

Revelation— The Ever-living One!

#3113 0218 24P This study: Revelation 1:8-20

AV **Revelation 1:7** “*Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him;*” AV Verse **8** “*I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.*”

Jesus knows the beginning to the end of everything since He is God—and He knows the future as well as we know the past. He is called “*the Almighty*” nine times in Revelation.

The apostle John receives these visions when he was banished to a 13 sq. mi. Greek Island in the Aegean Sea around 95 A.D. by the Roman Emperor Domitian.

Revelation warns us about what is going to take place in the world as we get closer to the Rapture. Our responsibility is to stay alert and read the signs of the times.

The apostle sees these visions and tries to describe what he is seeing—by saying: “*looked like*” or “*sounded like*” something we can relate to. For instance: “*sounded like a trumpet,*” we know it means loud and distinct. God wants us to understand Revelation!

Jesus says over and over AV **Matthew 11:15** “*He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.*” When Jesus speaks, we must listen and respond. Jesus truly loves us and is doing everything possible to get our attention so we can escape the Tribulation. AV **John 15:13** “*Greater love hath no man*

than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.”

As we study this Book of the future, we continue to “*look for that blessed hope*”—the sudden return of the Lord Jesus. And by His mercy, love, and grace, may we be able to stand before Him *Unashamed* of our attitudes toward people; *Unashamed* of our treatment of family members; and *Unashamed* of our life in general.

Only Christianity worships a *living* Savior—all other religions have founders who lived, died, and are in the grave, but we have a Savior who lived on earth; died on the cross for sinners; and rose to life by the power of *Almighty God!*

Jesus is now at the right hand of the Father in Heaven and waiting for His command to return for His children.

AV **Revelation 1:9** “*I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*”

John is a servant, a brother, and a companion to all believers. He says why he was banished to this prison facility on a remote island—it was because he was preaching the *Word* of God and telling the *testimony* of the Lord Jesus.

AV **Revelation 1:10** “*I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.*”

John was “*in the Spirit*” and saw this vision on the first day of the week. He says that he hears a *loud* voice—using a metaphor [comparison]

saying it “*sounded like a trumpet*”—very loud, clear, and distinct.

Jesus tells him to *write* what he sees because what he writes will be sent to the seven churches throughout Asia Minor—which today is modern Turkey. These seven *letters* are sent to seven *literal churches*—each during a distinct time in church history.

1. Ephesus from 33-100 AD; 2. Smyrna 100-312 AD; 3. Pergamon 312-606 AD; 4. Thyatira 606-1517 AD; 5. Sardis 1517-1750 AD; 6. Philadelphia 1750—Rapture present time today; 7. Laodicea 1900—Tribulation. Each represents a different time in church history.

AV **Revelation 1:12** “*And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks;*

13 *And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the [chest NKJV] with a golden [band NKJV].”*

Even though we are not given any description of the Lord Jesus in Scripture—we *do* have this vivid description of our risen Savior in His glorified form.

AV **Revelation 1:14** “*His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.*”

White always denotes *purity* as Jesus is *sinless*. Eyes like *a flame of fire*, means He is able to judge the *thoughts* and *intentions* of the heart. The fine brass of His feet denotes *cleansing* and being *spotless* as they were like bronze that has been *refined in a furnace* NIV.

AV **Revelation 1:16** “*And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.*”

The apostle tells us **AV Ephesians 6:17** to “*Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.*” Also, that **AV Hebrews 4:12** “*The word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword;*” and that the Word is “*A discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*”

His countenance shown with the brilliant light of a noonday sun—much brighter than any light on earth. It is the *Shekinah Glory* of Almighty God.

AV Revelation 1:17 “*And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, 'Fear not; I am the first and the last:*

18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.”

Several times Jesus said *Fear not*—He wants us to know that He is in control, He is the Almighty, and is the Ever-living One who intercedes for us at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus died on the cross *for* us, so that self, Satan, and all wrong attitudes we *had kept alive* in our heart, are *now dead* by our faith in the atoning and cleansing work of Jesus at Calvary.

We *worship* and *serve* the Ever-living One—while all other religions serve a leader who has died and is in a grave. Christianity is the only religion who worships an Ever-living Savior who gave His life for His children, so we could all live together with Him as a result of our faith in His atoning sacrifice on the cross.

Jesus goes on to say: **19** “*Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter.*”

He says, “*Write this down,*” twelve times in Revelation, because the written Word is *powerful* and *important* and *critical* to our receiving eternal

life with Him. Jesus is *speaking!* Are we *listening!* And are we *keeping* that Word and *applying* that Word in our everyday lives?

AV Revelation 1:20 “*The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.*”

Some think the Book of Revelation is a mystery—difficult and hard to understand, but that is not true. Revelation *reveals* more than it *conceals*—it unlocks the *mystery* of *history*.

We just *ask* God to enlighten us to the meaning; *open* our hearts to receive what He says; and then *keep* a mindset that is willing to *learn* the vitally important information given in the Book.

Jesus tells us that the seven *stars* are seven *angels* of the seven *churches*. We know that angels are spirit beings who help believers in many ways, but they do not lead actual church ministries—and the seven churches of chapters 2 and 3 *are* actual churches.

The Greek word used for “*angels*” here is “*Aggelous*” (pronounced *ah’ga lous*—hard *g*) which means “*messenger*” and Jesus used the same word “*Ag’ge lous*” in referring to John the Baptist—**AV Matthew 11:10** “*For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee.*”

John was a *messenger* or *minister* for the Lord. Therefore, the *angels* of the seven churches are the *ministers* or *pastors* of those seven churches.

In chapters 2 and 3, we will get into more details on these seven literal churches that were in the western part of what is now modern Turkey.

Those seven churches in the Bible start with *Ephesus* and go clockwise in a circle—northward to *Smyrna*, then to *Pergamon*, around and southward to *Thyatira*, *Sardis*, *Philadelphia*, and to *Laodicea*.

In the meantime, we anxiously “*look for that blessed hope*”—the sudden return of Jesus, and because of His grace, mercy, and love, may we be able to stand before Him *unashamed* of our life and our attitudes.

So, **AV Romans 13:11** “*Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*” We also know it is high time to not allow ourselves to be distracted by the myriad of things, interests, and activities Satan puts in front of us today—and in a myriad of ways, sources, and devices.

It is high time to *read*, to *hear*, and to *keep* the important information of Revelation in our permanent memory—**NKJV 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.*”



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