

REV 1: 1-8

The four Gospel accounts plus all of the Letters to the churches by Paul, James, John, Peter and Jude certainly paint a very clear picture of Who Jesus is; It has been noted that the four Gospels portray Jesus as Savior, Servant, Son of Man and the Son of God. In addition to all of what was written in these accounts and letters there are 39 Old Testament books that either explicitly or mysteriously reveal the Long Awaited Seed, promised in the Garden and was the center of nearly all prophetic messages given by the Major or Minor prophets.

The new testament writers spent as much time in teaching new believers how to live than they did in deeper theological discussions. Would it be safe to say that if there were only 26 books canonized as the New Testament that we would have a pretty thorough picture of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit? And we would also have a clear picture of the expectations of God towards His Church, right?

But, perhaps not.

Towards the end of his life, the last living Apostle, the self-proclaimed “beloved of Jesus”, was exiled to the Isle of Patmos which was about 40 miles off-shore from Miletus. This was a penal colony of the Roman Empire for those they deemed political enemies. It was “political” because John would have preached Jesus as God and King of all creation in direct conflict with Roman thought and practice.

During this time, John was commanded to write down everything he heard and saw when he was “In the Spirit”, perhaps akin to a trance-like state where he was experiencing a vision like no other! The vision was written down and it became the last Book of the Bible: The Book of Revelation;

It is both a very readable book as well as enigmatic, full of super-natural creatures, symbolism and horrific events, all, by most accounts, revealed when written but to be fulfilled in the End-of-Days aka the Time of Jacob’s trouble. I say “readable” because it wasn’t written for scholars, Pastors or teachers. It was written to us, bondservants of Jesus. Many of the symbols are explained in the Book.

OK...I’ve decided to teach just the first 3 chapters because I felt the Holy Spirit telling me that what Jesus said in these 81 verses is critical not just for The Church, but for our church. We must “grow in the Grace and Knowledge of our LORD and Savior Jesus (the) Christ” (2 Peter 3:18) if we are to grow at all. We don’t necessarily need programs and internally-focused ministries: we need Jesus to capture our full attention; we will do this through His Word, through Prayer empowered by the Spirit of Christ in us to manifest and share His Life to others, in and out of our Body.

So, let’s dig into this incredible book and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us what Jesus said then and now.

(Revelation 1:1) 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**,

Some call the book “The revelation of John” but clearly from verse 1, it is truly “the” revelation of Jesus Christ.

Strangely, God the Father gave it to Him. But if Jesus is God how can that be? Would you agree with me that the rest of the NT writers taught that Jesus was both God and Man, mysteriously united into one Person: Perfect God and Perfect Man. And, would you also agree that Jesus remains so, even today, in heaven? He did not “revert” back to pure Spirit but remains the same as He was after His resurrection:

Rom_5:15 But the free gift is not like the offense. For if by the one man's offense many died, much more the grace of God and **the gift by the grace of the one Man, Jesus Christ, abounded to many.**

1Ti_2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, **the Man Christ Jesus,**

Heb_10:12 But **this Man**, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, **sat down at the right hand of God,**

Colossians 1:15-22 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. (16) For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. (17) And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. (18) And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, **the firstborn from the dead**, that in all things He may have the preeminence. (19) For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, (20) and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, **by Him**, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. (21) And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled (22) **in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—**

The revelation contained “things” that must shortly take place. All symbols and all that happen point to real events that “must” take place; don’t muddle up the action with theology and mysticisms. These “things” are real.

And it was given to His bond-servants!

The readers would certainly know about the major prophets of the OT: Isaiah, Ezekiel, Daniel. And while the Book of Revelation has no direct quotations from the Old Testament, it has about 550 references back to the Old Testament (some believe upward of 1000). [Fruchtenbaum - the use of the old testament in the book of revelation]

Because the OT prophets wrote at different times and places and of different events, it would have been difficult to place all of these prophecies into a cohesive “whole”; A side-effect of Revelation is the placement of these prophecies in a better chronological order.

[Fruchtenbaum - the use of the old testament in the book of revelation]

And Lastly, Jesus gave it to an Angel who gave it to John!

