

Revelation Chapter 1

This chapter establishes

- 1) Who is talking to us
- 2) His relationship to the church
- 3) The basis for His total control and total authority
- 4) The confirmation of His love and the freedom from sin

The Source of the Revelation - The Revelation "FROM" Jesus

Rev 1:1 The revelation **from 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**



- Essentially it is a message/Epistle from Jesus
- To show his servants what must soon take place

List of things John was shown

Rev 4:1 NIV After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "**Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this.**"

Rev 17:1 NIV One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "**Come, I will show you the punishment of the great prostitute, who sits by many waters.**"

Rev 21:9 NIV One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, "**Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.**"

Rev 21:10 NIV And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and **showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.**

Rev 22:1 NIV Then **the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb**

Rev 22:6 NIV The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel **to show his servants the things that must soon take place.**"

Rev 22:8 NIV I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, **I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me.**

John is a faithful witness

Rev 1:2 his servant **John**, 2 **who testifies to everything he saw**--that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.

John proved himself a faithful witness at the time of Jesus' first coming

- 1Jn 1:1-3 NIV That which was from the beginning, which **we have heard**, which **we have seen with our eyes**, which **we have looked at** and **our hands have touched--this we proclaim concerning the Word of life**. 2 The life appeared; we have **seen** it and **testify** to it, and we **proclaim** to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us. 3 We **proclaim** to you **what we have seen and heard**, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.
- 1Jn 4:14 NIV And **we have seen and testify** that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.
- Joh 19:35 NIV The man who **saw** it [*the piercing of Jesus' side*] **has given testimony**, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe.
- Joh 21:24 NIV This is the disciple who **testifies to these things and who wrote them down**. We know that his testimony is true.

He is testifying to the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ (Rev 1:2)

- Rev 1:9 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**.
 - Note that John was a companion in SUFFERING and KINGDOM and PATIENT ENDURANCE
 - Suffering is part of what it means to walk with Jesus
- Rev 6:9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been **slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained**.
- Rev 12:11 NIV They triumphed over him by the blood of the Lamb and by **the word of their testimony**; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.
- Rev 20:4 I saw thrones on which were seated those who had been given authority to judge. And I saw the souls of those who had been **beheaded because of their testimony about Jesus and because of the word of God**. They had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands. They came to life and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
- Rev 19:9-10 NIV Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "**These are the true words of God**." 10 At

this I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your brothers and sisters who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! **For it is the Spirit of prophecy who bears testimony to Jesus.**"

- Rev 22:16 NIV "I, **Jesus**, have sent my angel **to give you this testimony for the churches**. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

There is a sense of urgency - *to prepare the churches*

...**what must soon take place** [see also vs 3 "...because the time is near"]. Regarding timing -- in the Revelation, Jesus said to write about the PRESENT - "what is now" and the FUTURE "what will take place later". [Rev 1:19 NIV "**Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.**"] So when we read the words "what must SOON take place, there are likely some things written specifically to the seven churches that could have happened at that time in history, but you can also see from scripture that **soon** can be a relative term.

- Rev 3:11 NIV I am coming **soon**. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown.
- Rev 22:7 NIV "Look, I am coming **soon!** Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."
- Rev 22:12 NIV "Look, I am coming **soon!** My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done.
- Rev 22:20 NIV He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming **soon.**" Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

A day with the LORD is as a thousand years [soon is a relative concept that fits His timing]

- 2Pe 3:8(b)-14 NIV: **With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.** 9 The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

Blessed are those who read, hear and take to heart what is written

Rev 1:3 NIV 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.

- **For those who read it aloud** - 1Ti 4:13 NIV Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching.
- **For those who hear it (there is a hearing that is beyond hearing something physically)** Joh 8:43 NIV Why is my language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.
- **And for those who take it to heart** - It means to "keep" or to "guard" or "to keep an eye on"

Seven times in the book of Revelation, there is a description of those who are blessed

