

# Revelation 1

1] The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him, to show unto His servants things which must shortly come to pass; and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John. In these few words we see what this book offers. We can understand the first sentence as the title of the book. The Owner of this book is our Lord Jesus, and as always, He points to the Father: He just will not consider anything as His own – apart from the Father – the Originator of all gifts. In the beginning of the Holy Scriptures we barely perceive the great mystery and the amazing glimpses into the unsearchable abundance of beauty and majesty of the Almighty God – the Father and the Son. The first chapter of I John is beaming. The whole Bible, the purpose and value of everything in the entire history, is in Christ for the Father and from the Father for His Son; all in that short first chapter. Here, we are at the beginning of the last message John received - presented to us. From the very start God's Spirit spreads the fragrance of the Eternal Love and unity of the Father and the Son. We are in the presence of our majestic God – our Creator and Savior. The purpose of revealing to John is to pass the message to us. This Revelation must come to pass. We must accept the truth that God has said: it must come to pass. For the health and prosperity of our souls, it is good for us to earnestly believe that the passage of every part of the Revelation glorifies His Son. Inseparable from this fact is this truth: an important part of God's glory in His Son is safety of His children. This message started with the occurrences at the time of delivering the book to the true and to the nominal believers and, told us our goal. Then we read the near future foretold; after that the changes coming very soon and, the message is continued to the end of times. All that must come to pass and our Lord sent an angel "to signify it" to John, who recorded God's message for us. Our prayer, labor and goal is to understand, believe, and apply it in our journey as John understood, that we might be blessed and glorify our Lord Jesus Christ as He is always

pleasing our Heavenly Father. The following verse told us the next step.

2] John bare record of the Word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw. The Spirit of our blessed Lord is working in the heart and life of His redeemed and faithful disciples. God's blessings bestow responsibilities. John did as he was instructed: he did bare record and he did share the testimony of the Lord Jesus. Not all of us believing and striving to obey the Lord have been given such great tasks as the apostleship, but we all have our Lord's testimony. Even the least one of us, one that might think he has no talent worthy of laboring with, should be assured of this fact: every soul redeemed in Christ and delivered from tyranny of Satan and sin is a mighty living testimony of our Savior and Lord. We are on earth to herald the Day of Judgment, to proclaim the Day of Grace and Salvation in Christ, to encourage our fellow believers and to reach out to sinners, speaking the Truth in Love; prayerfully striving to be the Gospel light in this world. John declared all things that he saw as the Lord guided him. The Word of God is one for all of us, yet the depth of individual insight is so variable. The testimony of our Savior is uniquely enormous and each one of us receives a portion to declare. The things revealed to a disciple are hardly ever quite identical to the experience of another one. Sharing our Lord's goodness & mercy, we experienced, bring up the abundance of fragrance and flavor of God's grace in Christ our blessed Master. As John was guided by the angel and the Spirit to declare all as revealed to him, so we must filter our experiences through the Word of Truth to be sure not to mix the chaff of human imagination and worldly influence with Christ's pure Gospel.

3] Blessed are the reader and the hearers of this prophecy that keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand. I wonder if there were many illiterate hearers and only a few educated disciples when this book was finished. Today I have a perception that among all hearers, there are few earnest listeners, but only one among many is found faithfully living the Gospel. Yet it is our Lord's grace and river of blessings to keep and

share His Word praying for full obedience.

The time is at hand. This writing declared to some believers the situations already developing in another group or church and quickly spreading toward their own. Some prophecies were fulfilled short time after, but the book reached to the end. For every genuine disciple there is no time to waste. Our time, health, strength, all opportunities, and we, Christians, belong to our Redeemer and Lord. Idleness and aimlessness is vexation to our spirit. Serving the Lord is our soul's delight. In this Message we see the origin, channel, purpose, and the people addressed.

