**THE REVELATION**

**An Outline for**

**Chapter One**

**April 30, 2020**

References: The Introduction from the “Expanded Biblical Comments’” and Rpt. 3568

Chapter 1:1-3:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ (Jesus personally, individually and as the Head of his Body, the Church)

God gave it to him (God’s wisdom foresaw the events. He developed the Plan of the Ages. He authorized it.)

Show his servants (the spirit-begotten)

Things which must shortly come to pass (primarily the Gospel Age, but including the Millennial Age and Little Season developments)

He sent (Jesus had both the privilege and responsibility to share this information with his Body members.)

Signified it (Signs and symbols are the rule. Those unstudied in the Plan of the Ages are not able to correctly interpret the words.)

By his angel (Messenger, compare Rev. 22:16)

Unto his servant John (literally the Apostle John, about 95 A. D. Symbolically the John Class, the Feet members of The Christ, living after 1874. Consider John 21:21-24.)

Who bare record… (John faithfully transmitted the vision. We, also, are to “transmit,” so to speak, the message of the Book.)

Blessed is he that readeth (has mental vision of understanding)

…that hears the words… (has a ready heart and humble mind to receive it. Compare Matt. 13:9-17; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 29, 3:6, 13, 22.)

…and keepeth… (apply to our hearts for motive, and put into practice for a witness.)

…for the time is at hand (creating a sense of spiritual urgency, but with an added sense of importance to the Feet members living at the very end of the Age.)

Chapter 1:4:

…to the seven churches which are in Asia (7 means complete. The 7 historical stages of the developing church as a whole throughout the Gospel Age. Asia means “muddy” or “boggy”, representing that the churches development would be a difficult.

…Grace be unto you and peace, from Him… (note that the greeting is similar to that of other books or letters in the New Testament, however, we notice that John does not state anything about his authority, rather he takes our attention directly to God.)

…which is, and which was, and which is to come… (this phrase refers exclusively to God the Father. It is repeated in whole (vs. 8), or in part latter in the book. These will become important: Rev. 4:8, 11:17, 16:5. This means that God always existed. He is existing now. He shall exist into the future. Yet, we will learn that God does come in a time frame sense when during the 7th. Trumpet it the last part of this phrase is absent from the oldest Manuscripts. He comes by sending His Son, Acts 3:19-21. This is reassuring us of God’s constancy during an ever-changing world.)

…from the seven Spirits which are before His throne (In our earlier reference to “hearing” as expressed to each of the 7 churches, it is stated that we are to “hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” compare vs 3. We read in Rev. 4:5 “seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God”. In Rev. 3:1 we read “…these things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God…”.

Rev. 5:6 “…a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.”

“Eyes” represent God’s wisdom, all seeing, all knowing: II Chron. 16:9, Job 31:4, 34:21, Prov. 5:21, 15:3, Jer. 16:17, 32:19, Zech. 4:10.

“Lamps of fire burning” represents that God is continually enlightening His people from His Word “thy word is a lamp unto my feet” Psa. 119:105.

The messages to the 7 churches from God to Jesus to the churches are all of God’s great wisdom and are meant to enlighten those who are of a right heart. 7 Spirits of God represent that they are of divine intention or origin.

“Seven golden lampstands” – 1:12, 13, 20. These are the 7 stages of the Gospel Age Church. They are not the “lamps”, they support or up-hold the “lamps” which represent the Word of God. We are enlightened by the light of the oil which represents the holy spirit of truth.

Again, the emphasis is that God is the author of the truths contained in His Word.)

…before his throne. (this is God Almighty’s throne. Compare Rev. 4th. Chapter).

Chapter 1:5-8. These verses are all related to Jesus in some aspect.

Vs. 5 And from Jesus Christ (this clearly demonstrates that Jesus is different from God in the preceding verse).

…who is the faithful witness…(yes, Jesus is faithful first to his God and Father who sent him on his mission, first to provide the ransom price, also to be developed as a New Creature, our great High Priest (Hebs. 3:1), and the Head of the great Mediator for mankind). Secondly to be faithful to us his Body members, that we like him might be developed and tested as New Creatures, in order to assist with the work of restitution.

See Rev. 3:14.

…the first begotten of the dead…(the first “born” of the dead, at his resurrection. Very telling, in verse 4 we learn that God always has been and will be, here Jesus by contrast is one that was dead and was raised out of death by his Father.

Compare 1:18, 2:8, 5:6,12, Col. 1:18, Acts 13:33, Psa. 2:7, Hebs. 1:5, 5:5, Roms. 8:28.

Jesus received the divine nature, immortality.)

…the prince of the kings of the earth… (a title of authority that Jesus earned through his faithfulness during his earthly ministry. He has the purchase price for the earth and all that is in it including mankind. Compare 17:14, 19:12, 16.)

…Unto him that loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood. (this is such a tender identifying expression of Jesus’ motivation and his accomplishment toward us, is a pre-requisite for the following verse. Compare 5:8, 9.)

Vs. 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father… (vs. 5 should continue in follow with vs. 6. Compare 5:8-10.

