

Just as the Creation account was written in clear detail, God has given us a detailed record of the Ending of human history as well.

The Book of Revelation reveals:

-The end of human history - The Anti-Christ - The final Battle of Armageddon – The Millennial reign of Christ, -Eternal Joy of the New Heave and New Earth when Jesus Christ takes over and banishes Satan once and for all.

Revelation 1

Prologue

1 The revelation (unveiling) from (of) Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John,

While all Scripture is a revelation from God (2 Tim. 3:16), the Book of Revelation is from Jesus Christ.

It is the only Book communicated by Angels (22:16). Angels were also involved in the giving of the Law of Moses (Acts 7:35; Gal. 3:19, Heb. 2:2). The human that the Angels communicated the message to is the bond-slave John.

Jesus is the main theme. He is the “faithful witness” (1:5) “the firstborn from the dead” (1:8), “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (1:5), The Alpha and Omega (1:8; 21:6), “the One who is, who was, and is to come,” (1:8) “The Almighty” (1:8)

God gave His Son this message so that He could give to a special group of people, “His servants (literally His “bond-slaves.” The bond=slave was special type of slave who served his master out of love and devotion (Ex. 21:5-6). This is why unbelievers cannot expect to understand this Book.

Knowledge of these End Time events should motivate the believer to live holy and obedient lives (2 Pet. 3:14)

2 who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

John begins with his first series of triplets: Everything he saw, The Word of Gpd, and the testimony of Jesus Christ.. This passage tells us that it was an eyewitness account.

3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Blessed are those who read, hear, and obey these words

The Book contains Seven Beatitudes/Blessings

1:3 Blessed is he

14:13 Blessed are the dead

16:15 Blessed is the one who is ready when Jesus comes again

19:9 Blessed are those who are invited to Marriage Supper of the Lamb

20:6 Blessed is the one who has a part in the first resurrection

22:7 Blessed is he who reads the words of this book

22:14 Blessed are those who have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb

The meaning of “**the time is near**” is not the time on the clock or calendar (chronos), but to a season or a fixed definite time/season (Kairos). In the N.T. this word Kairos is only used for time of season. Author says it translates “near”, or “soon” but a better translation would be “proper season.” “Appointed time”

Greetings and Doxology

4 John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne,

John identifies himself three times as the author, 1:1, 1:4, 1:9

These 7 Churches were written to actual churches in Asia Minor. However, it was intended for all the churches to read as these 7 churches represent churches for all time.

The phrase, “Who is, and who was, and who is to come,” refers to God as always existing.

The 7 Spirits before the throne can depict the fullness of the Holy Spirit as the number 7 represents fullness/completeness (see 5:6; Isa. 11:2, Zech4:10 [7 eyes of Lord=wisdom/all seeing])

It could also refer to the 7 Angels of the 7 churches

5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood,

6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

John mentions Jesus in double triplet form. See book pg-23

We are a kingdom of priests (1 Peter 2:9)

7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds,” and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.” So shall it be! Amen. 8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

In these verses John gives a preview of what is to come. In doing so he reveals 5 truths about the 2nd Coming of Jesus Christ:

1. The certainty of Jesus' coming. "Look" or "behold" He is coming... Despite what many scoffers may say (2 Pet.3:3-4). The Bible repeatedly affirms that Jesus Christ will come again in more than 500 verses throughout the Bible. Jesus repeatedly spoke about His return, (Matt. 16:27; 24-25; 26:64; Mark 8:38; Luke 9:26, John 14:1-3).

2. The Glory of His 2nd Coming. "with the clouds." Clouds in the Bible often symbolize God's presence. He led Israel with a visible manifestation of a cloud (Ex. 13:21-22; 16:10; Numb. 10:34). On Mt. Sinai, a thick cloud came upon the mountain symbolizing God's presence (Ex. 19:16) Both the Temple and the Tabernacle were filled with a cloud symbolizing God's presence at their dedication (Ex. 40:34-38; 1 Kings 8:10:12). Jesus ascended to heaven on a cloud, and will come back the same way (Acts 1:9-11; Matt. 24:30; Dan. 7:13). Believers will ascend to heaven with clouds at the Rapture (1 Thess. 4:17).

3. The scope of His coming. Every eye will see Him. His glory will be obvious to all of humanity. John divides those who see Him at the 2nd coming into 2 Groups of people: "**Those who pierced Him,**" (does not refer to only the Roman Soldiers, but to all unbelieving Jews who instigated His death), and "**all the tribes of the earth.**" A reference to all the unbelieving Gentile nations. Both the unbelieving Jews and Gentiles will mourn over Christ's return. Some may mourn that leads to repentance, and some may mourn because of grief and despair. It is interesting the word for mourn here is "kopto" which means to cut. The word became associated with the mourning of pagans cutting themselves while mourning. We see this practice in 1 Kings 18:28, when they were calling on Baal, cutting themselves, frenzied, and panicked trying to get their god's attention. They will mourn over their doom (see 9:21).

4. The response to His 2nd Coming. "**So shall it be. Amen!**"

John pleads for Christ's return

5. The Signature of Jesus that He's Coming Again. "**I am the Alpha and the Omega,**" says the Lord God, "**who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.**"

In this verse the Lord puts His signature on the prophecy of His 2nd Coming as recorded in the previous verse. "**Alpha and Omega,**" are the first and last letter of Greek alphabet. "**Who is, who was, who is to come,**" symbolizes that God is eternal, forever present, not confined by space or time. "**The Almighty**" affirms His perfect power. Nothing can stop Him from coming again and carrying out His will.