(Revelation 1:2) who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

John bore witness to this “word of God” and to the “testimony” of Jesus by recording all that he was told to write (he was told to write down what he heard or saw 14 times in the Book);

(Revelation 1:3) **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.**

Whether told to John or not, this is the only book in the Bible that promises a blessing to those who hear (read) it AND keep those things written in it: “Keep” is also translated “guard” (as in protect); but the word also means to “heed” or obey! This has particular significance in the letters to the churches.

(Revelation 1:4) 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.

John is writing to the 7 main churches in Asia; The greeting is from God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

WHO IS:

Exodus 3:14 And **God** said to Moses, "**I AM WHO I AM.**" And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, '**I AM** has sent me to you.'"

Isaiah 41:4 Who has performed and done *it*, Calling the generations from the beginning? '**I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I am He.**' "

John 8:23-24 And He said to them, "**You are from beneath; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. (24) Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins.**"

John 8:58 Jesus said to them, "**Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM.**"

WHO WAS

John 1:1-2 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. (2) He was in the beginning with God.

Psalms 90:2 Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even from everlasting to everlasting, You *are* God.

WHICH IS TO COME.

Lamentations 5:19 Thou, O LORD, remainest for ever; thy throne from generation to generation.

Malachi 3:1 Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the LORD of hosts.

THE FIRST BEGOTTEN

Psalms 89:27 Also I will make him *my* firstborn, higher than the kings of the earth.

Romans 8:29 For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

Hebrews 1:6 But when He again brings the firstborn into the world, He says: "LET ALL THE ANGELS OF GOD WORSHIP HIM."

and from the seven Spirits who are **before His throne**

Isaiah 11:2 The **Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him**, The Spirit of **wisdom** and **understanding**, The Spirit of **counsel** and **might**, The Spirit of **knowledge** and of the **fear** of the LORD.

Seven is the number of fullness and completion – these are “aspects” or “attributes” of the **Spirit of the LORD**.

(Revelation 1:7) Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

He is coming with clouds:

This has reference to both the Rapture (meeting Him in the clouds) and the Second Coming (every eye will see Him).

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.

Matthew 24:30 Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of

heaven with power and great glory.

and every eye will see Him:

Absolutely every eye on earth will see him; those who came to believe during the Tribulation and the Jews who were said to have pierced Him

Zechariah 12:10 "And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

And every other person on the face of the earth! Perhaps a loud cry will be raised up: Oh My God! He's Real!

Even so, Amen

Yes! And Amen!

2 Corinthians 1:19-20 For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me, Silvanus, and Timothy—was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes. **(20) For all the promises of God in Him *are* Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us.**

(Revelation 1:8) "I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Note: in the Hebrew it would be the Alpha and Tau (the first and last letter of the alphabet;

Deuteronomy 32:39 'Now see that I, *even I, am* He, And *there is* no God besides Me; I kill and I make alive; I wound and I heal; Nor *is there any* who can deliver from My hand.

Isaiah 41:4 Who has performed and done *it*, Calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the LORD, am the first; And with the last I *am* He.' "

Isaiah 43:10-13 "You *are* My witnesses," says the LORD, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I *am* He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me. **(11)** I, *even I, am* the LORD, And besides Me *there is* no savior. **(12)** I have declared and saved, I have proclaimed, And *there was* no foreign *god* among you; Therefore you *are* My witnesses," Says the LORD, "that I *am* God. **(13)** Indeed before the day *was*, I *am* He; And *there is* no one who can deliver out of My hand; I work, and who will reverse it?"

Isaiah 48:12-13 "Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I *am* He, I *am* the First, I *am* also the Last. **(13)** Indeed My hand has laid the foundation of the earth, And My right hand

has stretched out the heavens; *When* I call to them, They stand up together.

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ *is* the same yesterday, today, and forever.

GOD ALMIGHTY – EI Shaddai

Genesis 17:1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, "I *am* Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless.

Genesis 35:11 Also God said to him: "I *am* God Almighty. Be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company of nations shall proceed from you, and kings shall come from your body.

And, in the oldest book in the Bible, Job, God is declared as the Almighty 31 times!

In the NT, Revelation has 8 verses that refer to Him as the Almighty; only one other Book in the NT refers to God in this way: 2 Corinthians 6:18 but it's quoting 2 Samuel 7:14!