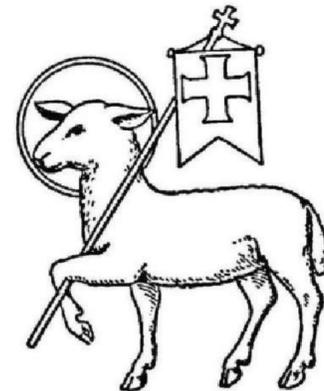


# THE BOOK OF REVELATION

## 2 Chapter One: The Prologue

(The vision of God, Jesus, Time, Eternity, the end of Death)



### Introduction

- Before we get into the exciting and scary stuff, we need a secure anchor.
- The Prologue introduces us to the themes to be developed in Revelation.
- A majestic vision of Jesus – he is the centre of the book
- Ultimately it's about worship. Who will we worship – God or Satan?
- The blending and merging of pictures.

### A vision of the Trinity (4-7) the threefold description of God

The God who offers grace and peace to his people – a peace which will hold us.

1. The Father 'Him who is, who was, who is to come' AND
2. The Spirit 'seven spirits, or sevenfold spirit before the throne (Isaiah 11:2; Zechariah 4:1-10) AND
3. The Son 'Jesus Christ'  
*(The numbers of words in the Creed and Eucharistic Prayer to describe Jesus compared with those to describe the Father or the Spirit, mirror Revelation).*
  - (a) The faithful witness: his life, obedience, teaching, faithful through suffering.
  - (b) The firstborn from the dead – a great company will follow
  - (c) The Ruler of the kings of the earth

### Our true identity (5b-6a)

*Isaiah 53:11 'he shall see the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied'.* Jesus thinks it was all worthwhile!

- (a) Jesus loves us now. Bad things which happen to us does not mean he has deserted us.
- (b) Made us royal - a kingdom
- (c) Made us priests – service to God: stand in his holy presence to offer worship, intercession and service – to others.

### A doxology – a hymn of praise

#### The first vision of Jesus (5-7)

- (a) Faithful witness
- (b) Firstborn from the dead
- (c) Ruler of the kings of the earth
- (d) He is coming again
- (e) Worthy of glory and dominion forever

#### Lord of time (8)

Who is (present), who was (past) who is to come (future)

- (a) Almighty God (Father) is the 'Alpha & Omega'
- (b) Jesus is the Alpha & Omega (Rev 1:17; Rev 21:6-8; Rev 22:13)

(c) Isaiah 44:6 – Yahweh and the Redeemer are both described as ‘the first and the last’

### **John (v 9-10)**

On the Isle of Patmos – a penal island during the reign of Emperor Diocletian (95AD)

He shares both with Jesus and the seven churches:

- (a) Persecution (for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus)
- (b) The Kingdom which is both present and to come

Patient endurance is called for as we endure persecution and await the Kingdom.

He is on Patmos, but in the Spirit

He is in the present, but also on the Lord’s Day.

(The Lord’s Day may mean ‘Sunday’ or the Second Coming)

### **The Day of the Lord (7 & 10)**

**Old Testament:** The Day of the Lord is clearly characterized by a pouring out of divine wrath on God’s enemies (Joel 2:1-2; Amos 5:18-20; Zech 1:14-15). On the other hand, the day is also characterized by a pouring out of divine blessing upon God’s people (Isa 4:2-6; 30:26; Hos 2:18-23; Joel 3:9-21; Amos 9:11-15; Mic 4:6-8; Zeph 2:7; Zech 14:6-9)

**New Testament:** The ‘Day of the Lord’, and the ‘The Day of Christ’ are terms for the same event. Luke 17:24, 29, 30; 2 Peter 3:10; 2 Peter 3:13 (The Day of God); 1 Thess 5:3;

### **The Seven Churches (11)**

- (a) Seven literal churches in Asia Minor where Christianity was once strong; headed by Ephesus, John’s ‘home church’
- (b) Seven as the symbol of ‘completeness’ the whole Church in all the world.
- (c) Seven periods of church history from beginning of Church to the end of the world.

### **The Second vision of Jesus (12-16) The seven fold vision.**

Similar to Daniel’s vision in chapter 7: and 10:5-6

Robe, Hair, Eyes, Feet, Voice, Hand, Face

### **John’s response (17)**

Fell down in awe and fear. Reassured

### **The third vision of Jesus (17b-18)**

- (a) The first and the last (Lord of time)
- (b) The one who was dead but alive forever (Lord over death)

### **The time span of Revelation (19)**

- (a) What you have seen (past)
- (b) What is now (present)
- (c) What is to take place (future)

### **The Seven Churches again (20)**

Jesus in the midst of his Church.