4-6] John to the seven churches located in Asia: grace unto you and peace, from Him who is, who was, and who is coming; and from the Seven Spirits before His throne; and from Jesus Christ, the faithful Witness, the first begotten of the dead, the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, washed us from our sins in His own blood, and made us kings and priests to God, His Father, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. What a flash of God's grandeur, might and glory. John is not hiding the place given to him. He is not boasting of being anything more than a scribe; a messenger of our Lord Jesus Christ. The message is faithfully relating what is for us as it was given to John in visions, signs, and interpretations. Salutation is John's desire that the believers receive the same grace he has known for so many years. This grace brings peace that passes human understanding. In times of great persecution these gifts make disciples victorious faithful witnesses. Grace and peace come from the Almighty Eternal God, our Savior. He is coming to fulfill His promises, to complete His marvelous salvation, and to execute judgment against rebellion of evil spirits and their slaves that rejected saving grace in Christ. I think the Seven Spirits are the One Holy Spirit presented here as Eternal Spirit of God; the same Spirit present in the entire creation & God's work before, through, and after the times; the Spirit of the Father & Son present in Heaven and on earth. No grace, no peace could ever reach our souls without the faithful Witness. His work and character revealed the Father to us: the Father's will

is in His heart. None but God's Eternal Son can present a testimony as perfect and as faithful in manifesting the Father and, the Father enlarged His Son's splendor giving Him this name "the First Begotten of the dead". Christ made us His Father's kings & priests. The Father made His Son our King of kings and our Lord of lords. He loved us when we were loveless. He washed us in His own blood. In deepest agony and grief beyond description the Lamb of God gave the enormous ransom for our lost souls. In giving His grace and peace to His redeemed children the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the whole grandeur of divinity, is involved. This enormous power is working in God's gentle way. Only Eternal Love and Grace can accomplish such a salvation. John must have been so overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit in his, John's, soul and spirit that he blended with the host of heaven shouting in his heart: dominion and glory belong to Christ eternally; and John's whole being blossomed into "Amen!" John's adoration cannot stop here. He is lifted up by this tide of his holy emotion.

7] Behold, He comes with clouds; every eye shall see Him, and they which pierced Him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of Him. Even so, Amen. None of the emperors persecuting Christians ever experienced such thrill, delight, and excitement. They ruled over multitudes of slaves and subordinates yet always lusted for more fame and power; often trembling for their own life and safety. After all of their pomp and vanity, they died in misery to face God's judgment. Dead sinners have never known, the peace and fellowship given in Christ's Spirit to His ransomed even in adversities. John beheld our Lord coming with clouds. In Leviticus 16 we see an amazing presentation of God's presence. Above the Ark of the Covenant and commandments was the mercy seat – under the cherubim. The Lord would communicate with the priests from a cloud on the mercy seat. We see the Redeemer lower than the angels for the death He suffered [Hebrews 2: 9]. From the same cloud came the judgment for disobedient [Leviticus 10], and acceptance in mercy for those trusting and obeying the Lord [Leviticus 16: 13]. In Exodus 40: 34-38 the cloud of the Lord's

presence was guiding Israel through the wilderness. In Numbers 11: 25 the Lord descended in a cloud to distribute to the seventy men of the same Spirit of faithfulness He already had given to Moses. In the chapter 12: 5 the Lord's wrath was present in the cloud against Miriam and Aaron to defend the authority He bestowed upon Moses. God's power appeared as the cloud covered the tabernacle to quell the rebellion against Moses & Aaron

[16: 42]. There are so many records of this same or similar signs in the Scriptures. In I Kings 8: 10 the cloud of the Lord's presence filled the temple to sanctify it and a glorious era was ushered in for Israel; it was sadly shortened by their rebellion against God. In Isaiah 14: 12-15 Satan lusting in self-exaltation to rise above the clouds, ends in abyss of his own sin and perdition. In the chapter 19: 1 the Lord is riding on a swift cloud to judge the idols and their worshippers in Egypt. Daniel saw a cloud [7: 13]. His revelation was similar to John's and we can visualize our blessed Lord, perhaps clearer than in many other places. In Hebrews, after that long list of God's peoples' testimonies in the chapter 11, the first verse of the chapter twelve is a Bible-jewel. "We are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses..." Finally, John is seeing the Lord Jesus Christ coming with clouds. I perceive this is the same cloud, perhaps now brighter than ever before, because He declares I am Alpha & Omega. Every eye shall see Him! No, He depends not on the technical means of our time. What He says come to pass at His appointed time. There will be tears of joy; there will be tears of utmost horror; but all eyes shall see Him. All sinners pierced Him. We did it by our sins that He Him-self took to the pillar of suffering and shame; the heretics, by turning against His Gospel; all impenitent sinners, by rejecting His call. But He is coming in His power and glory – Almighty Son of God to - condemn and forever end all sin and corruption, but to glorify with Him all His redeemed ones whom He delivered by His grace. O, Lord, keep us in Thy grace that we may rejoice in thy appearance and triumph with Thee and with all Thine own; even so, Amen. After a quick reflection over the first seven verses I sense a new need to refresh my prayer-list. We

