

# Revelation 1:1-9

## Introduction

- A. Revelation from Jesus Christ sent and signified by His angel to his servant John.
- B. John was a witness to the word of God and faithfully reported what he saw.
- C. Those who **read** and those that **hear** the words of this prophecy and those who **keep the things written** therein will be blessed.
- D. Revelation is a Revelation of Jesus Christ both about Jesus and from Jesus.
- E. English Standard Study Bible: *"The revelation of Jesus Christ" (1:1) was probably written by the apostle John while in exile on the island of Patmos, off the coast of present-day Turkey. It was addressed to seven actual churches. Revelation begins with letters from Christ himself to these churches, letters that include commendation, criticism, and comfort. Then comes a long series of visions of judgment on the wicked, all in highly symbolic language. The church is depicted under great distress, but is assured of the final triumph of Jesus as "King of kings and Lord of lords" (19:16), bringing to an end the rebellion of humanity and ushering in "a new heaven and a new earth" (21:1), where God himself will reign forever and ever (11:15). Revelation was probably written a.d. 95-96.*

## Revelation 1:1-9

- A. Those who read. Reading the Scriptures is a form of worship. (Comments below from Halley's Bible Handbook Notes and the King James Study Bible)
  - 1. In John's day, books had to be written by hand and were scarce and expensive. People had to depend in large measure on the reading and teaching in church for their knowledge of Scripture. The invention of printing in modern times has made Bibles readily available to all—but this does not in any way eliminate the need for, and value of, the regular reading and exposition of God's Word in church services.
  - 2. God's Word was intended to have the central place in church services—then, and now, and always. It is the one thing designed by God to hold the church true to its mission. Not talking about the Word, but simply reading and hearing God's Word, which is sometimes rightly called "the Ministry of the Word."
  - 3. There are seven "Blesseds" in Revelation. These are called the Seven Beatitudes of Revelation (1:3; 14:3; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 27:7; 22:14)
  - 4. The ending statement of verse 3 is critical: "... **for the time is at hand**". King James Study Bible, *"in the sense that nothing else now has to occur before the Rapture and the beginning of the Tribulation Period."*
  - 5. From the King James Study Bible. *God gave the revelation to Christ to be shown to John by means of an angel (messenger). The word "revelation" (Gr. apokalypsis) refers to an unveiling or exposure of God's program for the world through Christ. The prophecies of the book will occur shortly in the sense that the day of the Lord (the end of the age) may begin at any time (following the Rapture). The statement must be understood in accordance with God's perspective on time (cf. 2 Pet. 3:4, 8). The word signified (Gr. esēmanen) refers to the conveyance of truth by means of signs and symbols, and refers to the visions described throughout the book. Symbols must be interpreted either from something in the context or from other Scriptures.*

B. Message to the Seven Churches Verse Four

1. To the churches in Asia. **Grace unto you and peace.** Seven churches in Asia Minor (now western Turkey). God existed in the past, he exists now, and he will exist in the future.
2. The Number 7 stands for perfection. The Seven Spirits of God denote the Holy Spirit. Zechariah 4:2 reveals his vision of seven lamps burning before the throne. Isaiah prophesied the sevenfold manifestation of the Spirit would rest on the Messiah, Isaiah 11:1-5.

C. Message to the Seven Churches, Verse Five

1. Jesus is the faithful witness and first begotten from the dead.
2. Jesus loves us and washed us from our sins in his own blood.

D. Message to the Seven Churches, Verse Six

1. We are made kings and priests unto God and his Father;
2. To him be glory and dominion for ever and ever

E. Message to the Seven Churches Verse Seven

1. His coming will be no secret.
2. Every eye will see him and all nations will mourn for him.

**Who is Jesus and John? Verses 8 and 9.**

A. Verse 8 says Jesus is the

1. Alpha and Omega
2. The Beginning and the Ending
3. Which is and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty

B. Verse 9 says John is

1. Your brother and companion in tribulation.
2. In the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ
3. He was in the isle called Patmos for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

The King James Study Bible says, *“Patmos is located about 60 miles from Ephesus and about 35 miles off the coast of Asia Minor. Tribulation refers to present afflictions, not to the future Tribulation period. Believers live in a present form of God’s kingdom (the church) though not yet in the promised messianic kingdom. Patience is perseverance or endurance (Gr. hupomonē). True believers in Christ will persevere through all their present afflictions, with John as their example.”*

**The church at Berea: [Act 17:11 KJV] 11 These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**