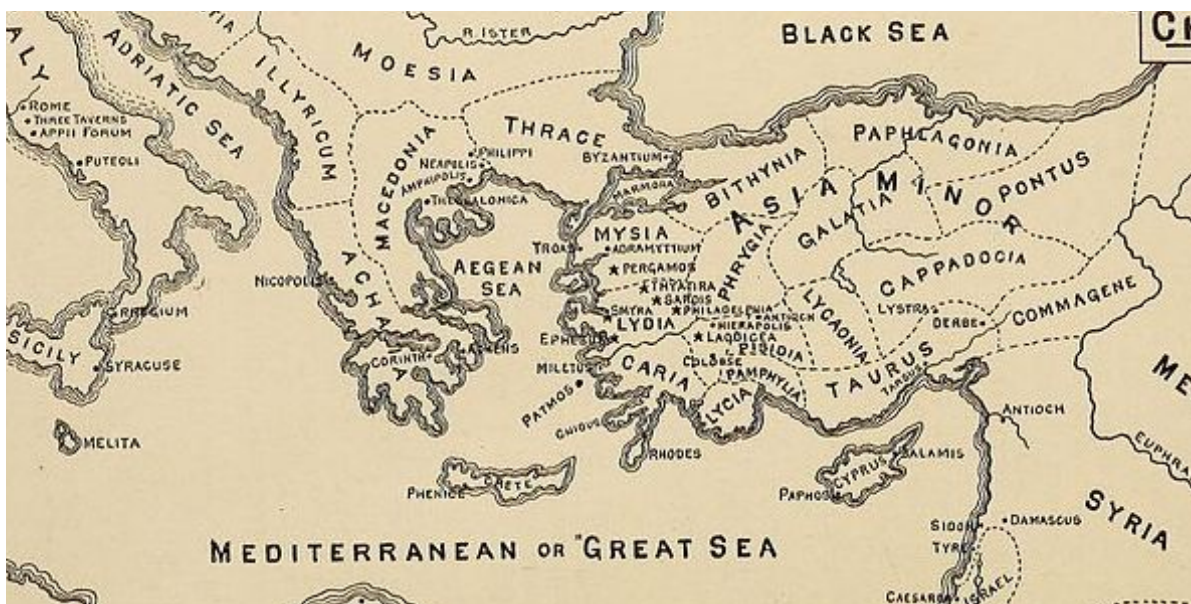
1. Rev 1:3 Blessed is the one who **reads** aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who **hear** it and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near.
2. Rev 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write this: **Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.**" "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."
3. Rev 16:15 "Look, I come like a thief! **Blessed is the one who stays awake and remains clothed,** so as not to go naked and be shamefully exposed."
4. Rev 19:9 Then the angel said to me, "Write this: **Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!**" And he added, "These are the true words of God."
5. Rev 20:6 **Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection.** The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.
6. Rev 22:7 "Look, I am coming soon! **Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll.**"
7. Rev 22:14 **"Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.**

The Recipients

4 John, **To the seven churches in the province of Asia (present day Turkey):**

[see also vs 1 - sent to "servants" of Jesus]

- There are seven literal churches that exist during the time of this writing, and specific portions of this book are written to them to be sure...However, there are principles and truths written to these churches that are universal, and can apply to all churches throughout church history, no different than the book of Romans, or Galatians or Ephesians, although written to a specific church or locality, have application for us today as well. All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable... (2 Tim 3:16)



The Revelation “OF” Jesus

He is about to reveal some amazing and wonderful as well as some terrifying things...so in the greeting to the seven churches he begins by revealing the nature of Jesus in a very powerful and faith-building way. Knowing God for who He really is can be an anchor to our soul in difficult and trying times.

Vs 4 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,

Grace and Peace to you - 2 necessities for people enduring difficult times

- 2Co 12:9 NIV But he said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you**, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.
- Php 4:6-7 NIV Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. 7 **And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.**

“From him who is, and who was, and who is to come”

- He is described as ETERNAL, ALL-POWERFUL and OMNIPRESENT
- He had no beginning and will have no end
- [see also vs 8] 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the **ALMIGHTY.**"

“And from the seven spirits before his throne” (for more, see The Seven Spirits of God box below)

The Seven Spirits of God

The seven spirits of God are at the same time

Before His throne

- Rev 1:4 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,**

In the hand of Jesus

- Rev 3:1 "To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of **him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.** I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead.

In the church (the seven lamps sat atop the 7 lampstands which are the 7 churches)

- Rev 4:5 From the throne came flashes of lightning, rumblings and peals of thunder. In front of the throne, **seven lamps were blazing. These are the seven spirits of God.**

Sent out into all the earth

- Rev 5:6 Then I saw a Lamb, looking as if it had been slain, standing at the center of the throne, encircled by the four living creatures and the elders. **The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.**

- Zec 4:10 NIV "Who dares despise the day of small things, since **the seven eyes of the LORD that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see** the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?"