see this Revelation - like the entire Holy Scripture - given to us from our Heavenly Father in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through the Apostles. An important result of my prayers and meditations on the Word is learning my own place and purpose in this amazing program of Christ's Gospel. I Corinthians 12 and Ephesians 4 are teaching us: none of Christ-body-members has all the gifts. No member of the Body is without any gift. The Lord is the Giver of gifts and tasks. These opening verses are revealing to us John's condition and position as our Lord prepared him for the revelation. Through John's role we see more clearly our own. In the very difficult times of severe persecution, John kept clear awareness of value and purpose in all God has appointed for His people. The faithful follow Jesus Who suffered more than all of us. John has his part in Christ's entire work. Now, John is ready to hear the voice of our King of kings and to share His message.

8] The Lord which is, which was, and which is to come, the Almighty, speaks "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending". Our Lord declares His presence. As John recorded for us, the Spirit tells us: "This is the Lord speaking. He is that Same Eternal One, the Almighty, and, there is none other". He is giving John His grace & power to be a meaningful part of the First & the Last - our all in all.

9] I John, your brother and companion in tribulation, kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle Patmos, for the Word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. John is suffering like the other disciples in that time of tribulation. But this is Christ's suffering in them and through them in this world. He is mighty in patience destroying the darkness. The great empires in the world crumbled into oblivion; even their languages vanished out of use; our Lord still saves His faithful. The Gate of Life Everlasting is still open in Christ to all who trust and obey God's Son. To the believing He gave power to become the children of His Father and His fellow-heirs sharing His grace and suffering here, to partake of His glory eternally. John was in the isle Patmos for God's Word and Christ's testimony. This is a twofold statement. The rulers in the Roman Empire might have banished –

imprisoned - John to prevent Christ's testimony and teaching from spreading. The Lord appointed this place for John to be the place and time for the Revelation of this great message to John. The place, time, and message are testifying to that truth of our Lord Jesus Christ giving His faithful disciples peace and joy in suffering. In persecution or in the time of quietness the genuine believers should be aware of our Lord's presence, power, and purpose in our ministry and the circumstances. Our Lord is in charge and authority. He knows the temporary and eternal values. Our life is His and all opportunities are provided to us by Him, for our benefit and privilege of honoring Him, glorifying our Redeemer, blessing fellow believers and reaching out to the sinners with the Gospel call and example of godly testimony.

10] John was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day when he heard behind him a great voice as the sound of a trumpet. The preceding & the following lines explain what the state of being "in the Spirit" means. Christ's Spirit is guiding faithful believers. At the time of God's special assignments He makes them free from some natural limits and enables them to receive messages or experience the unusual work of His Spirit in their life. The day of the Lord, I think, was a day God selected for this. It could have been a week or a month. It really doesn't matter. These same words have been used in the Scriptures a number of times for a variety of meanings. We understand the true meaning within the text and comparing the similar passages. The words 'the First and the Last' in the verse 11 seem to encourage readers toward understanding this 'day of the Lord' as the day of salvation – the day of grace. Since our Lord's resurrection until the end of times all days are His, Lord's.

