

Revelation 1:1^a | The Revelation of Jesus in the Book of Revelation

Say hello to the Reality Ventura Campus!!!

Revelation is the last book of the Bible—and so it is meant to be

- + Gen = Bookends and perfect circle—brings the whole tremendous saga to a great and glorious close
- Genesis is the book of **beginnings**—Revelation is the book of **last things**
- Genesis is the book of **creation**—Revelation is the book of **consummation**
- Genesis starts in the earthly **garden**—Revelation ends in the heavenly **city**
- Genesis gives us the **Heaven and the Earth**—Revelation gives us **the New Heaven and the New Earth**
- Genesis has the **first man and his wife** set over all creation—in Revelation we have the **Second Man and His Bride** ruling together over redeemed creation
- Genesis shows us the **entry point of sin** and the **fall** of humanity—Revelation brings the **end of sin** and the ultimate **redemption** of humanity
- In Genesis we see the devil the serpent work **burning deception** against humanity—in Revelation we see the devil that deceived them **thrown in to the lake of fire** where he is tormented day and night forever and ever
- In Genesis new **creation is broken**—in Revelation **broken creation is made new**
- In Genesis paradise is **lost**—in Revelation paradise is **restored**
- In Genesis humanity is **separated** from God—in Revelation we are **joined to Christ**
- Genesis shows us how **sorrow, death, pain and tears** entered the human story—Revelation brings us the day where there will be **no more** death, no more mourning, no more sorrow, no more pain and God Himself wipes away every tear
- Genesis reveals a broken **past**—Revelation unveils for us a great and glorious **future** (prophecy)

All of it hinges on Jesus—He is the **great subject** of the book

The Revelation of Jesus Christ = the title

- No “s”
- Of or from
- How does the world “revelation” relate to the name Jesus Christ?
 - Does the entire phrase mean “the revelation **of** or **about** Jesus Christ” or “the revelation **from** Jesus Christ”
 - Or both?
- If it is “of” or “about” then **Jesus is the central subject** of the book from start to finish
- If “from”, then **other issues** may be **central** in the book
 - In a sense, both are true
 - V. 1^{a-b} = The revelation from Jesus Christ which God gave Him to show to His bond servants
 - God the Father gave this message to Jesus for His people
 - So, in that sense it is clearly “**from**” Jesus, who was given it **from** the Father

- There are **a few central** themes:
 - The **sovereignty** and **glory** of God
 - The **worship** of God
 - The condition of the **church**
 - The **battle** between good and evil
 - The **righteous wrath** of God
 - The **return** of Christ
 - The **vanquishing** of evil
 - The **Kingdom**
 - The **Judgment**
 - The **Renewal** of all things
 - But, the **central point of all these central themes** is Christ Himself
 - The **sovereignty** and **glory** of God are revealed in Jesus (1:12-18)
 - The **worship** of God is focused on Jesus (5:8-14)
 - The condition of the **church** is addressed by Jesus (Chapters 2-3)
 - The **battle** between good and evil is won by Jesus (11:15; chapters 19-20)
 - The righteous **wrath** of God exposes the Lordship of Jesus (6:1, 16)
 - The **return** of Jesus is the climax of redemptive history (1:7; 19:11-6)
 - The **vanquishing** of evil is accomplished by Jesus (9:19-20:10)
 - The **Kingdom** is set up by Jesus (20:4)
 - The **Judgment** is according to the Lamb's Book of Life (20:11-15)
 - The **Renewal** of all things has Jesus as it's centerpiece (Chapters 21-22)
- Jesus is the **grand subject—central figure—main point**—of the book is certainly theologically correct (**The revelation of/about Jesus**)

The revelation of Jesus Christ... (1:1^a)

- 3 words in the Greek; 5 in English
- **Revelation = ἀποκάλυψις = *apokálypsis*** (Transliterated 'apocalypse')
 - Means: Revelation, uncovering, unveiling, disclosure of things that would not otherwise be known
 - One of three words used in the NT to refer to the Second Coming of Christ (**revelation, appearing, coming**)
 - 1 Corinthians 1:7
... you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the **revelation** of our Lord Jesus Christ
 - 2 Thessalonians 1:7
... when the Lord Jesus will be **revealed** from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire
 - 1 Peter 1:7 + 13
... so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the **revelation** of Jesus Christ...
Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the **revelation** of Jesus Christ.

Christ's first coming was an *epipháneia* (appearance)

- 2 Tim. 1:10
...the **appearing** (*epiphaneia*) of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel

Apokálypsis, a grander and more comprehensive word¹

- Includes not merely the thing shown and seen but the **interpretation**, the **unveiling** of the same
- The Book of Revelation is the **final unveiling**, the **full interpretation** of Jesus—in all His glory!

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament*, electronic ed. (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000)

Revelation 1

1. The Faithful Witness
2. The firstborn from the dead
3. The ruler of the kings of the earth
4. The one who loves us
5. The one who has released us from our sins
6. The one who made us to be a kingdom of priests
7. The one who is coming with the clouds
8. The First and the Last
9. The living one
10. The one who holds the keys to death and Hades

Revelation 2

11. The one who walks among the churches
12. The one who has the sharp two-edged sword
13. The one who has eyes like a flame of fire

Revelation 3

14. The one who is holy
15. The one who is true
16. The one who has the key of David
17. The one who opens and no one will shut
18. The one who closes and no one will open
19. The Amen
20. The Faithful and True Witness
21. The beginning of the creation of God

Revelation 5

22. The Lion from the tribe of Judah
23. The Root of David that has overcome
24. The Lamb of God

Revelation 12

25. The one who rules the nations with a rod of iron

Revelation 14

26. The Lamb that stands on Mount Zion
27. The one who wears the golden crown
28. The one who holds the sharp sickle

Revelation 19

29. The Bridegroom of the Church
30. The Faithful and True
31. The Word of God
32. The King of kings and the Lord of lords

Revelation 21

33. The temple of God
34. The lamp of God

Revelation 22

35. The Alpha and the Omega
36. The First and the Last
37. The Beginning and the End
38. The Root and the offspring of David
39. The Bright Morning Star
40. The one who is coming quickly

Christ's first coming was an *epipháneia* (an appearing)

- **The second, an *apokálupsis* (full unveiling), will be far more glorious**

Revelation 1:7 (NASB)

BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, **and every eye will see Him**, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen.

Matthew 24:27 + 30 (NASB)

For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes even to the west, so will the coming of the Son of Man be... the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky **with power and great glory.**

Jesus came the first time **veiled** and **robed** in **humanity** as the **suffering** servant

- Jesus will come again **revealed** and **robed** in **glory** as the **conquering** King of kings

Jesus **inaugurated** the Kingdom with His death on the Cross

- Jesus will **consummate** the Kingdom with His return in **power and great glory**

There is much tribulation in between...

The revelation of Jesus Christ is meant to bring us **comfort**—at all times and in crazy times

- **1:17^b-18** no fear; sovereign over death
- **2:1** with the church
- **3:20-21** invitation -- with
- **4:2+11** sovereign + control
- **5:5-6** do not weep—lion--overcome
 - **Lamb** = The Centrality of the Cross
- **6:16-17** righteous wrath
- **7:9-17** just + comfort
- **11:15-17** victory
- **12:10-11** even in death
- **15:1-4** come off victorious
- **17:14** with
- **19:1-9**
- **20:1-6**
- **21:1-5**
- **22:1-7**