

Revelation

Lesson 2

Chapter 1

Apocalypse

- ◆ Notice that the Book of Revelation is at the end of the Bible. It barely made it into the scriptures. It's one of the two or three biblical books that calls itself a vision, a dream, yet it's a book that many people seem to take more literally than they do the non-dream books. Try interpreting your dreams and you'll see why people expound weird ideas based on this book.

Letter

- ◆ 1:4b - 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,

Prophecy

- ◆ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of the prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and who keep what is written in it; for the time is near.

Text

- ◆ ^{1:1} The apocalypse of Jesus Christ which God gave him to show his servants what must soon become reality; and he revealed this through the angel he sent to his servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God and who bore witness to Jesus Christ, as much as he saw.

- ◆ ³ Blessed is the one reading, and the ones hearing, the words of the prophecy, and the ones keeping what has been written in it, for the time is near.

The Time is Near

- ◆ Mark ^{1:14} Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, ¹⁵ and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

Revelation 1:4

- ◆ 1:4 John to the seven churches that are in Asia:
Grace to you and peace from the one who is,
and the one who was, and the one coming,
and from the seven spirits who are before his
throne,

Seven

- ◆ Favorite number of the Apocalypse
- ◆ In the Old Testament denotes “fullness,” that is the time for something to be done effectively, or a general designation of completeness or fulness.
- ◆ Sometimes the number seven is both literal and figurative.

Muratorian Canon

- ◆ “John , too, in the Apocalypse, though he writes to seven churches yet speaks to all.”

Revelation 1:4

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Exodus 3:14

- ◆ God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." He said further, "Thus you shall say to the Israelites, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Revelation 1:4

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Grace to you and peace from the one who is,
and the one who was, and the one coming,
and from the seven spirits who are before his
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Revelation 1:5-6

- ◆ ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness (martyr), the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To the one loving us, and who released us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests of God and his father, to him be glory and power unto eternity, amen.

Psalm 89:27

- ◆ I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.

Isaiah 55:4

- ◆ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples.

Revelation 1:5-6

- ◆ ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness (martyr), the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To the one loving us, and who released us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and made us a kingdom, priests of God and his father, to him be glory and power unto eternity, amen.

Revelation 1:7

- ◆ 7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even the ones who pierced him, and on account of him all the tribes of the earth will mourn. Yes, it will be. Amen.

Daniel 7:13

- ◆ ¹³ As I watched in the night visions, I saw one like a human being coming with the clouds of heaven. And he came to the Ancient One and was presented before him.

Zechariah 12:10

- ◆ And I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that, when they look on the one whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.

Revelation 1:7

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Revelation 1:8

- ◆ “I am the Alpha and the ω,” says the Lord the God, the one who is and the one who is coming, the Almighty (παντοκράτωρ).

Revelation 1:9-11

- ◆ ⁹ I John, your brother who is a participant in the trouble and in the kingdom and the endurance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the witness of Jesus. ¹⁰ I was in the spirit on the Lord's Day (Sunday) and heard behind me a loud sound like a trumpet ¹¹ saying, "what you see, write into a book and send to the seven churches - unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamum, and unto Thyatira and unto Sardis and unto Philadelphia and unto Laodicea.

Seven Churches of Asia



Revelation 1:12-13

- ◆ ¹² I turned to see whose voice was speaking to me, and upon turning I saw seven golden lamp-stands, ¹³ and in the midst of the lamp-stands one similar to the son of Man, wearing a foot length robe and gird all around the chest with a golden belt.



Zechariah 4:1-2, 10.

- ◆ The angel who talked with me came again, and wakened me, as one is wakened from sleep. ² He said to me, “What do you see?” And I said, “I see a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it; there are seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. ¹⁰ For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel. “These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth.”

Revelation 1:12-13

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Revelation 1:14-16

- ◆ ¹⁴ His head and hairs were as white as white wool, as snow, and his eyes as a flame of fire, ¹⁵ and his feet as fine bronze as having been burned in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of many waters. ¹⁶ Having in his right hand seven stars and out of his mouth came a sharp, two-edged sword, and his face shone like the sun in its full force.

Coin minted by the Roman Emperor
Domitian



Revelation 1:14-16

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Isaiah 11:4; 49:2

- ◆ ^{11:4} but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.
- ◆ ^{49:2} He made my mouth like a sharp sword, in the shadow of his hand he hid me; he made me a polished arrow, in his quiver he hid me away.

Revelation 1:14-16

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Revelation 1:17-18

- ◆ ¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead, and he placed his right hand upon me saying; "Do not fear; I am the first and the last.
¹⁸ and the living one. I was dead, and behold, I am living for eternity and I have the keys of death and Hades.

Hekate



Revelation 1:19

- ◆ ¹⁹ Now write what you have seen, what is, and what will be after these things. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand and the seven golden lampstands **is this:** the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.