11] The voice said: "I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last." And, "What thou see, write in a book, and send it unto the churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea". The voice was coming from a Source behind. John was turned away from that Source and sensed the need to turn in the direction

of the 'Speaker'. The words he has heard are full of meaning. Our Lord and Savior has been before the beginning. After the completion of His work and teaching nobody can add anything. From one generation of disciples to another, we all study, strive and pray to understand His teaching. We pray for deeper insight into His will recorded for us in His Gospel. But none can add anything to God's Living Word – Jesus Christ, God's Son. For all His redeemed ones Christ must be the beginning of all intensions and endeavors. He must be the ultimate goal of all our accomplishments. We are His members. The 'Voice' commanded John to record the vision as one book like one epistle and, to distribute to the believers. Every church must receive its specific message and learn the messages addressed to the other churches; all messages are one book.

12] As he turned to see the Source speaking, John saw seven golden candlesticks. Turning toward the Lord to hear His Word opens our mind to His fresh revelation. The golden candlesticks are the first part of the vision, next is the central Person. Not much description of the golden candlesticks is given here. The next passage described our Savior's appearance. Another meaningful doctrine of true godliness is revealed here and in the verse 20. Faithful church is as precious as pure gold. If our church is important to us as much as - or more than - the Lord Jesus Christ, our vision and understanding lack enlightenment. Our whole church is in danger of idolatrous perils and death. Christ's voice must be the testimony of His church.

13-16] In the center of the churches is the Presence like the Son of man, in a long garment - down to his feet. His breast is girded with a golden girdle. The hair on His head is like white wool; as white as snow. His eyes are like a flame of fire. His feet are like brass burning in a furnace. His voice is like waters that flow mightily. In His right hand are seven stars. Sharp twoedged sword proceeds from His lips. His countenance looked like sunshine in its might. John was overwhelmed. Believers and sinners can see local congregations. When a local Christian assembly adores our Lord faithfully



and fervently, having charity inside and in live outreach, the loving Lordship of Christ is real and visible to the saved and to the seekers. None of the members has reached Christ's perfection. In the godliest Christian fellowship there is likeness of Christ's presence – physically – as manifestation of His Holy Spirit's power. His grace is perfect in spite of our weaknesses [II Corinthians 12: 9]. His appearance is in a long garment here; not as devouring fire [Hebrews 12: 29]. The Lord Jesus walked among us in the flesh divested of His eternal heavenly majesty; now, in the life of His disciples He is veiled by human imperfections. His breast is girt with gold. When the earthly part of His Family is united in His love, we are on His breast as the name-plates of Israel born by Aaron the priest. His head and His hair indicate His majesty, glory, and the beauty of His holiness. His eyes are penetrating through human masks and make-ups. He knows all our needs and our humble confessions He meets with mercy and grace burning away our guilt. His feet are uncovered, visible, when we follow Him - as brass, not gold. Our blessed Redeemer's feet suffered most intensely - of all feet that ever walked in this world through the heat of suffering; and that with the purpose of - redeeming us. He is the pure gold and perfect Treasure of our Eternal Father. We, the members of His body still down here, are not the pure gold that only He is. When we cleave faithfully to Him in our severe testing and endure all trials by His power working in us, we are like His feet of brass or bronze in a furnace flame. Bronze and brass in the high heat resemble gold. If we become cold by the effect of worldly winds, the tarnished brass is very unlike gold and our Gospel testimony, if any, is very weak; but Satan is as a roaring lion. A fervent witness is a trumpet call. A faithful testimony by words and deeds in Christ's Spirit is like a mighty river's flow: refreshing, cleansing; moving onward toward that blessed destiny to adore our glorious King of kings and Lord of lords, our eternal Ransom and reliance. Now, we are here to serve as His feet, as His voice, as His Body-members. Ezekiel 47 is telling us about the holy water that flows from God's sanctuary excelling without any tributaries – like the glory of the Almighty God - our Father in Christ. Here, John hears the voice

of Christ as the source of many waters. Our Lord said that the streams of living water shall flow through His believers [John 7: 38]. If our power flows from Him, our souls will sail into the ocean of His eternal love & glory. Isaiah 55 is radiating Christ's might. Verses 10&11 secure all that are faithful in Christ. In His right hand He holds all the heralds of His Gospel message. They herald His Judgment Day, proclaim the Day of Grace; to wake up sinners and to arm the believers. Every word of His lips is truth and righteousness. His teaching is clear and mighty against evil. He defends His Truth and righteousness in us [Hebrews 4: 12 & 13]. The Spirit of His mouth destroys wickedness by the brightness of His coming [II Thessalonians 2: 8]. In His face is revealed His Father's character and might [John 14: 9]. In this world His might was enshrined in modesty and longsuffering; in this vision He is seen in splendor of His eternal majesty. John was enabled to see Him in the Spirit.

