

The Resurrected Sovereign Christ

Rev. 1:1-8

Outline

Chapter one divides itself into three sections:

1:1-3 - the preface

1:4-8 - the greetings

1:9-20 – the vision of the ascended and sovereign Christ.

Rev. 1:1-3 – The Preface

Revelation 1:1 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.

Rev. 1:1-3 – The Preface

- **God gave Jesus this information.**
- **The name “Jesus” emphasizes his humanity.**
- **The title “Christ” reveals Jesus’ role as Messiah.**

Revelation 1:1 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,

- **God wants his followers to know this information.**
- **“must shortly take place” = “suddenly”**

Rev. 1:1-3 – The Preface

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.

- **An angel is involved in assisting John to receive this information.**
- **The book of Revelation is “the word of God.”**
- **It is also a testimony about the powerful and sovereign rulership of the Lord Jesus Christ over the affairs of earth.**

Rev. 1:1-3 – The Preface

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.

- **God promises to bless the person who:**
 - Either **reads** or **hears** the words of this prophecy
 - And “keeps” – obeys the things which are written in it.
- **“the time is near”** – “imminent” – next on God’s time-table.

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

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,

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

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."

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

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,

- **The human author:** “John” – the Apostle.
- **The audience:** “to the seven churches which are in Asia” - (churches mentioned in Chapters 2-3)
- **The Greeting:** from God the Father, the Holy Spirit, and from Jesus Christ.

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

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,

- **“the seven Spirits”** – (Isaiah 11:2)
 - “And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

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,

- **“and from Jesus Christ”** - The human Jesus who is the promised Messiah – the Savior of mankind
- **“the faithful witness”** – what he says is accurate and true without error or exaggeration.

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

- **“the firstborn from the dead”** – speaking of the Resurrection of Jesus – first in time and first in prominence.
- **“the ruler over the kings of the earth”** - the supreme ruler exercising all power and authority.
- **“to Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood”** – because of His love He redeemed us.

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

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

- “and has made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father” – (ESV, NIV, NLT, NET, NASJ).
- Together the follows of Jesus form a kingdom.
- Our individual role – “priests” – service to God and for God according to His will.
- “to Him” – to Jesus Christ -

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

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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."

- **“He is coming .. Every eye will see Him”** – when Jesus returns, His sovereignty and power and glory will be seen by all.

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

- This coming is amplified in Rev. 19:11ff.
- It is not the same as His return in the air to catch away (rapture) His church – 1 Thes. 4:13-18).
- At the rapture he will come “as a thief”
- The event of Rev. 1:7 will be witnessed by the whole world and will occur at the end of the Tribulation Period described in Rev. 6-19).

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

- Godly Bible students have not always agreed as to the order of events leading up to the establishment of God's eternal kingdom (Rev. 21–22).
- I personally believe that the next event on God's calendar is the **Rapture**, when Christ shall return in the air and take His church to glory.
- Christ's promises that the church will not go through the Tribulation, and is supported by Paul in 1 Thessalonians 1:10; 5:9–10.
- It is significant to me that there is no mention of the word ***church*** between Revelation 3:22 and 22:16.

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

- After the church is raptured, the events depicted in Revelation 6–19 will occur: the Tribulation, the rise of the “man of sin,” the Great Tribulation (the wrath of God) and the destruction of man-made world government, and then Christ’s return to the earth to set up His kingdom.
- Daniel indicates that this period of worldwide trouble will last seven years (Dan. 9:25–27).
- Throughout the Book of Revelation, you will find measurements of time that coincide with this seven-year time span (Rev. 11:2–3; 12:6, 14; 13:5).

Rev. 1:4-8 – The Greetings

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."

The titles given to God in Revelation 1:8 make it clear that He is certainly able to work out His divine purposes in human history.

He is the eternal God (see Rev. 1:4), unlimited by time.

He is also the Almighty, able to do anything.

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