

Revelation 1

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The wonderful book we now open for study resembles that of Daniel and Ezekiel of the Old Testament, and it belongs to a type of literature known as “Apocalyptic”, a word derived from the Greek word “apocalypse” which appears as the second word in the first verse of the Revelation.
1. This is how the name of the book is arrived at.
 2. “Apocalypse” . . . or Revelation . . . means:
 - a. The uncovering of that which has been covered.
 - b. The unveiling of that which has been veiled.
 - c. The disclosing of that which has been concealed.
 3. Jesus said in **Luke 12:2** – “For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, nor hidden that will not be known.”
- B. The Book of Revelation is the prescription that God’s suffering children needed near the end of the 1st century.
1. If Satan had had his way:
 - a. Paul would have been executed years before he finally was.
 - b. The church would not have survived to seed the end of the 1st century, let alone the dawn of the 2nd Century.
 - c. No Christians would have survived to further perpetuate the Gospel of Christ.
 2. The Book of Revelation shows:
 - a. That Satan would fail but Christ would not.
 - b. That Satan would fail but the church would not.
 - c. That Satan would fail but Christianity would not.
 - d. That Satan would fail but God’s grace, faith, and salvation would not.
 3. Having failed to destroy the church in the first century, Satan would soon denominate it by sewing tares among the wheat in future centuries tares that continue to this day and will until the great harvest day at the Judgment.
- C. Chapter one introduces us to the entire book, and supplies us in large measure with the key by which we are to understand it. It is very necessary, therefore, that we give Revelation 1 a most careful examination.
- D. In a sense, Christ is more fully and uniquely revealed in the Book of Revelation than in any other book.
1. In Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, we see Jesus Serving and suffering.

2. In Acts and the twenty-one epistles, we see Jesus alive and at work among the churches. In the Book of revelation, we see Christ as the supreme conqueror.

INTRODUCTION & BENEDICTION 1:1-3

1:1-3

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants — things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,

2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

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.

Verses 1-2

- A. The book is not a revelation in which Jesus Christ is revealed; but one in which He is the revealer. Jesus has already been revealed throughout the New Testament.
- B. Please observe the four steps by which the Revelation came: (Will be stated again in 22:6)
 1. From God unto Jesus.
 2. From Jesus unto an angel.
 3. From an angel unto John.
 4. From John unto God's servants. The book was committed as a sacred trust to those people who loved and served the Lord
- C. The KEY to understanding the Book of revelation is to be found in verse 1 and strengthened in at least six other places throughout the book. "Things which must shortly take place."
 1. "Shortly" (Greek – taxei).
 - a. Shortly is a comparative term.
 - b. Paul used the same word in **2 Timothy 4:9** when he told Timothy to come "shortly" to him.
 - c. How soon is shortly? To Paul it meant soon. He wanted Timothy to bring his cloak, books, and parchments before winter (2 Timothy 4:13, 21), certainly NOT 1,000 or 2,000 year later.
2. This is a Revelation that was relevant to the people who first received it, assuring them of victory.
 - a. **1:1** - "Things which must shortly take place"
 - b. **1:3** - "For the time is near."
 - c. **22:6** - "Things which must shortly come to pass."
 - d. **22:7** - "Behold, I am coming quickly."

- e. 22:10- “For the time is at hand.”
- f. 22:12- “Behold, I am coming quickly.”
- g. 22:20- “Surely I am coming quickly.”

D. Verse 2 reveals that Heaven directed John as Heaven wanted the information revealed.

Verse 3

A. Note the term “Blessed.” Think of the Beatitudes in Matthew 5. Blessed means “Happy.” Verse 3 contains one of seven beatitudes in the Book of Revelation. The seven are:

1. 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.”
2. 14:13 - “Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors.”
3. 16:15 - “Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments.”
4. 19:9 - “Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!”
5. 20:6 - “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection.”
6. 22:7 - “Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”
7. 22:14 - “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may

have the right to the tree of life,
and may enter through the gates into the city.”

B. There is a primary and secondary meaning.

1. Primary meaning – When it happens, it will happen quickly.
2. Secondary meaning – Will happen quickly in terms of soon.

C. Revelation is the only book in the Bible that promises a blessing to those who read it . . . and what a blessedness is offered.

1. First, to the public reader. The book, (scroll, or scroll) was meant to be read in the assembly of the saints.
2. Second, to them that hear.
 - a. Psalm 1:1-2 – “Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, Nor stands in the path of sinners, Nor sits in the seat of the scornful; But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.”
 - b. NOTE: The word “read” means to “read aloud.”