17] When John saw Him, John fell at His feet as dead. Christ laid His right hand upon John, saying to him: Fear not; I am the First and the Last. In the bliss of our Lord's presence this faithful disciple feels unworthy to face his Lord so closely. The saving hand of our Redeemer is full of grace and His words are gentle and powerful encouragement to His beloved ministers. We need not fear: our Lord is the First, the Last and all in all. In the beginning was God and His Word [John 1: 1].

18] He lives forever. He was dead, but is alive evermore, Amen. He has the keys of hell and death. All power is given to Him in Heaven and in earth [Matthew 28: 18]. All power has been His since ever. His suffering and resurrection only prove that. He suffered our soul's death for us - dead; endured our eternity in hell fire; His dead body left on the crucifix; He appeared to His disciples - the victor, our Life giver, our Eternal King & Priest. He lives forever – our God, the Son; our Savior. Our Lord Jesus appears in this vision resembling the "Ancient of days" in Daniel 7. As we approach the end of the Holy Scriptures the words told to Philip [John 14: 9] are visible more and more. The Owner of the universe has power to

control all. None of us, believing in Him will suffer more or less than what is appointed to us by Him. All He has appointed for us is our opportunity to honor the Lord, to share His abundant grace with one another, to reach out to the sinners with His Gospel. All that we suffer in His Name under His Spirit's guidance is changing us to be more like Him and more separated from the world of sin and darkness. None of us shall live in this world a moment longer or shorter than the time He appointed. None of sinners will ever escape His judgment. None will be judged less than justly and all that come to Him are received in mercy and with grace. Christ is the Lord of lords, the Supreme Ruler. By grace we are saved in Him. In sin we are only lost.

19] John is commanded to write what he has seen pertaining to the present time and the visions foretelling the future. John already recorded in the verses 12 - 18 what he has seen and heard till this moment. God is the one changeless forever. His glory is forever excelling. His genuine people on earth are always in need of His guidance, protection and correction. The mission God is giving to His people He can change in some, or many, details. He keeps us in His grace or, we return to sin. I perceive that the value of this book is in the Father's revealing His Son in power and glory, cultivating all that is His Son's in His people and rebuking all that is not His Son's among His people. Thus He is helping us to be His faithful till His return.

20] The mystery of the seven stars visible in Christ's right hand and the seven golden candlesticks John did see is the vision revealing the angels of the seven churches and the churches in their reality known by the Almighty Omniscient God. To the unbelieving the churches are a mystery beyond the horizon of their darkened understanding. To the saved the Church of Christ is a revelation and object of God's amazing grace in Christ. Church is here to declare God's mercy & judgment. Since the beginning grace is God's gift to man. Since the fall of man sin is separating man from God. Since the beginning the Redeemer brings the only ransom for the sinners. The ransomed people are the church of God in the world. The angels are

messengers God has sent with a message. Some messengers were heavenly beings. God's faithful prophets were messengers declaring God's words. The faithful priests in Israel were messengers appointed to declare God's holy law. Who are the angels of the seven churches? In the two following chapters every message to an angel is sent to his church. In Matthew 28: 19 and in Mark 16: 15 the Lord Jesus is sending His messengers to every person and unto every nation. Every disciple is a messenger of the Great King of kings. Some messages are for the local fellow believers, others for the believers in a group at a certain time, and some others are for all readers and listeners until the end. A man is a messenger. Man's way of living is a message to all around. A fellowship of faithful messengers is a corporate messenger. Christ's faithful Church in this world of darkness spreads the Message of light, salvation, and the everlasting life. Our Savior is our Message. Perhaps the believers in the seven churches could have been inclined to take their message lightly if it was addressed to "them all". When the Spirit speaks earnestly as to one individual person not leaving anyone excused, we sense more urgency. How much Satan is laboring to dysfunction the Church could give us an impression these days that he is more aware of Christ's power in the Gospel than any nominal church. Seeing this deadness, we must labor more prayerfully to be Christ's voice. I have seen some groups nowadays that seemed to function in a beautiful accord like one person, one body. All the wisdom, authority, and directives were received from one leader, elder, founder. The brotherhood usually had peace and serenity. The members gave me an impression of fear from the outside world and distrust as a predisposition toward any other group of Christians. They had no desire to learn whether another fellowship was led & owned by the Lord Jesus Christ or not. If some member dared to question any decision of the leader, that member was marked as a rebel, heretic or an enemy and targeted with serious accusations that no other member should question or investigate. Their leader suddenly died. The fellowship fell apart. That was not the Gospel Church of Christ. It was a man made religion. Their faith and confidence was based on their leader's

