

Grace Bible Chapel
Revelation Overview Study
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January 19th, 2025
Introduction & Chapter 1:1-8

- Introduction
 - It is a controversial study to many – why?

 - It is important – why?

 - A blessing is promised (Vs 3) – why?

- Our approach to interpretation of Scripture?
 - Study methodically, prayerfully, open-mindedly, verse-by-verse, paying attention to details and following practical rules of interpretation.
 - We understand the Holy Spirit reveals truth – but He also works using our consistent effort. He works via reasoned practice.
 - The whole of Scripture must be understood in order to discern the details.
 - Basic rules (4) of interpretation for any passage (simplest manner):
 - Literal rule - When the plain sense of Scripture makes common sense, seek no other sense.
 - Law of Recurrence - An event in Scripture may be recorded twice with the second account included in order to provide additional detail - Failure to observe this rule leads to misunderstanding of sequence, order, timeline, & authorship – example is Gen 1 & 2.
 - Law of Double Reference - Scripture may blend together within a single narrative two different events separated in time – examples: Zech 9:9-10; Isa 9:6.
 - Interpreting symbols – most often this is discerned by the context, if not other related passages are utilized. Symbols are intended to enhance our understanding, not confuse.

- Revelation 1:1-8 – Overview begins:
 - Vs 1 - Of **Jesus Christ** – Genesis the beginning (Christ promised Gen 3:15), Revelation the ending (Christ consummated as Lord into eternity).

 - **“God gave him”** – this is from God – unique & purposeful.

 - **“soon take place”** – He will begin with the formation of churches, soon (relative to God’s timing) & a sure thing.

- **“communicated by His angel”** – direct supernatural revelation to John – not here-say or speculation.
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- Vs 2 – two sources of revelation – **“the Word of God”** – **“to all he saw.”**

- Vs 3 – **“reads,” “hears”** – idea of it having an acceptance by us, **“heed”** – progressive - it must change us so that we believe what is written and our lives changed & impacted as a result.

- Vs 4 – John is author (or instrument) specifically to seven churches – these churches obviously are representative of local churches (there were more than 7 churches – God picked these) will have more to say on this) of which all churches are to glean God’s will.

- **“From”** – an eternal description of God who holds all history.

- **“Seven Spirits before His throne”** – Seven is biblical term for fullness, & this refers to the fullness of the Holy Spirit (5:6; Is 11:2; Zech 4:1-10).

- Vs 5 – **“from Jesus Christ”** – described: **“faithful, firstborn, ruler”** (description is progressive) – the latter is what will be described in this consummation. How? – via the cross! He earned the right as shown in Revelation 5.

- Vs 6 – **“made us a kingdom”** – in the immediate we belong to a different realm (in the world, not of the world – Phil 3:20) - this again is what this writing will lead to in His literal coming, bringing the kingdom & moving into eternity.

- **“Priests”** – we have direct access to our God – this is our unique position now, ultimately in His presence forever.

- Vs 7 – **“so it is to be”** – Christ is coming just as He said (numerous passages) examples (Ps 2; Dan 7:13-14; Mat 26:64), a sure thing and prophesied from the beginning.

- Vs 8 – This is God affirming by placing His signature on the certainty of His coming – He is the sovereign, eternal, omnipotent glorious God – in control of history.
