to a special group of people the privilege of understanding the truth found in this book.

John describes these people as His bond-servants. *Doulois* literally means “slaves”. The *doulois* (bond-servant), however was a special type of slave, one who served out of love and devotion to his master. (Exodus 21:5-6)

5 "But if the servant plainly says, 'I love my master, my wife, and my children; I will not go out free,'  
6 "then his master shall bring him to the judges. He shall also bring him to the door, or to the doorpost, and his master shall pierce his ear with an awl; and he shall serve him forever.

You have to know that this is why the unbeliever finds the book of Revelation incomprehensible; it was not intended for them. It was given by the Father to the Son to Show to those who willingly serve Him.

Those who refuse to acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord cannot expect to comprehend this book.

Paul Explains:

1 Cor 2:14 But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Divine truth is hidden from the worldly wise.

But to the servant this book is the unveiling of prophetic truth about the future of the world.