

The book of Revelation

1:1-6

Welcome to the bible study in the book of Revelation.

How long will the study last?

Well, the book of John, which has 21 chapters, took us 76 studies to complete.

The book of James has only 5 chapter and took 17 studies.

The book of Genesis, which has 50 chapters, took us 76 studies.

The book of Revelation has 22 chapters. Don't try to do the math, just figure as with each book of the bible that we study, that it is all dependent upon the Holy Spirit and how He would like the studies to go each week.

I do ask for your prayers as we go through this book, because at the end of Revelation there is warning:

✠ **Rev 22:18-19** *For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.*

As with this book, or any book of the bible that I teach on, I **do not ever** want to add or take away anything from the bible. My prayer is that I could teach God's word in truth, being directed by the Holy Spirit, and that all who read these studies will be blessed and strengthened as believers, and that the lost would be saved through God's word.

May the Lord receive all the glory for this website and all the teachings here, never me!

One final note. All scripture reference is from the NKJV unless otherwise noted.

So let's get started in the book of Revelation.

As we do, one thing to note that it is called the book of Revelation, not Revelations.

There is no "s" at the end, so as you are talking about the book, make sure you call it by its proper name.

Second, this book of the bible has a blessing to those who read it.

✠ **Rev 1:3** *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.*

So if you want to be blessed by the Lord, then read the book of Revelation all the way through. You have His word on it.

So who wrote the book of Revelation?
Verse one tells us.

✠ **Rev 1:1** *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,*

The Apostle John wrote the book as it was given to him by God's angel ***He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John.***

So, which John was this?

It was "John the beloved" as we just finished studying his gospel (The gospel of John)

Ok, when was the book of Revelation written?

It seems every commentary I read is in agreement that it was written about 96 A.D.

If you are reading from the KJV or some other versions, the title may say in your bible: "*The Revelation of St. John*". This was a title given to it by man, but the first thing this book states in chapter one, verse one, and makes it clear is Who's revelation it was.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

So in the very first verse we have whose revelation it was "***The Revelation of Jesus Christ,***"

Who gave it to Jesus Christ "***which God gave Him***"

Why God gave it to Jesus Christ "***to show His servants--things which must shortly take place.***"

And who wrote the book and how it was given to him "***And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,***"

But why are we all so fascinated with this book? After all, there are 65 other books in the bible, but as soon as you mention a study on the book of Revelation, people stop and listen and invite others to church, because they know it's going to be a good study. It is a great book in the bible to study, but then so are all the other 65 books in the bible. If you think about it, if there was no Genesis, there would not be a Revelation.

People also see this book as written in some sort of code with a bunch of symbolisms, and they are afraid to study this book because they just don't seem to understand what it all means.

But as you are reading through this book, one of the first things you will notice is that Jesus wants us all to understand it, and He even gives a short commentary on some of things written, like: ***The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands...*** Rev 1:20a

Also as you are reading this book, you must remember that it was written almost 2000 years ago. During this time, there were no such things as planes or fighter jets, no rockets or atom bombs. No TV, or satellites, and no Internet or computers. There wasn't even

any electricity, all sorts of things that we take for granted today, never even existed when the book was written.

So imagine trying to explain a computer chip set into someone's right hand or forehead when you don't even know what a computer chip, or even what a computer is. If you were given the revelation, how do you think you would have explained it 2000 years ago?

I also think that satan wants people to be afraid of this book or even studying the bible and that he wants us to think that we are too dumb to study the bible.

Once he convinces people that they can't study the bible on their own, he has them right where he wants them, and that's out of God's word, because they figure if they can't study it, why even bother reading it.

I am no rocket scientist, nor do I have a doctrinal degree in the bible, heck I barley have a GED that I only got a few years ago. But I do have the Holy Spirit to guide and direct me as I study and teach God's word.

But then, so do you. All you have to do is ask the Holy Spirit to help you and He would be more than happy to, because God wants us all to study His word and not be ignorant concerning His word. Just like Paul wrote to Timothy in his second letter to him.

† **2 Tim 2:15 (KJV) *Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***

So study God's word, and test the things that you are being taught here, or in church, or anywhere and by anyone. Your eternal life may be depending upon it. John (who wrote Revelation) mentions this in his first epistle.

† **1 John 4:1-3 *Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.***

And don't be afraid of God's word, because it will change you, not only into what you want to be, but also what God wants you to be.

† **Heb 4:12-16 (NLT) *For the word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are. Nothing in all creation can hide from him. Everything is naked and exposed before his eyes. This is the God to whom we must explain all that we have done. That is why we have a great High Priest who has gone to heaven, Jesus the Son of God. Let us cling to him and never stop trusting him. This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same temptations we do, yet he did not sin. So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it.***

Now back to the book of Revelation.