The lamb (see Rev 5:6) is the one who removes sin in a single day

- Zec 3:9 NIV See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! **There are seven eyes on that one stone**, and I will engrave an inscription on it,' says the LORD Almighty, 'and **I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.**

Further descriptions of Jesus

Rev 1:5-6 NIV and from Jesus **Christ**, who is the **faithful witness**, the **firstborn from the dead**, and the **ruler of the kings of the earth**.

Messiah -- Jesus Christ

The faithful witness

- Heb 3:1-2 NIV Therefore, holy brothers and sisters, who share in the heavenly calling, fix your thoughts on Jesus, whom we acknowledge as our apostle and high priest. **2 He was faithful to the one who appointed him**, just as Moses was faithful in all God's house.
- Joh 5:19 NIV Jesus gave them this answer: "Very truly I tell you, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because **whatever the Father does the Son also does.**
- Joh 12:49 NIV **For I did not speak on my own**, but the Father who sent me commanded me to say all that I have spoken.
- Joh 8:28 NIV So Jesus said, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he and that **I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.**

Firstborn from the dead -- we have confidence and assurance of our resurrection

- Col 1:18 18 And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the **beginning**, the **firstborn from the dead**, that in everything he might be **preeminent**. 19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
- Act 26:23 NIV that the Messiah would suffer and, **as the first to rise from the dead**, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles."
- **Christ is the Firstborn and the Firstfruits of the resurrection - guaranteeing our resurrection --** 1Co 15:20-23 NIV But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. 22 For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 23 But each in turn: **Christ, the firstfruits; then, when he comes, those who belong to him.**

Firstborn -- When some read “firstborn” they think of Jesus as a created being...Firstborn actually means preeminent - or in some cases simply a choice made by God

He is firstborn over ALL creation - Col 1:15 He is the **image** of the invisible God, the **firstborn** of all creation. 16 **For by him all things were created**, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. 17 And he is **before** all things, and in him **all things hold together**.

For by Him were all things created

- Jesus CANNOT be both a CREATED BEING and CREATOR of ALL things at the same time
- Firstborn can literally mean first born child ...But it can also mean something different

There are 3 people in the bible called firstborn - that are NOT first born literally - In these cases FIRSTBORN is a title of preeminence or God’s choice and NOT a Literal Birth Order

- **David was lastborn** - yet firstborn in terms of HIGHEST KING
 - Psa 89:20 & 27 I have found David, my servant; with my holy oil I have anointed him.....And **I will make him the firstborn**, the highest of the kings of the earth.
- **Ephraim was second-born** after Manasseh - yet FIRSTBORN in choice of inheritance - Israel crossed hands and gave him the blessing of the firstborn
 - Jer 31:9 and **Ephraim is my firstborn son**. (see Gen 48:13-14)
- **Israel was second-born after Esau** - yet he was first-born as God’s chosen for line of Messiah
 - Exo 4:22 'This is what the LORD says: **Israel is my firstborn son**

Jesus - is firstborn with respect to all creation [i.e. chiefest, the choice, the greatest, the chosen one] - BECAUSE HE ACTUALLY CREATED EVERYTHING --- he is the chief, greatest and ONLY creator [ALL Things were made BY him and FOR him]

Jesus is firstborn [preeminent] among all Christians -- Rom 8:29 NIV For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be **the firstborn among many brothers and sisters**.

The ruler of the kings of the earth

- **He is also ruler of all creation** - Rev 3:14 "To the angel of the church in Laodicea write: These are the words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, **the ruler of God's creation**.

Those who are victorious will rule -- Rev 2:26-27 NIV To the one who is victorious and does my will to the end, I will give authority over the nations-- 27 that one '**will rule them with an iron scepter and will dash them to pieces like pottery**'--just as I have received authority from my Father.

To rule is translated as shepherd here -- Rev 7:17 NIV For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their **shepherd**; 'he will lead them to springs of living water.' 'And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

The male child will rule -- Rev 12:5 NIV She gave birth to a son, a male child, who "will **rule** all the nations with an iron scepter." And her child was snatched up to God and to his throne.

