

The Revelation of Jesus Christ – Part 1 (c. 95–96)

Revelation 1–3

Foreword

1:1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his slaves *the things* which must take place in a short time, and communicated *it* by sending *it* through his angel to his slave John,
 2 who testified about the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ, all that he saw.
 3 Blessed *is* the one who reads aloud and *blessed are* those who hear the words of the prophecy and observe the things written in it, because the time *is* near!

Greeting and Doxology

4 John, to the seven churches in Asia: grace to you and peace from the one who is and the one who was and the one who is coming, and from the seven spirits who *are* before his throne,
 5 and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To the one who loves us and released us from our sins by his blood
 6 and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father—to him *be* the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

Summary Statement

7 Behold, he is coming with the clouds, [cf. [Dan 7:13](#)]
 and every eye will see him,
 even every one who pierced him,
 and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over him. [cf. [Zech 12:10](#)]

Yes, amen.

8 I am the Alpha and the Omega, says the Lord God, the one who is and the one who was and the one who is coming, the All-Powerful.

John's Vision of Jesus Christ

9 I, John, your brother and co-sharer in the affliction and kingdom and steadfastness in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony about Jesus.
 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a great sound like a trumpet
 11 saying, "What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea."
 12 And I turned to see the voice which was speaking with me, and *when I* turned, I saw seven gold lampstands,
 13 and in the midst of the lampstands *one* like a son of man, [cf. [Dan 7:13](#)] dressed in *a robe* reaching to the feet and girded around his chest *with* a golden belt,
 14 and his head and hair *were* white like wool, white as snow, and his eyes *were* like a fiery flame,
 15 and his feet *were* like fine bronze when it has been fired in a furnace, and his voice *was* like the sound of many waters,
 16 and *he* had in his right hand seven stars, and a sharp double-edged sword coming out of his mouth, and his face *was* like the sun shining in its strength.
 17 And when I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead person, and he placed his right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid! I am the first and the last, [cf. [Isa 41:4; 44:6](#)]
 18 and the one who lives, and I was dead, and behold, I am living forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and of Hades.
 19 Therefore, write *the things* which you saw, and *the things* which are, and *the things* which are about to take place after these *things*.
 20 *As for* the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in my right hand and the seven gold lampstands—the seven stars are *the* angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are *the* seven churches.

Jesus' Message to the Church in Ephesus

2:1 "To the angel of the church in Ephesus write: "This is what the one who holds the seven stars in his right hand says, the one who walks in the midst of the seven gold lampstands:
 2 'I know your works, and your labor and patient endurance, and that you are not able to tolerate evil, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles and are not, and you found them *to be* false.
 3 And you have patient endurance, and have endured *many things* because of my name, and have not become weary.
 4 But I have *this* against you: that you have left your first love.
 5 Remember therefore from where you have fallen, and repent and do the works you did at first. But if you do not, I am coming to you, and I will remove your lampstand from its place, unless you repent.
 6 But you do have this: that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, *things* which I also hate.
 7 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will grant to him to eat from

the tree of life which is in the paradise of God.’

Jesus’ Message to the Church in Smyrna

8 “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: “This is what the first and the last says, who was dead and came to life:

9 ‘I know your affliction and poverty (but you are rich), and the slander of those who call themselves Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan.

10 Do not be afraid of *the things* which you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison so that you may be tested, and you will experience affliction ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

11 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will never be harmed by the second death.’

Jesus’ Message to the Church in Pergamum

12 “And to the angel of the church in Pergamum write: “This is what the one who has the sharp double-edged sword says:

13 ‘I know where you live, where the throne of Satan *is*. And you hold fast to my name and did not deny your faith in me, even in the days of Antipas my faithful witness, who was killed among you, where Satan lives.

14 But I have a few *things* against you: that you have there those who hold fast to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, to eat food sacrificed to idols and to commit sexual immorality.

15 So likewise you also have those who hold fast to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.

16 Therefore repent! But if you do not, I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war with them with the sword from my mouth.

17 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To the one who conquers, I will give to him *some* of the hidden manna, and I will give to him a white stone, and on the stone a new name written, that no one knows except the one who receives *it*.’

Jesus’ Message to the Church in Thyatira

18 “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write: “This is what the Son of God says, the one who has his eyes like a fiery flame and his feet like fine bronze:

19 ‘I know your works, and your love, and faith, and service, and patient endurance—and your last works *are* greater than the first.

