

The Prologue of the Revelation of Jesus Christ, Part 1

Revelation 1:1-3

Revelation 1:1-8 makes up the prologue. It is similar to John 1:1–18 and 1 John 1:1–4. It gives us information we need to have to understand everything else that is coming.

Chapters 1-3	Christ is seen as the exalted Priest and King ministering to the churches.
Chapters 4-5	Christ is seen in heaven as the glorified Lamb of God, reigning on the throne.
Chapters 6-18	Christ is the Judge of all the earth
Chapter 19	Christ returns to earth as the conquering King of kings.
Chapters 20-22	Christ, the Bridegroom, ushers His bride, the church, into the heavenly city.

I. THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE REVELATION

1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:

A. The Person of the Revelation

1. The Unveiling of Christ. “*Apokalupsis*” (from which we get our English word *apocalypse*) means “unveiling”, “revealing”, “to become visible”. The word appears eighteen times in the New Testament.

Luke 2:32 - Simeon praised God for the infant Jesus, describing Him as "*A light to lighten (of revelation to) the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.*" Simeon praised God that the Messiah had been made visible to men.

Romans 8:19 - Paul spoke of the transformation of believers in glory as "*the manifestation (revealing) of the sons of God.*"

“The Apocalypse ... warns the church of the danger of sin and instructs it about the need for holiness. It reveals the strength Christ and believers have to overcome Satan. It reveals the glory and majesty of God and depicts the reverent worship that constantly attends His throne. The book of Revelation reveals the end of human history, including the final political setup of the world, the career of Antichrist, and the climactic Battle of Armageddon. It reveals the coming glory of Christ's earthly reign during the millennial kingdom, the Great White Throne judgment, and depicts the eternal bliss of the new heaven and the new earth. It reveals the ultimate victory of Jesus Christ over all human and demonic opposition. The book of Revelation describes the ultimate defeat of Satan and sin, and the final state of the wicked (eternal torment in hell) and the righteous (eternal joy in heaven). But supremely, overarching all those features, the book of Revelation reveals the majesty and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ. It describes in detail the events associated with His second coming, revealing His glory that will one day blaze forth as strikingly and unmistakably as lightning flashing in a darkened sky.”

2. God's design

22:6

22:7

22:7

22:8-9

22:16-17

3. The Worship of Christ. He is worthy! So much of what we invest our lives in is eternally worthless.

2 Timothy 3 – *in the last days “men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud ... highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”*

B. The Source of the Revelation

Jesus is the one receiving the information from God the Father. It is not John's revelation. He is merely the reporter of it.

Ephesians 1:9-10

John 5:25

John 5:27

John 10:17, 27-30

C. The Purpose of the Revelation

The word “show” means "to show by a sign." John in his gospel recorded signs/miracles that carried a deeper message than simply the display of power. So, this book is to sign/demonstrate to His servants specific “things.”

2 Peter 3:8 - But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

II. THE WITNESS OF THE REVELATION

1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

Forty-four times in this book John wrote, “I saw.” He saw many things and passes this revelation (“things that he saw”) on to the servants. He was an eyewitness.

III. THE PROMISE OF THE REVELATION

1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.

The Revelation includes several promises of blessing (beatitudes) to those who are faithful.

1:3 / 14:13 / 16:15 / 19:9 / 20:6 / 22:7 / 22:14

“John did not send this book of prophecy to the assemblies in order to satisfy their curiosity about the future. God's people were going through intense persecution and they needed encouragement. As they heard this book, its message would give them strength and hope. But even more, its message would help them examine their own lives to determine those areas needing correction. They were not only to hear the Word, but they were also to keep it—that is, guard it as a treasure and practice what it said. The blessing would come, not just by hearing, but even more so by doing.”

Hebrews 10:25

James 5:7-9

1 Pet. 4:7

1 John 2:18