3. Third, to them that keep the things, or that take the message to heart.

D. The verbs “read”, “hear”, and “keep” are all in the present tense. Therefore, in order to be blessed one must:

1. Keep on reading the book.

GREETING THE SEVEN CHURCHES 1:4-8**1:4-8**

4 John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: 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,

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

6 and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

7 Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.

And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

Verse 4

A. The Asia of John’s day was Asia Minor ... present day Turkey.

B. The seven churches were seven congregations of the Lord’s church ... not denominations.

1. There were other congregation in the area in addition to the seven mentioned.
 - a. Colossae (Book of Colossians)
 - b. Troas (Colossians 1:2; Acts 20:5-7)
2. There was evidently some divine reason why letters were sent to the seven congregations named.
 1. Ephesus
 2. Smyrna
 3. Pergamum
 4. Thyatira
 5. Sardis
 6. Philadelphia
 7. Laodicea
3. It is unquestionably true that the instruction given the Asiatic churches was for any and all churches in like conditions. Right is still right and wrong is still wrong . . . no matter . . . where . . . no matter when . . . and no matter who.
4. In verses 4 and 5 we see the three “froms.”
 - a. The book is “From him who is and who was and who is to come.

- b. “From” the “seven Spirits which are before his throne.” (The seven Spirits are the **HOLY SPIRIT**)
- c. “From Jesus Christ.”

Verses 5-6

- A. Jesus Christ is the faithful witness. That means that what He said would be the exact truth and in strict accord with the will of the Father.
- B. The resurrection of Jesus was unique. He was not the first person to die and be raised from the dead (Widow’s son at Nain, Lazarus, etc.), but He was the first to die, be raised, never to succumb to death again.
- C. “Ruler over the kings of the earth”
 - 1. Revelation will verify this truth.
 - a. Rome appeared to be in control.
 - b. The caesars ruled the world . . . they thought.
 - c. But the Revelation reveals that Jesus rules. We will see that.
 - 2. Jesus is King now! In fact, He is “...Lord of lords, and King of kings.”
 - 3. He is ruling now. He is not going to come back and begin to reign. He is reigning now!
 - 4. Let us say of Christ that which was written by Paul. **1 Timothy 6:15** – Referring to Christ, “ . . . He who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings and Lord of lords.”
 - 5. John summed it up. **Revelation 11:15** - “ . . . And there were loud voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world have become the kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign forever and ever!”
- D. “To him who loved us”
 - 1. The verb is present tense and literally means that He keeps on loving us.
 - 2. God is love. 1 John 4:8
 - 3. Christ loved His disciples to the end. John 13:1
 - 4. There will never be a time that Christ will not love His followers.
- E. “Washed us from our sins in His own blood.”
 - 1. The word “washed” is a past tense word. Conversion.
 - 2. Blood will be a continued theme throughout Revelation.
 - 3. The cleansing benefits of Christ’s blood is applied in baptism.
 - 4. Once we have been baptized into Christ, Christ continues to cleanse us or wash us from our sins by His blood as we walk in the light. **1 John 1:7** - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - 5. Christ’s blood washes us from our sins. Sin is something that:
 - a. The sea cannot drown.
 - b. Fire cannot burn.
 - c. Mountains cannot hide.
 - d. Tears cannot wipe away.

6. **Hebrews 9:22** - “. . . Without shedding of blood is no remission.”
 7. **Matthew 26:28** - “For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins.”
- F. Christ’s blood purchased the Church. (Acts 20:28) — Elders are “. . . to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
- G. (**Revelation 7:4**) — Robes have been washed “. . . and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”
- H. The blood of Christ is **WHAT** washes us from our sins. Baptism is **WHEN** sins are washed away. (**Acts 22:16**) — “And now why tarriest thou, arise and be baptized and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
- I. Christ’s blood purchased the Church. **Acts 20:28** - Elders are “. . . to feed the church of God which he purchased with his own blood.”
1. **Revelation 7:14** - Robes have been washed “. . . and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.”
 2. The blood of Christ is **WHAT** washes us from our sins. Baptism is **WHEN** sins are washed away. **Acts 22:16** - “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”
- D. The mention of the Redeemer’s name awakened precious memories for John, and brought from his heart an outburst of praise. Why is such an outburst merited.
1. First, because He loves us. The tense is present, reminding us that the Redeemer’s love is continuous, unbroken. You cannot remember a time in which Jesus did not love you. **John 13:1** - “Having loved his own that were in the world, he loved them to the end.”
 2. Second, because of what He did for us. He loosed us from our sins by His blood. In Him we have obtained not only pardon for sins, but also deliverance from their power...the grip of vicious habits . . . the dread of penalty. **Psalms 124:7** - “Our soul has escaped as a bird from the snare of the fowls; The snare is broken, and we have escaped.”
 3. Third, because of what He has made of us.
 - a. “Kings” — rule over our own passions and impulses.
 - b. “Priests” — He has given us priestly privileges...access to the throne of grace.
 - c. Similar language was used in reference to ancient Israel. **Exodus 19:6** — “And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”
 4. Christ would have us to be “priests.” We are holy and royal priests that should offer up spiritual sacrifices to God in the temple, which is the Church.
 - a. **1 Peter 2:5, 9** - “You also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

(9) But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

- b. **1 Corinthians 3:16** - “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?”

