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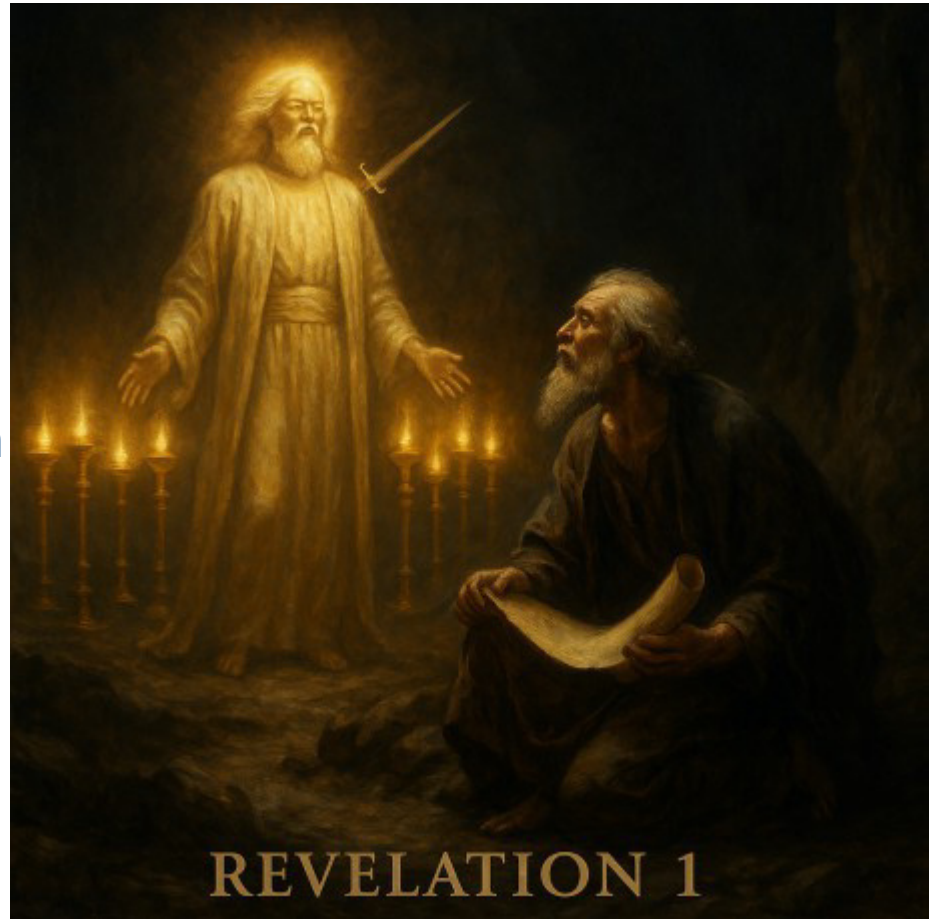
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Revelation 1 This study has not been posted on facebook yet



By Dan Maines

Revelation 1

Revelation 1:1-2

The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, everything that he saw.

† The book begins with urgency: "must soon take place." This excludes a 2000-year gap. The prophecy was near in John's time.

† Eusebius (Ecclesiastical History 3.18) records John as the author, exiled on Patmos for his testimony.

Revelation 1:3

Blessed is the one who reads, and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

† The blessing was immediate for John's audience, proving audience relevance. The phrase "the time is near" repeats the urgency.

Revelation 1:4-5

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, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood—

† The letter was addressed to real 1st-century churches in Asia Minor. The sevenfold Spirit represents the fullness of the Spirit. Christ is already "ruler of the kings of the earth," showing His reign was present then.

Revelation 1:6

And He made us into a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen.

† Believers already shared in kingdom and priesthood, fulfilling Exodus 19:6.

Revelation 1:7

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.

† This echoes Daniel 7:13 and Zechariah 12:10. The ones who pierced Him were alive in that generation, proving fulfillment in the 1st century.

† Josephus (Wars 6.5.3) records eyewitnesses seeing armies and chariots in the clouds during Jerusalem's fall, fulfilling this imagery.

Revelation 1:8

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

† Christ is eternal, sovereign over history and prophecy.

Revelation 1:9

I, John, your brother and fellow participant in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

† John shared in "the tribulation," not a distant future one. He suffered exile for his faith.

Revelation 1:10-11

I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea."

† The prophecy was sent to specific churches. These real congregations were the first audience, not distant future readers.

Revelation 1:12-13

Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And after turning I saw seven golden lampstands; and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe

reaching to the feet, and wrapped around the chest with a golden sash.

† The lampstands symbolize the seven churches (v. 20). Christ's priestly robe shows Him walking among His churches in authority and care.

Revelation 1:14-15

His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. His feet were like burnished bronze when it has been heated to a glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.

† The description echoes Daniel 7:9-10, identifying Him as the Ancient of Days. His blazing eyes symbolize omniscience and judgment.

Revelation 1:16

In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength.

† The sword symbolizes the power of His word (Hebrews 4:12). His radiant face reflects divine glory.

Revelation 1:17-18

When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last, and the Living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades."

† John's reaction shows Christ's overwhelming glory. Jesus' resurrection secured His authority over death and Hades.

Revelation 1:19-20

"Therefore, write the things which you have seen, and the

things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. As for 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 are the seven churches."

† The prophecy includes past, present, and imminent future events. Christ's presence among the lampstands assures His authority over the churches.

How it applies to us today

† Christ reigns now as King of kings.

† Prophecy was given with urgency, and its fulfillment assures us of God's faithfulness.

† The same Christ who walked among the first churches walks among us today.

† His resurrection guarantees His authority over life, death, and judgment.

† This is the fulfilled perspective we proclaim at Fulfilled Prophecies †

Source Index

† Eusebius, Ecclesiastical History 3.18 – John on Patmos

† Josephus, Wars 6.5.3 – armies in the clouds

† Daniel 7:9-13 – Son of Man and Ancient of Days imagery

† Zechariah 12:10 – mourning over the pierced one

† Chrysostom, Homilies on Revelation – Christ walking among His churches

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