✠ **Rev 1:1-3** *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, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. 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.*

God wants to warn the world of what is to come, so He told Jesus to reveal this to His servants. Jesus in turn sends an angel to get John so that he could be told. John in turn writes down the things that he saw and was told. Now here we are, 2000 years later and we can read about the things that John saw and heard. But as we read and study this book, we realize that even though it was written 2000 years ago, John was writing about things that are happening today and in the future. Many things we will read about, we have not yet seen and they haven't taken place yet, but they will happen. After you read about them, you'll be happy that they haven't happened yet, and that you won't be here to see or experience them.

God gave this to Jesus who in turn gave it to John, but not only John, but also us as believers as well: ***to show His servants***

As a believer you are a servant of Jesus Christ, therefore God wants us all to read and understand this book, as well as the rest of the bible.

So, why was John so blessed to see and hear the things that he did, and why was he allowed to write this book?

Well, one reason is that he was probably the only disciple left, since all the others may have been put to death by this time.

John was also faithful to Jesus and the spreading of the gospel: ***who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.***

We know of John's faithfulness by reading the gospel he wrote (The gospel of John), which is the one book in the bible that has been translated into more languages than any other book in the bible.

John also wrote I, II & III John, which are also great books in the bible to read and study.

Sure, God could have chosen anyone instead of John. But then God didn't have to choose Abraham or Isaac or Moses. In fact, if you look at their previous track records, you may wonder why God choose them. But then I ask the same thing about myself. I'm no one special, so why would God allow His Son Jesus to die for me?

I may not be worth it in my own eyes, but in God's eyes, I was worth every minute of what Jesus endured, and so are you!

In all humility I will never understand why God would choose me to teach His word all around the world. But then, I don't have to understand it. I just have to be obedient to His calling in my life!

So back to the question of why was John so blessed to see these things and write about them? Only God knows why, but aren't you glad he did!

✠ ***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.***

Actually if you think about it, we are blessed with any portion of the bible that we read, because we are reading the things that God wants us to know, and we learn from God's words in the bible.

John is reminding us of this, and he wants us to know that we are blessed by God's word. And that we will be blessed by the words in this book, even though most who read it will not have to experience the things that will take place in it.

If you are a Christian, when we get to chapter 4 you must realize that we as the church will not be here on the earth from that point forward. Instead, we will be in heaven (more about that when we get to chapter 4, God willing).

Even though we won't be here, still we are blessed by reading about these things.

How so?

I know that every time I read through the book of Revelation and all the things that the world will have to go through, I feel sorry for those who will have to go through it and don't want anyone I know to have to, even if I don't care for him or her.

That is part of the blessing, as our hearts start to burn with a passion to share the gospel by reading of the things that are going to happen, why, because ***the time is near.***

If this was written almost 2000 years ago, how could John say that ***the time is near*** when he wrote it?

If you think about it, the earth is only about 6000 years old (give or take a century) and the scientists say that the earth is billions of years old (which is scientifically impossible). So 6000 years would be like yesterday next to billions of years ago.

John is talking more than just billions of years, but about all of eternity.

When we get to heaven, one of many things you won't find anywhere in heaven is a clock. God will not be wearing a gold watch either.

How do we know this? Because with God there is no time.

✠ ***Psalms 90:4 For a thousand years in Your sight
Are like yesterday when it is past,
And like a watch in the night.***

✠ ***2 Peter 3:8 But, beloved, do not forget this one thing, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.***

When John was in heaven, he realized this concept and knew that even though it would take 2000+ years for these things to happen, that time is too short to be messing around.

John also remembered what Jesus had said:

† **Matt 25:13** *Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.*

If you have been an undercover Christian (one that hides his or her Christianity) or have been playing around with sin, or haven't made the decision yet to follow Jesus, you are playing with fire, literally!
Jesus can come back at any moment.

"Yea, I've heard that for years, where is this Jesus you Christians are always talking about?"

Jesus has an answer for you.

† **Luke 12:45-46** *But if that servant says in his heart, 'My master is delaying his coming,' and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers.*

† **Mark 13:32-37** *"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Take heed, watch and pray; for you do not know when the time is. It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch. Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming--in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning-- lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!"*

One day the world will say that those darn Christians were right, but they won't be able to tell us so, because we won't be here.

Think about it like this. If you have a car, you will one day get a flat tire! There is no getting around it, it will, and has happen to everyone.

As soon as someone tells you they had a flat tire, what do you do when go to your car? That's right, you look at your tires and see if they are ok. And if they look to worn, then you get new ones.

But still you know it will happen, but since you haven't had a flat tire for possibly years, you don't think about it. So there you are, driving along, minding your own business when all of a sudden you hear this sound and wonder what it could be. Then you feel the car starting to pull to one side and start shaking. You just ran over a nail in the road and have gotten a flat tire.

