

Apokalypsis Ἰησοῦς Χριστός
The Revelation of Jesus Christ
Revelation 1:1-8

“It is no accident that the book of Revelation appears as the last book of the Bible. Revelation gathers all the threads of theme and historic events contained in the rest of the Bible, weaving them into a seamless whole. The entire scope of human history—and of eternity itself—comes into brilliant focus in the book of Revelation.

Someone has rightly observed that the book of Genesis and the book of Revelation are like two bookends that hold the entire Bible together. In Genesis we have the story of the origin of human sin; in Revelation we have the complete and final victory over sin. Genesis presents the beginning of human history and civilization; Revelation presents the end of both. In Genesis we learn the beginnings of God’s judgment and His grace toward mankind; in Revelation we see the awesome result of His judgment and the triumph of His grace. The great themes of these two books are intricately intertwined.” Ray Stedman

- I. The Lord lets us know in the very first verse that we have been given insight into things previously unknown by man. It’s a **revelation** or uncovering of things (**apokalypsis**) that God has previously kept hidden (**vs. 1**). It is a **revelation** given by Jesus Christ Himself. It is a **revelation** specifically given to those who have put their trust in Him for eternal life. He calls us his servants (**doulos - bond-servants**). The word usage depicts a specific type of slave, one who serves out of love and devotion to his master. It’s a **revelation** given by supernatural delivery. The book is unique because it is the only book sent and communicated to its human author by an angel. Angels appear in every chapter of Revelation except 4 & 13, over seventy-one times. It’s a **revelation** penned by the apostle John who visually saw the events in Revelation take place (**Vv.1b-2**). It’s a **revelation** that is prophetic in nature (it foretells of the things to come) (**vs. 3a**). It’s a **revelation** that promises to bless those who take what is written by Jesus and about Jesus **to heart**, i.e., seriously (**vs. 3a**). And it is a **revelation** that is imminent, i.e., it could occur at any moment.

Rev. 1:1-3

1 Cor. 2:9-10 *However, as it is written: “No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him” – but God has revealed (apokalyptō) it to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*

- II. Those who know Jesus, who are determined to live His will, who understand the awesome responsibility believers have been given to be salt and light in this world as His representatives, live under the power of God's grace, peace, and love. It is a power that comes from God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. It is an all-knowing, all-powerful power that enables us to stand firm in the faith as we face the onslaught of godlessness that seeks to deceive many, even the church, into accepting its ways as truth.

Rev. 1:4-7

Isa. 11:2

2 Peter 1:3 *His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.*

- III. Verses 7 & 8 give us a proclamation of the Lord Jesus Christ's 2nd coming. His coming is not on hold, nor does it remain dormant, but is instead active in the sense that He is providentially working to bring about everything necessary to usher in the tribulation that His wrath will bring upon a godless world that is under control of the evil one (**1 Jn. 5:19**). The terrible judgments that will transpire are necessary. The omniscient, eternally present, omnipotent God will fulfill all that he has promised in Scripture. It will happen! The time is short! Judgment is coming! Therefore, *what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming* (**2 Peter 3:11-12**).

Rev. 1:7-8

Dan. 7:13-14

Matthew 24:42 *Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.*