20 But I have against you that you tolerate the woman Jezebel, the one who calls herself a prophetess, and teaches and deceives my slaves to commit sexual immorality and to eat food sacrificed to idols.

21 And I have given her time in order to repent, and she did not want to repent from her sexual immorality.

22 Behold, I am throwing her into a sickbed and those who committed adultery with her into great affliction, unless they repent from her deeds.

23 And I will kill her children with deadly disease, and all the churches will know that I am the one who searches minds and hearts, [cf. [Jer 17:10](#)] and I will give to each one of you according to your deeds.

24 But I say to you, to the rest *who are* in Thyatira, all those who do not hold this teaching, who have not known the deep *things* of Satan, as they say, I do not put upon you any other burden.

25 Nevertheless, hold fast to what you have until I come.

26 And the one who conquers and who keeps my works until the end, I will give him authority over the nations,

27 and “he will shepherd them with an iron rod; he will break *them* in pieces like jars made of clay,” [[Ps 2:9](#)]

28 as I also have received from my Father, and I will give him the morning star.

29 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Jesus’ Message to the Church in Sardis

3:1 “And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: “This is what the one who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars says: ‘I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, and you are dead.

2 Be on the alert and strengthen the remaining *things* that are about to die, for I have not found your works completed before my God.

3 Therefore remember how you have received and heard, and observe *it*, and repent. If therefore you are not on the alert, I will come like a thief, and you will never know *at* what hour I will come against you.

4 But you have a few people in Sardis who have not defiled their clothing, and they will walk with me in white, because they are worthy.

5 The one who conquers in this way will be dressed in white clothing, and I will never erase his name from the book of life, and I will declare his name before my Father and before his angels.

6 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.’

Jesus’ Message to the Church in Philadelphia

7 “And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write: “This is what the holy one, the true one, the one who has the key of David, the one who opens and no one can shut, and who shuts and no one can open, says: [cf. [Isa 22:22](#)]

8 'I know your works (behold, I have put before you an opened door that no one is able to shut) that you have a little strength, and have kept my word, and did not deny my name.

9 Behold, I am causing *those* of the synagogue of Satan, the ones who call themselves Jews and are not, but are lying—behold, I will make them come and kneel down before your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.

10 Because you have kept the word of my patient endurance, I also will keep you from the hour of testing that is about to come upon the whole inhabited world, to put to the test those who live on the earth.

11 I am coming quickly! Hold fast to what you have, so that no one may take away your crown.

12 The one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God, and he will never go outside again, and I will write on him the name of my God and the name of the city of my God, the new Jerusalem that comes down from heaven from my God, and my new name.

13 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'

Jesus' Message to the Church in Laodicea

14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: "This is what the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the originator of God's creation, says:

15 'I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were cold or hot!

16 Thus, because you are lukewarm and neither hot nor cold, I am about to vomit you out of my mouth!

17 Because you are saying, "I am rich, and have become rich, and I have need of nothing," and you do not know that you are wretched and pitiable and poor and blind and naked,

18 I advise you to buy from me gold refined by fire, in order that you may become rich, and white clothing, in order that you may be clothed and the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed, and eye salve to smear on your eyes, in order that you may see.

19 As many as I love, I reprove and discipline. Be zealous, therefore, and repent!

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock! If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, indeed I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me.

21 The one who conquers, I will grant to him to sit down with me on my throne, as I also have conquered and have sat down with my Father on his throne.

22 The one who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.'"

Scripture quotations are from the [Lexham English Bible \(LEB\)](#). Copyright 2012 [Logos Bible Software](#). Lexham is a registered trademark of [Logos Bible Software](#).

Chronological Notes

- 1) "Scholarly opinion concerning the date of Revelation's composition is divided between an early date (64–69) and a late date (95–96). In addition, some opt for a middle ground, conjecturing that composition began in the 60s and was completed in the late 90s. Although certainty continues to be elusive, the late date, during the reign of Domitian, has considerably stronger support. On the whole the preponderance of the internal and external evidence suggests the mid-90s during the reign of Domitian as the most probable date of composition. The external testimony overwhelmingly favors the late date, which became the established tradition throughout church history. The internal testimony, while less than conclusive, also tends to support a later date. Although some passages may reflect historical circumstances prior to 70, most of the evidence seems to point to a later date. The book of Revelation was written around 95–96 by John in obedient submission to the vision he received while in exile on Patmos."¹

¹ Andreas J. Kostenberger, L. Scott Kellum, Charles L. Quarles, *The Cradle, the Cross, and the Crown*, (B&H Academic, 2009), p. 814–824.