Remember that this can happen with a new tire as well as an old one.

So whether you are old or young, you have heard, or are now hearing that Jesus will come back to take His church (The believers/Christians) home, which is what we call the rapture.

Just like you don't think a flat tire will happen to you, you will get left behind unless Jesus is your Lord and Savior.

If you are a Christian you won't have time to think about it when it happens, because it will happen so fast. How fast you ask? According to the bible, faster than you can blink an eye.

✠ **1 Cor 15:51-52 *Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.***

So how long is a twinkle? Not sure, but I know it's faster than a blink of an eye. Think of a lightning strike in the sky, if you blink you could miss it, or it can happen so fast that you don't have time to even blink before it's over.

You could be sitting there right now reading this, and before you even know it, you are out of here. You won't even have time to think about it because it will happen so fast.

✧ ***for the time is near.***

If you are not saved, it's time to stop waiting and saying that you will do it tomorrow. Remember that today is yesterday's tomorrow, so tomorrow is already here.

✧ **Rev 1:4 *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,***

When you read this, the first question is, were these seven churches actual churches? The answer is yes, and they were in the region what we now call Asia Minor, which is a part of Turkey.

Although there were many churches around at the time, these may have been the main churches. Like we have with Calvary Chapel, or a Baptist or Catholic or other church, where it is branched off of, and possibly accountable to a main church.

✧ ***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***

This is speaking of God and the seven spirits represent unity or completeness. In fact, you will read the number seven, many times in the book of Revelation. Once again, seven meaning unity or completeness.

- ✧ There are seven days in a week
- ✧ seven notes in music (A, B, C, D, E, F, G)
- ✧ seven colors in a rainbow
- ✧ seven days of creation and so on.

So who or what are these ***seven Spirits of God?***

They are mentioned two more times in the book of Revelation, which give us an idea of who they are:

✠ **Rev 4:5** *And from the throne proceeded lightnings, thunderings, and voices. Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.*

✠ **Rev 5:6** *And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.*

Don't ask me what they look like, the best John could do was to say that they were **Seven lamps of fire were burning before the throne** and **having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God**, but we'll find out when we get there.

✠ **Rev 1:5-6** *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.*

Are these two cool verses or what? I say this because they describe our Lord and Savior Jesus to a tee.

✠ **Jesus Christ, the faithful witness**

We all desire someone who is faithful and that we can depend on. Jesus was without sin and was faithful to God from birth until the end. He is also faithful to us and will never let us down. You may think that sometimes He has, but the truth is that He is watching over us and only allowing the best for us.

✠ **the firstborn from the dead**

You may be thinking of Lazarus from our previous study in John as well as others in the bible in the Old Testament as well as the New Testament who had died and were brought back to life. So when you read this you may wonder how can Jesus be the first and not the others?

All the others who died and were raised from the dead, died again. But Jesus rose from the dead and will never die again. We all must die:

✠ **Heb 9:27** *And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.*

But we will all (as Christians) be brought back to life when we are in heaven, and we will be like Jesus, never having to die again. Therefore, Jesus was **the firstborn from the dead**.

✠ **the ruler over the kings of the earth.**

It may not seem like it now, but Jesus is in control of all things, including over all the rulers of this earth, including the president of the USA.

✠ **Romans 13:1** *Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.*

And one day Jesus will come and rule and reign upon this earth for 1000 years, which we will learn more about when we get to chapter 20 (Lord willing).

✠ **Rev 20:4** *And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.*

Jesus reigns now, and He will reign for a thousand years on the earth, and He will always reign for all eternity.

✠ *Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood*

John also wrote:

✠ **1 John 1:7** *But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.*

Jesus didn't have to die for us, but rather He wanted to die for us so that we would spend eternity in heaven with Him! How can we ever think or say that the Lord does not love us?

✠ **John 15:12-14** *This is My commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends. You are My friends if you do whatever I command you.*

✠ *has made us kings and priests to His God and Father*

✠ **1 Peter 2:5 (NLT)** *And now God is building you, as living stones, into his spiritual temple. What's more, you are God's holy priests, who offer the spiritual sacrifices that please him because of Jesus Christ.*

What an honor to serve our God and Savior Jesus Christ!

✠ *to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

✠ **Rev 15:4** *Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name?*

***For You alone are holy.
For all nations shall come and worship before You,
For Your judgments have been manifested.***

Can anyone not say AMEN to that?

Well, that's it for this week's study in Revelation. Next week we will continue on in chapter one.

May the Lord richly bless you in His love, grace and mercy and may we all prepare our hearts to live and reign with Jesus Christ our Savior!