Yes, after we are successfully washed from our sins we can be properly developed as New Creatures to be kings – those who have authority to govern in civil or temporal matters and to be priests – those who have authority to teach and instruct in spiritual matters. This is The Christ role in the New heavens and the New earth. This is what their role as the New Jerusalem shall be. Compare 3:21, 20:4, 21:1, 2. This is another way of expression that we shall share with Jesus our Head in the great Mediatorship.)

…to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. (Jesus is indeed the great Victor. Compare 5:12-14. At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow – Phil. 2:9-11.)

Vs. 7 Behold he cometh with clouds (clouds represent a time of trouble. That this is the intended meaning is clear from the later portion of the verse “and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him”. The world will only recognize that Jesus has returned because of the world-wide trouble that will increase in scope and intensity until it becomes what Jesus prophesied in Matt. 24:21 “For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be.”

…and every eye shall see him… (perceive and discern with mental vision or understanding as Eph. 1:18. Cannot mean literally, physically seeing for Jesus stated in John 14:19. And when Saul literally saw Jesus he was blinded and needed a miracle to regain his vision.)

…they also which pierced him… (the Jewish people will come to understand what their fore-fathers had done. Compare Zech. 12:10 – 14.)

…and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him… (as the coming trouble will be world-wide, so too the intended effect is to eventually bring all mankind into a humbled condition of heart in order to be ready to receive the blessings that will follow.)

…Even so, Amen. (A solemn expression of our acceptance (as it were), that the trouble is deemed necessary by our God who is too wise to err and too loving to cause any unnecessary suffering. God does not forget even the sparrow, Luke 12:6, Matt. 10:29.

Vs. 8. I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, who is, and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. NAS. (Note, “the beginning and the ending” is omitted by oldest mss.)

I am the Alpha and the Omega… (Jesus is the first and the last represented by these two letters, he was the first and last direct creation by God. This makes the Logos unique. For God created everything else through the Logos Col. 1:15-18, I Cor. 8:6, Hebs. 1:2.

Compare 22:12-17, 21:5, 6. On throne see 22:1.

…says the Lord God, who is, and who was and who is to come the Almighty. (this is the Father. Jesus is stating that God Almighty is saying he, Jesus is the Alpha and Omega. And who else could say this but the God who always existed? It is only He that could know that the Logos had been created. Note that these expressions are the same as vs. 4.

The Lord God, the Almighty is a title reserved for Jehovah. 4:8, 11:17, 15:3.

Vs. 9. I John (literally the Apostle John).

…who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation… (demonstrating his humility).

… in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ… (he had the same hopes as we).

…was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. (John was both faithful and privileged to receive the vision or trance state in order to then write it down, much like Moses on the mount Sinai, received and recorded the construction of the Tabernacle, Priesthood and all that was related.)

Vs. 10. I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day… (John here represents the “John Class,” that is the last members of the Body of Christ, those who would be living in the 1,000 year Day of the Lord starting with Jesus return in 1874 A.D. Compare John 21:22-24.)

… and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet. (Behind me symbolically means that the John Class will look back in time from after 1874 A.D. and see the history of the Gospel Age regarding the Christian Church as a whole. A loud Voice like a trumpet—NAS. I Cor. 14:8. A clear, striking message that cannot be easily dismissed. A single call to action. The Church is to respond to the message.)

Vs. 11. Saying, write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamon and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea. (Other words found in the KJV are omitted. The Revelation of Jesus Christ was to be recorded for the entire Church throughout the 7 successive stages of development during the Gospel Age. These seven are delineated in the following two chapters. Note on why these churches are symbolic: the names are symbolic of the church stage and its message. These are relatively smaller churches in comparison to the ecclesias in Jerusalem, Corinth, Philippi, etc. 7 signifies complete.

Vs. 12. And I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me, and having turned I saw seven golden lampstands—NAS. (again, the John Class is looking back on the history of the Gospel Age and the seven independent lampstands [not the seven branched menora as in the Tabernacle], these we are told in vs. 20 are the Churches. Gold would symbolize that God called the Church members with a “heavenly Calling” Heb. 3:1. They had to be independent so as to better demonstrate the passage of time between them. As mentioned earlier, we uphold the Word of God, the lamp unto our feet Psa. 119:105.)

Vs. 13. And in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across his breast with a golden girdle—NAS.

And in the middle of the lampstands one like a son of man (Jesus is ever present during the Gospel Age assisting, comforting, helping his future Bride as he promised in Matt. 28:20. Like the priests took care of the 7-branched lampstand in the Tabernacle, morning and evening, daily supplying oil and trimming the wicks. This demonstrates the loving care our High Priest Heb. 3:1, has for us both as individuals as well as for the entire Church. See 2:1.)

Clothed in a robe reaching to the feet and girded across his breast with a golden girdle (priestly robe – his authority. Golden girdle – divine appointment to serve us as he sees our needs. Not around the loins as if a servant, rather higher up showing a more stately service. For he has experienced our trials Hebs. 4:14-16.) Clothed from neck to feet, might represent that after the 1st Advent and until the 2nd Advent, much of the Body members of the Christ were hidden in a sense because of the predominance of the Tare or nominal element in Christendom.

