

# The Blessing of Revelation

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January 5, 2020



**Open:** What various reactions have you seen people have to the book of Revelation? For you personally, when you think of the book of Revelation what comes to mind?

**Read:** Revelation 1:1-8

**Discuss:**

1. Why do you think it is important to remember that this book is a revelation of *Jesus Christ* (v. 1)? Verses 1-3 describe a chain of revelation that begins with God and ends with those who keep what is written. What are the links in between? Why might John open his letter this way?
2. This revelation is given to show things that must soon take place (v. 1). The Bible often uses the word "soon" (and other words like it) differently than we might use it. How would you describe that difference? What do you think might be some dangerous effects of predicting when Bible events will happen? Have you experienced negative effects from such predictions? Explain.
3. Verse 3 assures blessing to those who hear and obey the words of this book. How would this book have been a blessing to the original readers? How has it been a blessing to you?
4. Chapters 3 and 4 contain letters to seven churches in Asia Minor. In his salutation, John wishes grace and peace to them "from Him who is and who was and who is to come" (v. 4). Who is this referring to (compare verse 8)? What important doctrinal truths does this teach us? In what way do these truths encourage you?
5. Jesus is called the "firstborn of the dead" (v. 4). This expression is also used in Colossians 1:18. What do you think this means, and why might it be a significant way to refer to Jesus? How is this truth personally important to you?
6. What elements of the Gospel do you see in verses 5-6? What does it mean to be "freed" from your sins by Jesus' blood? How does this help you process the events described in Revelation?
7. In verse 7, what different experiences and emotions are expressed or hinted at? How do you expect to feel at that moment when Jesus returns? Why?

**Apply:** This letter is meant to encourage believers to be faithful witnesses in the face of persecution, even unto death. How do John's words so far provide encouragement toward this end? How do you anticipate our study of Revelation shaping your life?

**Pray:** Pray that through our study of Revelation we all grow closer to Jesus in love and in likeness.

## Revelation 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup>The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, <sup>2</sup> who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw.

<sup>3</sup> Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

<sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that 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, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood <sup>6</sup> and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

<sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." (ESV)