

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Do not fear reading the Book of Revelation, because you are blessed for reading it
Revelation 1.1–3

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Prelude:

- I. **What are the last things that God wanted to show us and to say to us?**
- II. **Much of the varied reactions revolves around the issue of interpretation.**

Persuasion:

I. Revelation 1.1–2 • The Revelation of Jesus Christ

1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, 2 who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

– Revelation 1.1–2

A. Both:

1. a revelation *of* the glorified Jesus in heaven, and
2. a revelation *from* Jesus Christ.

B. The revelation originated with God the Father

1. who gave this revelation to Jesus Christ
2. who gave it to His angel
3. who gave it to John
4. who gave it to God's servants.

C. This revelation concerns, "things which must shortly take place."

1. Does this mean that Revelation is only about John's generation?
2. Some interpret this, and the end of verse 3, to mean
 - a) it was intended only for the first century church and
 - b) some will narrow it down to the events surrounding the destruction of Jerusalem and the temple in A.D. 70.

3. “Shortly take place” can refer to the end of time.

- a) Luke 18.8
- b) 2 Peter 3.8

D. Furthermore, Jesus Christ sent and signified this revelation.

- 1. I like to pronounce it, “sign-i-fied,” showing that the method was signs.
- 2. Revelation means to uncover.
 - a) However, some interpretation must be done.
 - b) Why did God give Revelation in signs or symbols?
 - c) See also Matthew 13.10–17.

E. Verse 2: To what three things did John testify?

- 1. The word of God
- 2. Jesus Christ
- 3. All things that he saw

II. Revelation 1.3 • The Three-Part Blessedness of the Book of Revelation

3 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.

– Revelation 1.3

A. The first of seven Beatitudes in the Book of Revelation

B. What are the three parts to the blessing?

- 1. “Blessed is *he* who reads...”
 - a) Until Gutenberg, Bibles were handwritten.
 - b) A congregation would typically only have one copy of Scripture.
 - c) They had a public reader, reflected in the singular, “he.”
- 2. Blessed are those who hear the words of this prophecy (Notice the plural)
- 3. Blessed are those who keep the words of this prophecy.

C. Cannot overemphasize keeping the words (See James 1.22–25).

1. What was the reason for the threefold blessing?
2. Does this mean that the entire Book had to be fulfilled before A.D. 70?

Exhortation:

- **Start reading the Book of Revelation.**
- **God wants you to know:**
 1. The good things that are in store for you
 2. The defeat of Satan and all his allies