craftiness. The mark of Christ's Church we see in Acts 1: 14. The Spirit works in the chapter 2. An experienced church is operating in the chapter 13. These are the models of real Christian fellowships. Every brother and sister is encouraged to grow in faith and knowledge of the Son of God our Lord and Savior and use His gifts to glorify Him. The genuine church is a candlestick of gold exalting the Source of her light – our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior. He alone has built His Church upon the Rock of ages cleft for us. He filled her with His Holy Spirit to spread His light in His love. In this book, the chapters 2 & 3 are going to show us how the evil spirit is at war against the churches. The Acts and the epistles are arming us to resist the enemy cleaving to our Master and upholding His teaching in our daily walk and outreach. As long as there are genuine disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ, the devil is going to fight against the Church of Christ. As long as God's People trust and obey the Lord, they will experience His victory over the enemy. God may allow cruel persecution. In patient suffering, Christ is victorious against the cruelty and fury of Satan. Our Savior suffered more than His entire Flock. He is teaching us not to fear His enemy that might be allowed to destroy our body but cannot take our soul from our Lord. In the periods of calm and material prosperity our Lord is victorious in modesty of his humble children that despise vanity and pride of the world, seeking the inner adornment of our Shepherd's Spirit. Christ's Church is beautiful, pure and holy. The Church of Christ always has room for growing toward perfection manifested in our Redeemer's example and teaching. Our Lord and Savior constantly labors preparing His Bride for the splendor of the glorious wedding feast in eternal love. When we understand the message in the verses 3 – 8, keep that awareness in our mind and heart, and live that Gospel every day of our pilgrimage, we have Christ's mighty armor against the enemy and, fellowship with John and all Christ's faithful. Suffering in godliness is a part of our ministry. Visible to human eyes, some suffer more, some less; but that observation is not the most important one. Only Christ knows how much each one of His own suffers for His Spirit is suffering within us. His Spirit is guarding us from wasting our time in suffering for

vanity, pride, lust of the flesh and lust of eyes. He is guiding us to use all our time and all opportunities He is providing for us to glorify our Lord Jesus, bless one another, and to witness. When we live in Christ by His Spirit ruling in our heart, we are in His Kingdom. He makes us His lords when we adore Him striving and praying for full obedience to Him as our Lord of lords; our King of kings. That is His Kingdom and His victory. John was in Patmos. Any place in the world our Lord appointed for us is the place of His revelation and our testimony. Nothing is incidental or accidental in the life of our Father's Family in Heaven or in this world. We are always in His loving care. Let us continue in prayer to listen to the Voice from above and to keep turning to the Source of that voice. Let us never forget our place on the golden light stand -spreading His light in the world of darkness, living His Gospel of salvation in Christ. Heralding the Day of Judgment, proclaiming the day of grace, witnessing by His Word and our daily walk in godliness, we live in Christ and Christ is in our hearts. This blessed journey of His redeemed ones is filled with His unfolding revelation. Let us see Him in glory to experience His victory in us and through us. Let us be His messengers in words and deeds. Let us see all, the present time and the eternal future, through His eyes aflame in justice and mercy, judgment and salvation. Seven churches might be in seven regions and in seven periods of time. As the seven Spirits are but One Holy Spirit, so the true Church of Christ is one since Abel the righteous and forever, for there is but One Lord of Lords, our King and Savior.