E. In verse 6 the tense of the verb is present.

1. We are a kingdom now.
2. John was in the kingdom then. Revelation 1:9
3. The kingdom was not something to be established during the so—called thousand year reign.
4. The Church and kingdom are used interchangeably.
 - a. **Colossians 1:13** - “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.”
 - b. **Matthew 16:18-19** - “And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”

1. The “church” in verse 18 is the “kingdom” in verse 19.
2. The “kingdom” in verse 19 is the “church” in verse 18.
- c. **Matthew 6:33** - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”
 1. Question: How can one seek something here that does not exist here?
 2. The kingdom of God is in existence today.

Verse 7

A. Coming in clouds can be a figure of judgment. It was in **Isaiah 19:1** - “The burden against Egypt. Behold, the LORD rides on a swift cloud, And will come into Egypt; The idols of Egypt will totter at His presence, And the heart of Egypt will melt in its midst. “

B. Remember that these things are to “shortly take place.”

Verse 8

A. Verse 8 records the first recorded words of Christ in the Book of Revelation.

B. The first of five “I am” in chapter 1.

1. **Verse 8** - “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and end.”
2. **Verse 11** - “I am Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last.”
3. **Verse 17** - “I am the First and the Last.”
4. **Verse 18** - “I am He who lives and was dead.”

5. **Verse 18** - "I am alive forevermore."

C. "Alpha" and "Omega" are the first and last letters in the twenty-four character Greek alphabet.

Here it means **THE BEGINNING AND ENDING OF ALL THINGS.**

1. "Alpha and Omega" - The first and last letters in the Greek alphabet.
2. The Greek alphabet has 24 letters. Alpha and Omega
3. The Hebrew alphabet has 23 letters. Alep and Taw
4. Our alphabet has 26 letters/. A and Z

D. Christ is "the Almighty."

1. The Almighty to command the host of Heaven and earth.
2. The Almighty with the power to overcome the foes of the Church.
3. The Almighty with the power to overcome Rome.
4. The Almighty with the power to overcome Satan.

VISION OF THE SON OF MAN 1:9-20

1:9-20

9 John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

11 saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to (1) Ephesus, to (2) Smyrna, to (3) Pergamos, to (4) Thyatira, to (5) Sardis, to (6) Philadelphia, and to (7) Laodicea."

12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

18 I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

19 Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

20 The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”

Verse 9

- A. This is the third time John has named himself in the book that is now nine verse old with 135 more to go.
- B. To those who were suffering, John was their brother in Christ and was himself in tribulation having been banished to the island of Patmos. Congregations and individual Christians were feeling it.
 - 1. Spiritual kinship in the Lord.
 - 2. Spiritual kinship in tribulation and suffering.
- C. John was in exile on the island of Patmos, a small, rocky, barren island about ten miles long and six miles wide in the Aegean Sea off the southwest coast of Asia Minor (Turkey).
- D. Although restricted to a small spot upon the earth, John was to penetrate the wide realms of heaven itself.
- E. Other great men had seen visions while in exile.
 - 1. In exile, Jacob saw God at Bethel.
 - 2. In exile, Moses saw God at the burning bush.
 - 3. In exile, Elijah heard “a sound of gentle still.”
 - 4. In exile, Ezekiel saw “visions of God” by the river Chebar.
 - 5. In exile, Daniel saw the “Ancient of Days.”

Verse 10

- A. . “I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day.”
- B. Some would suggest this to mean the day of the Lord revealing His judgment.
- C. It appears to me that this took place on Sunday, the first day of the week. Sunday is the Lord’s Day.
 - 1. The Lord was resurrected on Sunday.
 - 2. The Church was established on Sunday.
 - 3. Christians assembled on the first day of the week to partake of the Lord’s Supper. Acts 20:7
 - 4. Christians gave of their means on the first day of the week. 1 Corinthians 16:1—2

Verse 11

- A. Here John receives his authority (commission) to write the Revelation.
- B. He was to:
 - 1. Observe

2. Write
 3. Send
- C. The seven cities form an irregular circle and are mentioned in the order in which a messenger on circuit might visit them.
1. Going north from Ephesus to Smyrna and Pergamum.
 2. Then east to Thyatira.
 3. Then southward to Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.