Vs. 14. And his head and his hair were white like white wool, like snow, and his eyes were like a flame of fire—NAS (Like Daniel 7:9. Jesus is like God in the sense that he has white hair like wool – pure, venerable, ancient in that he has God’s wisdom (I Cor. 1:30), snow – pure truth, not hard like hail, but glistening like snow in the sunlight, sparkling. Denotes his wisdom in his *SUPER-VISION* of the Churches’ affairs.

…his eyes were like a flame of fire. (eyes – wisdom. Flame of fire – light, all knowing, piercing into our thoughts to know how best to assist the spirit-begotten.) 2:18, 19:12. Fire can represent judgment, and all judgment was given to Jesus, John 5:22, 27, 2 Cor. 5:10.

Vs. 15. And his feet were like burnished bronze (or copper—Rotherham), when it has been caused to glow in a furnace—NAS (it was true of Jesus during his earthly ministry and it is true of his feet members, those that “walk this earth”, that we pass through great trials of afflictions Isa. 48:10, 1 Peter 1:7, 4:12. But this suffering, if done submissively, has the beautifying effect of glowing, hardened Christ-like character. We follow in his footsteps. 1 Peter 2:21.1)

…and his voice was like the sound of many waters. (all the languages of the members of his Body. Waters – peoples. See 17:15.

Note Rev. 14:2, 19:6. The Church of Christ and even the Great Company (Rev. 7:9), come from all around the world, from many different societies, Classes and ethnicity, so that all mankind will have someone that will be able to relate to them and assist them up the Highway of Holiness.

Note: Ezek. 1:7, 24, 43:2. Seems to symbolize, an all-encompassing Plan of the Ages.

Vs. 16. And he had in his right hand seven stars. (in vs. 20 seven stars are the messengers to the seven Churches. These are deeply consecrated humans whom the Lord holds, that is, supports, in his right hand, his favored hand, by his authority, “his right hand man” so to speak. Stars are light sources, that is they will deliver Jesus’ truth messages throughout the Gospel Age. 2:1.)

…and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword. (Jesus sends messages of truths that will pierce unto men’s hearts. Heb. 4:12. Meant to teach us important lessons and principles from the Old and New Testaments.) Compare 2:12, 16; 19:15.

…and his whole appearance (Rotherham), was like the sun shining in his strength. (Jesus has his own personal glory, but his Gospel – the Good News, is depicted as the sun or sunshine. He is so superior to his “seven star” messengers, that he is his own sun! It is like comparing our sun to the distant stars when viewed from earth’s surface. He is always superior. He is our truth source.

Vs. 17. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. (back to vs. 12, John had turned and in vision saw the Son of Man. This brought about the often-read reaction of great humility and fear. Symbolically the John Class humbly responds to being called of God and Jesus by becoming “dead” to our flesh.)

…and he laid his right hand upon me. (sympathetically, his hand of favor. Jesus empowers each of us in some little way.)

…saying unto me, fear not. (this too is an often-read expression. It is only natural to be in awe of such a glorious being and such a stunning vision. We are in continued state of amazement at Jesus’ and our Father’s continued mercy and grace toward us. Matt. 14:27, 17:7, 28:5.)

…I am the first and the last. (of the direct creation of God. He is the ONLY begotten son of God. Unique in position, unique in time. 2:8, 22:13.)

Vs. 18. I am he that liveth, and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore…

(Vs. 5, Jesus identified as he who was dead and is the first one to be resurrected out of death. He actually did die to provide the ransom price. His great faithfulness has been rewarded by his Father who himself raised him out of death. Acts 2:24, 3:15. See 2:8. Jesus has been rewarded with the divine nature, immortality – he is alive forevermore. This is a reference to the divine, and God Himself is referred to as the one who lives forever and ever 4:9, 10:6, 15:7.)

…and have the keys of hades and death. (keys represent having the authority to open or close a condition or an opportunity, Matt. 16:19. Here, it is the condition of Adamic death that Jesus has the power over. Hades – those who have gone down into death, the grave. Death – the walking dead as well as all effects of Adamic death Luke 9:60. Matt. 8:22. See 20:13, 14.)

Note: Key in 9:1, 11 and 20:1. The authority to “release” truths previously “sealed up.”

Vs. 19. Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be here after. (past history, current and future events regarding the Divine Plan of the Ages and especially that which will assist and forewarn the spirit-begotten servants. 1:11, 4:9.)

Vs. 20. 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.—NAS. (Jesus explains, in part, what John saw. This reminds us of how Jesus would explain part of the “mystery” of his parables Matt. 13:11, or Paul Col. 1:26, Roms. 16:25, I Cor. 2:7. Seven—complete and of divine planning. Stars – teachers who would give enlightening truths at a specific time. Right hand – Jesus specially uses these teachers. Lampstands are the successive developmental periods of time during the Gospel Age.)

End.