Man made to rule -- Gen 1:26 NIV Then God said, "Let us make mankind in our image, in our likeness, **so that they may rule over** the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, over the livestock and all the wild animals, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Jesus is far above all rule and authority for all time -- Eph 1:20-23 NIV he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, 21 **far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.** 22 And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

The judgement of Jesus is in mind as well -- Rev 19:15 Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "**He will rule them with an iron scepter.**" He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty.

Rev 1:5 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 who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood

- With all the above, He is yet our loving Savior, who freed us from our sin. This is the one who is speaking the churches in this Revelation, This is the one who will never leave us or forsake us.

Has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father

- **Israel's calling to be a kingdom of priests** -- Exo 19:5-8 NIV Now if you obey me fully and keep my covenant, then out of all nations you will be my treasured possession. Although the whole earth is mine, 6 **you will be for me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.**' These are the words you are to speak to the Israelites." 7 So Moses went back and summoned the elders of the people and set before them all the words the LORD had commanded him to speak. 8 The people all responded together, "We will do everything the LORD has said." So Moses brought their answer back to the LORD.
- **Is extended to a calling for every tribe, language and people and nation** -- Rev 5:9-10 NIV because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation. 10 You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth."
- 1Pe 2:9-10 NIV But you are a chosen people, a **royal priesthood**, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his

wonderful light. 10 Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

Rev 1:6 to him be **glory and power** for ever and ever! Amen.

Glory because He is the creator Rev 4:11 NIV "You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they were created and have their being."

Glory because He was as a lamb slain Rev 5:12-13 NIV In a loud voice they were saying: "Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and praise!" 13 Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all that is in them, saying: "To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and honor and glory and power, for ever and ever!"

Glory because of His judgement Rev 14:7 NIV He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

Glory because He is holy Rev 15:4 NIV Who will not fear you, Lord, and bring glory to your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship before you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

Glory because the wedding of the Lamb has come Rev 19:7 NIV Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.

Glory of God to light the city Rev 21:23 NIV The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp.

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.

Look He is coming with clouds

This verse Rev 1:7 is a quotation from Daniel 7:13-14 and Zech 12:10. In some cases prophetic verses have telescopic fulfilment meaning it could be fulfilled in two places in history. For example, "**look, he is coming with clouds**" is a reference to a vision in the book of Daniel. In this vision from Daniel the "coming with the clouds" is NOT a reference to the second coming of Christ, it is rather a **reference of Jesus receiving the everlasting kingdom from His Father** and it happens in heaven, not on the earth.

- Dan 7:13-14 NIV "In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, **coming with the clouds of heaven**. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. 14 **He was given authority, glory** and sovereign **power**; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His **dominion** is an **everlasting** dominion that will **not pass away**, and his kingdom is one that will **never be destroyed**."

Jesus also quoted from this Scripture in Daniel **to confirm to the High Priest that He [Jesus] is indeed the son of man that is spoken about in Daniel.** In this instance, it was a word more about his Divinity than His second coming...from that day on, after His death, burial, resurrection and ascension He will be seen as the Son of Man spoken of by Daniel..**the one coming on the clouds and receiving a kingdom.**

From now on...indicates something happening then (from this time on)

- Mat 26:63-64 NIV But Jesus remained silent. The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: **Tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.**" 64 "You have said so," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: ***From now on*** you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and **coming on the clouds of heaven.**"
- Mar 14:61-63 NIV But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?" 62 "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and **coming on the clouds of heaven.**" 63 The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked.

And in other places "**coming on the clouds**" does seem to be a reference to His second coming to the earth

- Mat 24:30-31 NIV "Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see **the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven**, with power and great glory. 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.
- Mar 13:26 NIV "At that time people will see the **Son of Man coming in clouds** with great power and glory.
- 1Th 4:17 NIV After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them **in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.

At the end of the day, the "coming with clouds" while it will include literal clouds when he returns as Acts 1 indicates, it has more to do with WHO is coming than HOW He comes...**He is almighty God.**

So many scriptures regarding the cloud deal with the presence and glory of God.

Clouds held a reminder of the covenant -- Gen 9:16 NIV Whenever **the rainbow appears in the clouds**, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and all living creatures of every kind on the earth."