Verse 12

- A. At this point the vision properly begins.
- B. In the tabernacle and temple, there were golden candlesticks.
 1. Each candlestick had seven prongs with a lamp on each prong.
 2. But, in this vision there appeared seven distinct lampstands.

Verse 13

- A. A priestly garment reminds us that Jesus is our great High Priest. Golden girdle about the chest area was characteristic of a king (ruler).
- B. “Son of Man” was often used to emphasize Christ’s humanity.
- C. The vision was intended to show Jesus as being the one to have both power and authority to open the seals . . . that is, to reveal the things that the Church should know.
- D. As the great Prophet, He would know exactly what was to transpire that should be told. As Priest and King, He would have full authority to make such revelations as were needed to the doing of His will. NOTE: The prophet Zechariah foretold that Christ would be a priest on His throne. (**Zechariah 6:13**) — Yes, He shall build the temple of the LORD. He shall bear the glory, And shall sit and rule on His throne; So He shall be a priest on His throne, And the counsel of peace shall be between them both.

Verse 14

- A. This was not a description of the Lord as He had appeared in His ministry while on earth.
- B. Remember the brightness of His appearance on the Mount of Transfiguration in **Matthew 17:1-5**. **Verse 2** - “And He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.”
- C. This description is both symbolic and important.
 1. The color white indicates:
 - a. His purity.
 - b. His glory.
 - c. His eternity.
 2. The eyes would be penetrating, able to look into the future as well as look into men’s hearts and the congregations.

3. **Isaiah 1:18** - "Come now, and let us reason together," Says the LORD, "Though your sins are like scarlet, They shall be as white as snow; Though they are red like crimson, They shall be as wool." NOTE: White as snow and wool stands for purity.

D. Jesus is described using such terms as white, snow, fire, brass, a furnace, many waters, stars, two-edged sword, and the sun. (All are obviously symbolic).

Verse 15

- A. The feet were strong and durable...able to crush all opposition.
1. His feet were beautiful because they brought the gospel as He walked up and down the dusty roads of Israel. Romans 10:15
 2. His feet were at one time washed with the tears of Mary.
 3. His feet had been pierced by the nails as He was nailed to the old rugged cross of Calvary.
 4. Now they are like "fine brass," symbolic of strength and endurance.
- B. The voice was resounding, musical, powerful, "As the sound of many waters." "As" or "like" the sound of many waters.
1. As a child, perhaps His voice had cried out to His mother, Mary, in the night.
 2. His voice had revealed the will of the Father.
 3. His voice had uttered the seven sayings from the cross.
 4. In verse 10, His voice was "a loud voice, as of a trumpet.
 5. In verse 12, John turned to see the great voice that spoke to Him.

Verse 16

- A. In verse 15, His voice was "as the sound of many waters." Waters in Revelation 17:15 stood for "... people, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." The seven stars in His hand are identified in verse 20 as being the angels of the seven churches. NOTE: Here we have the first direct explanation of the symbol used, being definitely told what the stars represent. REMEMBER: When the book itself explains a symbol, there ends the controversy on that point whether we understand it or not.
1. Held in His right hand probably indicates that He will uphold them and sustain them. They would receive their strength and support from Him.
 2. The right hand is further discussed in verse 17.
- B. The sword would represent words that were sharp and incisive.
1. Note these passages:
 - a. **Hebrews 4:12** - For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

- b. **Hosea 6:5** - Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets, I have slain them by the words of My mouth; And your judgments are like light that goes forth.
 - c. **Isaiah 49:2** - And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me.
 - d. **2 Thessalonians 2:8** - And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.
2. The words proceeding from the Lord's mouth would not only comfort and instruct the saints, but would also terrify and destroy the ungodly.
 3. The word "sharp" indicates the penetrating power of Christ's words, while the "two-edged nature represents the thoroughness of its work.
 - a. The sword can discipline or destroy.
 - b. **1 Corinthians 1:18** - For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.
 - c. This description is also found in Revelation 2:12, 16; 19:16
 - d. The sword is the "Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God."
Ephesians 6:17
 4. This description makes us think of the transfiguration of Christ. **Matthew 17:2** - And He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became as white as the light.
 5. In verse 16 we see the glory of Christ.