Jesus came the 1st time in humiliation. He will come again in exaltation

Jesus came the 1st time to serve. He will come the 2nd time to be served.

Jesus came the 1st time as a suffering servant. He will come again as a victorious/conquering King.

Only those who have loved His appearing (2 Tim. 4:8), who love Him and acknowledge Him as rightful King will enjoy the blessings of His 2nd Coming/Kingdom

John's Vision of Christ

9 I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

I need to take some time to explain John's situation, so you don't think he's living it up on an island taking it easy.

When John received this vision, he was in exile on a barren volcanic island called Patmos, which is in the Aegean Sea, about 40 miles off the coast of Turkey. It was about 10 miles long and 6 miles wide. Exile to such islands was a common practice in the 1st Century.

Why was John exiled? Because Christians were hated for their practices and beliefs.

Politically, Rome viewed Christians as disloyal because they refused to acknowledge Caesar as the supreme authority.

Religiously, Christians were labeled atheists because they rejected the Roman gods and worshiped an invisible God, instead of idols. Superstitious Romans believed that natural disasters were caused by the neglect/rejection of pagan gods by Christians. Third Century Church Leader noted, "If the Tiber reaches the walls, if the Nile does not rise to the fields, if the sky doesn't move or the Earth does, if there is famine or plague, the cry is at once, Christians to the Lions."

Socially, Christians were often despised since many came from the lower caste of society (1 Cor. 1:26). Also, the Christian teachings that all people are equal threatened to undermine the cultural structure of the affluent Romans. Christians were thought to be cannibals and committing incest because they called each other brother and sister, and they ate the body of Christ.

Nero blamed Christians for a fire that he started, and as a result many Christians were executed and persecuted. Thirty years later Domitian instigated an official persecution of Christians. It was during this time that the Apostle John was exiled to the Island of Patmos because they could not kill him. It is said that Roman emperor Domitian commanded that the apostle John be boiled to death in oil, but John only continued to preach from within the pot. Another time, John was forced to drink poison, but, as promised in Mark 16:18, it did not hurt him. So, John, the head of the church in Ephesus, was banished to Patmos in A.D. 97.

10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

The Lord's Day, is best understood as a reference to Sunday, as in that time the phrase was widely used to refer to Sunday, because the Resurrection of Christ took place on that day.

John was in the spirit, so he was not dreaming the vision.

11 which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

The 7 cities appear in order that a messenger traveling on the great circular road would visit them.

12 I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

Probably in the shape of a menorah. And were representative of the 7 churches mentioned. (See v-20).

Remember that 7 is the # for completeness/wholeness.

Although these were real churches in real places, with real problems, I also believe the 7 churches here represent the entire history of the church.

13 and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. 15 His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

These verses describe the shekinah glory and deity of Jesus in a 7-fold pattern:

1. Hair: White like wool. A clear reference to Daniel 7:9 and the Ancient of Days
2. Eyes: Like burning fire (see also 19:12). Penetrating clarity and perfect knowledge.
3. Feet: Like bronze. Symbolic of judgement. His feet stomping out sin.
4. Voice: No longer a trumpet sound as in v-10, but now like rushing waterfall (Ez. 43:2)
5. Right hand 7 stars: explained in v-20 as angels of the 7 churches. Another term for angel is messenger. I believe these are the 7 pastors/messengers of the 7 churches because Angels do not lead the church. These angels do not sin and have no need to repent. These 7 men are instruments through which Christ mediates His rule. The Lord Jesus controls His church and He calls His pastors/elders to the serious responsibility of leading them (James 3:1) (Heb. 13:17) (Titus 1:5-9) (1 Tim. 3:1-7)
6. Mouth: A two-edged sword. Used to defend the church from external threats, and also the internal threats of those who cause harm to God's church through lying, discord, false teachings, etc. They will be personally dealt with by the Lord of the Church.
- 7.) Face: Shining like the sun. The radiant glory of God as the disciples had seen on the MT. of Transfiguration (Matt. 17:2)

17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.

John was one of Jesus's closest disciples (the one Jesus loved). If John cannot stand before Him what makes us think that we can? The Lord Jesus could have just spoken to John to not be afraid, but He touched John, as He touched the man with leprosy (Matt. 8:3). Showing His love, grace, mercy, and compassion.

18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

Jesus is the great "I Am. The 7 9symbolic for completeness) I AM statements in the Book of John

1. I AM the bread of life (John 6:35).
2. I AM the Light of the world. (John 8:12)
3. I AM the Door (John 10:9)
4. I AM THE Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
5. I AM THE Resurrection and Life (John 11:25-26)
6. I AM the Way the Truth and the Life (John 14:6)
7. I AM THE Vine (John 15:5)

When Moses saw the burning bush in the desert in Exodus CH-3 God identified Himself to Moses as "I AM WHO I AM." (V-14) TELL THEM IAM HAS SENT YOU.

19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen (CH-1), what is now (Ch-2-3) and what will take place later (Ch-4-22).

20 The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.