The presence of God on Mt Sinai -- Deu 4:11 NIV You came near and stood at the foot of the mountain while it blazed with fire to the very heavens, **with black clouds** and deep darkness.

He rides across the heavens to help you on the clouds -- Deu 33:26 NIV "There is no one like the God of Jeshurun, who rides across the heavens **to help you and on the clouds** in his majesty.

Exo 13:21 NIV By day **the LORD went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud** to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night.

Exo 16:10 NIV While Aaron was speaking to the whole Israelite community, they looked toward the desert, and **there was the glory of the LORD appearing in the cloud.**

Exo 24:15-16 NIV **When Moses went up on the mountain, the cloud covered it,** 16 and the **glory of the LORD settled** on Mount Sinai. **For six days the cloud covered the mountain,** and on the seventh day the LORD called to Moses from within the cloud.

Mat 17:5 NIV While he was still speaking, **a bright cloud covered them,** and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!"

Every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him

- **This scripture was fulfilled at the crucifixion** -- Joh 19:34-37 NIV Instead, one of the soldiers pierced Jesus' side with a spear, bringing a sudden flow of blood and water. 35 The man who saw it has given testimony, and his testimony is true. He knows that he tells the truth, and he testifies so that you also may believe. 36 ***These things happened so that the scripture would be fulfilled:*** "Not one of his bones will be broken," 37 and, as another scripture says, ***"They will look on the one they have pierced."***
- **It also has future fulfillment...this is a quote from Zechariah...**Zec 12:10 NIV "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and supplication. ***They will look on me, the one they have pierced,*** and ***they will mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and grieve bitterly for him as one grieves for a firstborn son.***
- **Every eye WILL see him...**some agonize over how this might happen, the world being round and so many who are dead, will it be on YouTube etc...
 - One possible interpretation is that every eye will see him at the resurrection... Job 19:25-27 NIV I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. 26 And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God; 27 ***I myself will see him with my own eyes***--I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

All the people of the earth will mourn because of Him

Perhaps because they realize the truth of who Jesus is when it is too late

- Mat 24:29-31 NIV "Immediately after the distress of those days "'the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from the sky, and the heavenly bodies will be shaken.' 30 **"Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory.** 31 And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will **gather his elect from the four winds,** from one end of the heavens to the other.

Rev 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."

I am Alpha and Omega (and he repeats "who was, and is and is to come")

- Rev 21:6 NIV He said to me: "It is done. **I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the Beginning and the End. To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.
- **There is no question this is speaking of Jesus** -- Rev 22:12-13 NIV "Look, **I am coming soon!** My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. 13 **I am the Alpha and the Omega**, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

The Almighty

The GK = pantokratōr - the all ruling, that is, God (as absolute and universal sovereign): - Almighty, Omnipotent.

- It describes one who holds sway over all things, the ruler of all
- The word is used in the NT 10x
- 9x in the book of Revelation Rev 1:8, 4:8, 11:17, 15:3, 16:7, 16:14, 19:6, 19:15, 21:22 (2 Cor 6:18)

Interesting -- there was a sport in the ancient Greek Olympics called pankration, which is basically the same word. This sport was a no-holds-barred combination of boxing, wrestling and kicking...many times resulting in the death of one of the participants...The winner of the sport was considered the one who had complete power and control of his foes.

This is how Jesus identifies Himself...again, what fitting words when we understand the things that are about to take place on the earth. We serve the Almighty God who is Pantokrator

Who is John?

Rev1:9 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.

A brother

A companion in the suffering AND kingdom (these go together)

- **After being stoned by an angry crowd, Paul said** -- Act 14:22 NIV strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. **"We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God,"** they said.
- Php 1:29-30 NIV For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to **believe** in him, but also to **suffer** for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.
- 2Th 1:4-5 NIV Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. 5 All this is evidence that God's judgment

is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the **kingdom** of God, for which you are **suffering**.

- 1Pe 2:20-23 NIV But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God. 21 To this you were called, because Christ **suffered** for you, leaving you an **example**, that you should **follow in his steps**. 22 "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.