Verse 17

- A. Verse 17 details John's reaction.
 1. He was overwhelmed by the divine majesty and suddenness with which the vision came.
 2. He fell at the Lord's feet as if he had died. Notice: "I fell as His feet as dead." Emphasize "as."
 3. B. Jesus gave John assurance. Assurance is important, even today.
- C. Jesus laid His right hand on John to comfort him.
 1. The right hand was the hand of authority and power.
 2. We often talk of a "right hand man." What does that expression mean?
 3. Christ ascended back into the heavens and now sits at the right hand of the majesty on high.
 - a. **Hebrews 1:3** - Who being the brightness of His glory and the express Image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,
 - b. **Ephesians 1:20** - Which He worked in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly places."

Verse 18

- A. These majestic words contain four disclosures concerning the glory of the Lord.
1. First, He is eternal (“first and the last”). He always has been and always will be.
 2. Second, He was crucified. We know He died for our sins.
 3. Third, He was victorious in death. No longer is He in the grip of death. Great to have a Savior like that.
 4. Fourth, the power of life and death are in His hands. Do you want life . . . or death?
- B. He lives and will never have to die again. We can live eternally provided that we live obediently.

Verse 19

- A. Jesus repeats the command given in verse 11 for John to write what he saw.
- B. However, this time Jesus is more specific about what to write. Three areas are designated.
1. First, “Things which you have seen” — (Past) would include the initial vision he had seen, described in verses 12-18. This would show by what power and authority he wrote.
 2. Second, “The things which are” — (Present) would include the state and condition of the seven churches then, which necessitated the instructions and rebukes found in the second and third chapters.
 3. Third, “The things which will take place after this” — (Future) must mean future events from the time that John wrote. They are presented in the symbols found in chapters 4 through 22.
 - a. That the things recorded in this third division extended into the future is evident because the last two chapters of Revelation (21 and 22) describe the final judgment and the heavenly state.
 - b. Revelation 4:1 indicates that those things were yet future.
- C. 45 times in the Revelation, John says, “I saw.” 27 times he says “I heard.”
1. “I saw” averages more than two times per chapter.
 2. “I heard” averages more than one time per chapter.
 3. This is how he is receiving the revelation . . . by seeing and hearing.
 4. The Lord chose John to be our eyes and ears in the matter.

Verse 20

- A. This last verse in chapter one is vitally important to understanding that which is about to be recorded.

- B. “Mystery” does not mean something that cannot be understood, but rather, something that is secret, hidden, or will not be understood until its meaning is revealed.
- C. Jesus explains the meaning of the symbols. This is the first time in Revelation that this is done. Remember that Jesus also told the meaning of certain parables during His ministry on earth.
1. “Seven stars in my right hand” — are the seven angels of the seven churches.
 2. “Seven golden candlesticks” — are the seven churches.
 - a. A candlestick is intended to give light. Nothing is more certain than that God’s people, individually as well as congregations, are to be light bearers.
 - b. Note these passages:
 1. **Matthew 5:14** - You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden.
 2. **Matthew 5:16** - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
 3. **Philippians 2:15** - That you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.
 4. **John 8:12** - Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
- D. The mystery was revealed as was other Gospel mysteries.
1. Ephesians 3:3-5; 5:31-32
 2. 1 Peter 1:10-12
- E. Does each congregation have an assigned angel?

CONCLUSION:

- A. Again, it is important that a good understanding of chapter one be arrived at before proceeding forward with the Revelation letter.
- B. Observations from chapter 1.
1. The book we have opened to study is not a mystery but a Revelation . . . something that has been uncovered. It may, therefore, be understood. Study it diligently!—Study it prayerfully!
 2. The ultimate triumph of the people of God over the forces of evil is assured. There is victory in Jesus. God’s people can rest in peace for Omnipotence is on their side. The crown is promised only to the faithful.
 3. The Redeemer is altogether worthy of praise . . .
 - a. Because He loves us.
 - b. Because He loosed us.

- c. Because He ennobles us. (makes us noble)
- 4. The great lessons of truth in the book of Revelation were intended for all Christians in every nation, in every age of the world's history.
- 5. The person who delights in the words of this book and lays them upon his heart, will be blessed. What an incentive to be an earnest student!
- 6. The good things we derive from divine revelation are not ours to keep or to hoard . . . but to share and divide with others.
- 7. Christ is in the midst of the churches...
 - a. To inspect.
 - b. To encourage.
 - c. To rebuke.
 - d. To save.
- 8. Congregations are to reflect the light of Christ to a world that lies in darkness...
 - a. The darkness of sin.
 - b. The darkness of ignorance.
 - c. The darkness of despair.
- C. Chapter one prepares us to study the remaining chapters of the Revelation. Let us proceed prayerfully.
- D. Remember: **The Book of revelation must be seen as a whole.**