

Chapter 1 - Introduction

- “Blessed is he who **reads** and those who **hear** the words of this prophecy, and **keep** those things which are written in it; for the time is near” (Rev 1:3).
- Three blessings – **He who reads** (the verb is in the singular, as not everyone had a Bible in those days);
- **... those who hear** (the verb is in the plural);
- **... and keep** – ie, obey!
- All these verbs are in the ‘present tense’.
- The first of the **seven “blessings”** (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14)
- Anticipates that many will ignore or neglect this prophetic revelation.
- “for the time is near” – the time period of this revelation (the day of the Lord) is near the final fulfilment → Christ’s coming – the final redemption of mankind.



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- “John, **to the seven churches** which are in Asia: **Grace** to you and **peace** from Him who **is** and who **was** and who **is to come**, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne” (Rev 1:4),
- “to the seven churches” → to whom this revelation of Jesus Christ is addressed
- “**Grace**” - attitude & gifts of love
- “**Peace**” – a relationship – God’s peace
- “**is; was; is to come**” (characteristic of Christ).
- “Seven Spirits of God” – Rev. 4:5; 5:6 (Zec. 3:9; 4:10); Heb. 1:7



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- “and from Jesus Christ, the **faithful witness**, the **firstborn from the dead**, and **the ruler over the kings of the earth**. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and **has made us kings and priests** to His God and Father, to Him [be] glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen” (Rev 1:5-6)
- “Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even **they who pierced Him**. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen” (Rev 1:7).
- Amen → The Truth; so be it! – “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (John 14:6).



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- "I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty" (Rev 1:8).
- Who is talking is Jesus Christ – The central personage of the Book of Revelation:
 - He is the source of the revelation (V1);
 - Through Him God's Word is revealed (V1);
 - His blessings are upon all who read, listen and keep the words of this revelation (V3);
 - He greets us with "grace and peace" (V4);
 - The faithful witness; the firstborn from the dead; King of Kings (V5);
 - He washes us of our sins (V5);
 - Comes with clouds – all will see Him (V7);
 - He is the beginning and the ending (V8; Heb 5:9) – all delegated to Him (Mat 11:27; 28:18);
 - The Almighty (V8).



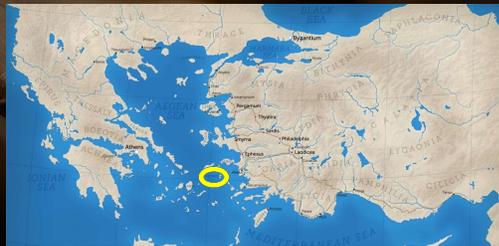
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- V9 – was in prison in the island of Patmos (in the years AD 90)



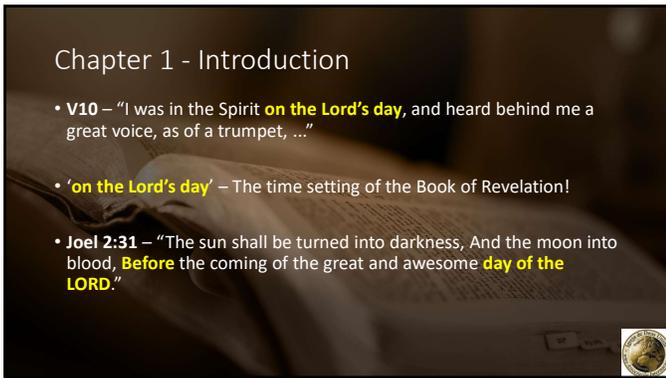
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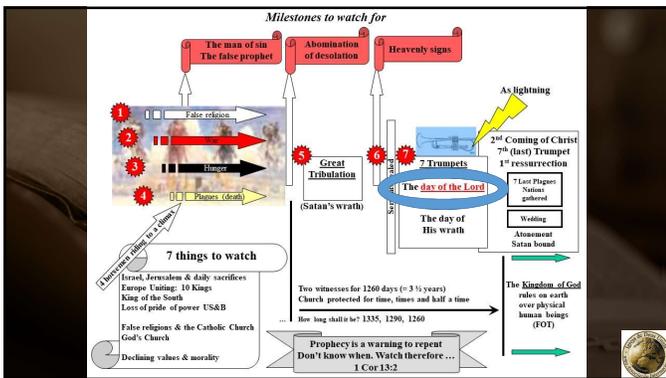
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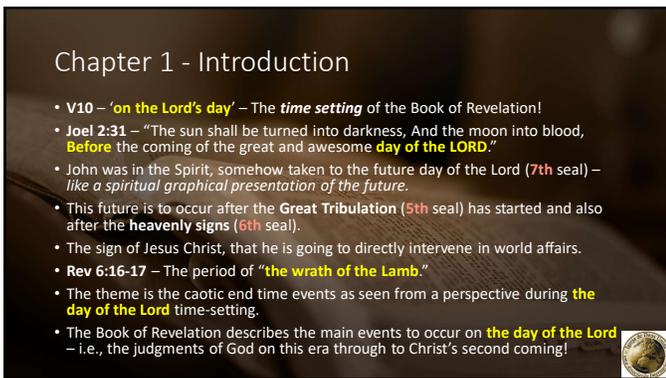
- V10 – “I was in the Spirit **on the Lord’s day**, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, ...”
- ‘**on the Lord’s day**’ – The time setting of the Book of Revelation!
- Joel 2:31 – “The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, **Before** the coming of the great and awesome **day of the LORD.**”