The patient endurance that are ours in Jesus enables him to be a companion in both

- **There is no shortcut to patient endurance** -- 2Co 1:3-7 NIV Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 **who comforts us in all our troubles**, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. 5 For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your **comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer**. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.
- **Patient endurance needed at the attack of the antichrist** -- Rev 13:5-10 NIV The beast was given a mouth to utter proud words and blasphemies and to exercise its authority for forty-two months. 6 It opened its mouth to blaspheme God, and to slander his name and his dwelling place and those who live in heaven. 7 **It was given power to wage war against God's holy people and to conquer them.** And it was given authority over every tribe, people, language and nation. 8 All inhabitants of the earth will worship the beast--all whose names have not been written in the Lamb's book of life, the Lamb who was slain from the creation of the world. 9 Whoever has ears, let them hear. 10 "If anyone is to go into captivity, into captivity they will go. If anyone is to be killed with the sword, with the sword they will be killed." **This calls for patient endurance and faithfulness on the part of God's people.**
- **Patient endurance needed** -- Rev 14:9-12 NIV A third angel followed them and said in a loud voice: "If anyone worships the beast and its image and receives its mark on their forehead or on their hand, 10 they, too, will drink the wine of God's fury, which has been poured full strength into the cup of his wrath. They will be tormented with burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and of the Lamb. 11 And the smoke of their torment will rise for ever and ever. There will be no rest day or night for those who worship the beast and its image, or for anyone who receives the mark of its name." 12 **This calls for patient endurance on the part of the people of God** who keep his commands and remain faithful to Jesus.

[John] on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.

- John was in exile on Patmos...seems like one of the greatest moments in His life (the receiving of and writing the book of the Revelation) happened as a result of the persecution he endured. The LORD is able to make all things work together for good.

Rev 1:10 On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,

- Rev 4:1 NIV After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And **the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said,** "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."

The Sound of the Trumpet - a warning, an announcement and a preparation

It blows - reminding us to get ready for His coming

- Joe 2:1 NIV **Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm** on my holy hill. Let all who live in the land tremble, for the day of the LORD is coming. It is close at hand--

And it blows at the Second Coming of Christ

- 1 Corinthians 15:52 in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound,** the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.
- 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and **with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.** ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.
- Mat 24:29-31 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: (30) And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (31) And **he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet,** and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

Leaders to raise a voice like a trumpet - TO PREPARE THE HEART

- Isaiah 58:1 "Shout it aloud, do not hold back. **Raise your voice like a trumpet.** **Declare to my people their rebellion** and to the house of Jacob **their sins.**

BUT THE WORD IS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY

- Eze 33:2-4 "Son of man, speak to your people and say to them: 'When I bring the sword against a land, and the people of the land choose one of their men and make him their watchman, (3) and he sees the sword coming against the land and blows the trumpet to warn the people, (4) then **if anyone hears the trumpet but does not heed the warning** and the sword comes and takes their life, their blood will be on their own head.'

Watchmen - " sound of the trumpet" - SENT TO WARN - BUT DISREGARDED

- Jeremiah 6:17 -19 I **appointed watchmen over you and said,** 'Listen to the sound of the **trumpet!** But you said, '**We will not listen.**' Therefore hear, O nations; observe, O witnesses, what will happen to them. Hear, O earth: I am bringing disaster on this people, the fruit of their schemes, **because they have not listened to my words and have rejected my law.**

Rev 1:11 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."

In verse 10 the trumpet is linked to the VOICE of Jesus - now in verse 11 we see the seven churches...next we see these comments in the next chapters related to HEARING

- He speaks to each church, "**Hear what the spirit is saying...**"

The closeness of Jesus to His church

Rev1:12 I turned around **to see the voice** that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw **seven golden lampstands**, 13 **and among the lampstands** was someone like a son of man,

- **The voice that was speaking** was the voice of the LORD Jesus Christ. He is the one who directed John to write on a scroll the things he saw and to deliver them to the seven churches.
- **The seven golden lampstands** are the seven churches. [see vs 20]
- Notice Jesus is **AMONG** the lampstands

The description of Jesus - He is IN THE MIDST of the church

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. 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**. 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**. 19 "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. 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.

These descriptions of Jesus related to the seven churches in Ch 2&3

- Ephesus -- him who holds the seven stars
- Smyrna -- him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again
- Pergamum -- him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.
- Thyatira -- whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze
- Sardis -- him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars
- Philadelphia -- him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open. [Vs 18 states *He has the keys of death and Hades - this is truly a place where once the door is shut no man can open*]
- Laodicea -- the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation. [*this is the description of Jesus in vs 5*]