



END TIMES: WHAT'S GOING ON? "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" Revelation 1:1-20

No. 4603

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As we approach Revelation, we should bear three things in mind: It is "Apocalypse," a unique literary genre that requires careful study; it is a "prophecy," which deals with proclamation and prediction; and a "letter," which handles pastoral concerns.

I. The Prologue: Introducing Revelation. vv. 1-3

- A. Revelation is an "unveiling" of Jesus Christ by God to John for his servants.
- B. Revelation deals with issues that "must soon take place."
- C. Revelation is "The word of God" and the "testimony of Jesus."
- D. Revelation contains a special blessing for those who "take it to heart."

II. The Salutation. vv. 4-8

- A. A letter from John to the seven churches of Asia Minor.
- B. "Grace" (Greek) and "Peace" (Hebrew) from:
 - 1. He who "is, was, and is to come." See Exodus 3:14
 - 2. "Seven spirits..." Holy Spirit in His perfect activity? See Isaiah 11:2
 - 3. "Faithful witness," "firstborn from the dead," and "ruler of the kings."
- C. Praise to Him who "loves us," "freed us," and "made us."
- D. Joyful anticipation of His ultimate triumph over evil.
- E. Because the Lord God is eternally Sovereign!

III. The Instruction. vv. 9-11

- A. To John, "brother," "companion in suffering," "in Jesus," "on Patmos."
- B. "In the Spirit," "on the Lord's Day..." watch, write, and send.

IV. The Vision. vv. 12-20

- A. "Seven golden lampstands": the churches of Asia Minor. vv. 12, 20
- B. Someone 'like a son of man': awesome in dignity and intensity. vv. 13-16
- C. In His right hand: the stars, angels; place of honor, security. vv. 16, 20
- D. Out of His mouth a double-edged sword: He speaks powerful truth.

V. The Commission. vv. 17-19

- A. John's response to divine self-revelation...humble awe.
- B. John's re-assurance...don't be afraid because...
 - 1. "I am the First and the Last."
 - 2. "I was dead, and I am alive."
 - 3. "I hold the keys of death and Hades."
- C. John's commission: "write what you have seen; what is now; what will take place."