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- John was in the Spirit, somehow taken to the future day of the Lord (7th seal) – like a *spiritual graphical presentation of the future*.
- This future is to occur after the **Great Tribulation** (5th seal) has started and also after the **heavenly signs** (6th seal).
- The sign of Jesus Christ, that he is going to directly intervene in world affairs.
- Rev 6:16-17 – The period of “**the wrath of the Lamb.**”
- The theme is the chaotic end time events as seen from a perspective during **the day of the Lord** time-setting.
- The Book of Revelation describes the main events to occur on **the day of the Lord** – i.e., the judgments of God on this era through to Christ’s second coming!



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- "... and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, (Rev 1:10)
- saying, "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,**" and, "What you see, **write** in a book and **send [it] to the seven churches** which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea" (Rev 1:11).
- Note the omission of "**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last**" in Bible versions based on *the Alexandrian text* – again demonstrates the **corruption of the NT text** already early in history.
- **BE CAREFUL** of these modern translations which are based on a **CORRUPT** manuscript and – on top of it - translators often introduce their **false ideas** subtly under the "*good intentions*" to make **the verses easy to understand!**
- '**write**' – John was instructed to write, not once, but 12 times in the Book of Revelation. Obviously it was not written in one physical day .
- Note again to whom is this book addressed (*sent*).



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- **V12** "Then I turned to see **the voice that spoke with me.** And having turned I saw **seven golden lampstands,**
- This is the voice of Jesus Christ;
- In the middle of the Church (though out the ages) **[V20]**.
- **V13** – "and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like **the Son of Man,** clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.
- **Ex 28:2** – *holy garments of the priesthood* – for glory and for beauty.
- We shall be priests under Christ. How do we dress?
- **V14-15** – "His head and hair [were] white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; **[Dan 7:9** – As the Father] ...
- ... His feet [were] like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;"
- **V16** – "He had in His right hand seven stars **[V20]**, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength."



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- **V17A** – “And when I saw Him, I **fell at His feet as dead**.
- God’s revelation (of the Son of God) and of His **glory** had a similar effect at other times:
- Gen 17:1-3 (Abraham); Ezekiel 3:22-23; Dan 8:15-18; Mat 17:5-7.
- **V17B-18A** – “But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘Do not be afraid; I am **the First and the Last**. I am He who lives, and **was dead**, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen.’”
- “**The First and the Last ...**” – He is who started the execution of the Father’s will, the Father’s desire, to “bring many sons to glory” (Heb 2:10) in the Kingdom (the Royal Family of God). He will also complete it.
- “... **was dead ...**” – Undoubtedly it is Jesus Christ that is talking.



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- **V18B** – “And I have the keys of **Hades** and of Death.
- The keys to **open the graves** and bring people **back to life from death**.
- Upon Christ’s death and resurrection, He took from Satan the power of death.
- **Heb 2:14-15** – Jesus Christ delivered us from the power of death. We can live again, by Christ’s free gift of giving His life for us.
- **1 Cor 15:54B-56** - “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “**O Death**, where [is] your sting? **O Hades**, where [is] your victory?” The sting of death [is] sin, and the strength of sin [is] the law.”
- **Rom 6:23** – “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
- This introduction highlights **the authority** and **power** of Jesus Christ, His **glory!**



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- **V19** – Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.
- John is again instructed to write down all that he has seen. The things that are (such as the throne of God the events about the handing of the revelation scroll to Jesus Christ, and the prophetic events herein revealed. This shows the importance of this book and what is herein written:
- The prophetic events around Christ’s second coming!
- They must be accurately stated (Rev 22:18-19) – as so must the whole Bible!
- **V20** – The **mystery** [*hidden secret; not obvious to the understanding*] of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands:
 - The **seven stars are** the angels [*aggelos* – messengers] of the seven churches, and
 - the **seven lampstands** which you saw **are** the seven churches.”