

Revelation 1

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[0 : 00] I've got a little interesting. It might whet your appetite. There's 22 chapters in the book of Revelation. And Revelation is probably next to Jude. Jude and Revelation. Jude's right in front of Revelation.

It's in the best view of Revelation. Or probably the most ignored, less preached on books in the entire Bible.

How many of you have ever been in a Bible study that took you all the way through the 22 chapters of the book of Revelation? I have. I don't know if anybody else has or not. And I can follow closely with the same thing. There's only 25 verses in the book of Jude.

And how many have ever been in a Bible study that took you through the 25 verses in the book of Jude? Well, I've been in that one too. I consider myself to be fortunate. And I've studied both of these books pretty intensely over the last years.

And I think they go together because Jude essentially is a book about apostasy. An apostasy that's within the family of God, within the church.

[1 : 23] It names groups and individuals that are apostates. You can see beginning in verse 5 and down through verse 15. It's names and groups and individuals that's named in Acts of Apostasy.

In fact, I don't know about the book of Acts, which is the Acts of the Apostles. I think that we could rename the little book of Jude the Acts of the Apostates is what would be a good name for it.

We're not going to be preaching on Jude tonight. I'm going to give you a little flavor for the book of Revelation. And it would probably take three or four months to do a Bible study on the book of Revelation.

Probably take a couple months to do it on the little book of Jude, which is a much smaller book. But I've never seen any God cram any more information into 25 verses than he did the little book of Jude.

But we're going to turn on over from Jude and the Acts of the Apostates. And we're going to look into the book of Revelation. I think Revelation will reveal some of the things that we learned in the book of Jude.

[2 : 44] God's got his books in the Bible in an order. And sometimes he takes things out from the logical order. And whenever you see that, you need to pay particular attention as to why.

And the book of Revelation is just that. It's the revelation. It's not the revelation. I hear pastors and preachers and evangelists and others just call it the revelation.

Over in the book of the revelation. Sometimes it gets me before I get my tongue twisted, say it too. I hear a man say it all the time. It's not the revelations.

I think that they say that because they think of all of the things that John wrote about and saw. But it's not multiple revelations. It's a singular revelation.

And as we look at the book of Revelation in chapter one, we're going to see something that may be you have not seen before. And if you have, just borrow with me. Because if we go very far in Revelation tonight, you'll probably see some things you don't see before.

[4 : 03] They've always been there. God's not hidden them from us. Sometimes we just have to dig a little deeper in the Bible to see what they are and how they not only deal with us corporately as a body of Christ, but also individually. And you can see those things in chapters two, chapter three of the book of Revelation where God had a letter pinned at each of seven churches, beginning with Ephesus and going through the church at Laodicea to see it.

And all those churches have a name and their names means something. It would behoove you to delve into the names that are there and what the meanings are.

Because they reveal shed some light on the light that's going on or the lack of light that's going on in some of those churches.

And you'll also notice just like I said, there's seven churches. There's a sectatic framework in the book of Revelation.

There are so many sevens involved. Some of them are just named for you. They're just like Mark floating on palm water. You know, you can just reach over and pick them up. You see them are evident and so obvious some of them go a little deeper.

[5 : 39] You have to dig a little deeper to see those sevens that are there. But literally there are hundreds and hundreds. And I don't know that anybody could make an exhaustive search of all of the sevens that are in the book of Revelation.

It's not really fun to try. But just about time you think you've got it covered. You'll be reading and you'll see that. And sometimes let me give you a little clue. If you go through the entire book of Revelation, there's 404 verses there.

And of those 404 verses, there's over 800 allusions that come from the Old Testament. So sometimes the Holy Spirit transfers you from the book of Revelation to the books in the Bible and there are sevens revealed by them.

So it extends on out. And that's why I say it's hard. Maybe when we finally get home we can look at Jesus and ask Him, Lord, how many sevens are there in your Revelation?

And that brings us to the first verse, the revelation of Jesus Christ. Who is it in Revelation? Now, if we were in Romania tonight and I was preaching in even Romanian, we wouldn't be looking at the book of Revelation.

[7 : 10] We would be looking at their translation and it's more accurate than the one that's here in English, the Apocalypse.

Apocalypse, they say, character apocalypse is the book of Revelation. Apocalypse or Revelation means to unveil something or someone that has never been known up until that time.

Something's being revealed that nobody knew about before. And that's what John's job is here, is to see the unveiling of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Now the unveiling of the Lord Jesus Christ means a lot. Man, I just can't tell you how much it really means. It means everything. It's more than just a lot.

It's everything that you know of or others and sisters. And it's also everything we don't know, which may be more than we do know. But it's unveiled in Christ Jesus. He is the Lord. Jesus Christ, there's His name and His mission and His goal in life that you had here on this planet.

[8 : 34] And the completeness of Him will be found all the way to the end of the book of Revelation. We can find Him from Genesis through Revelation 22 and in every part of the Bible in between.

The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto Him. Under Him. That's kind of strange to say that, doesn't it? But who is being unveiled and who is being unveiled to whom?

It's the revelation that God gave to His dear Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Now, if I've got you attention, have you ever thought of that before? That's the first part of Him.

It's the unveiling of Christ who He is, unto Him. Under Him's name. Okay? That should get you attention a little bit. And to show unto His servants, where all His servants were His children, were His beloveds, were in the beloveds, were the beloveds of God because of whom?

Jesus Christ. And He's unveiled to Him and He shows the unveiling to others. That's why we're gathered here at church on Sunday mornings and Sunday nights.

[10 : 04] And when we have prayer meetings or revival meetings or wherever we come together, if we come together at the gas station or at programs or wherever we are, our topic of conversation should be some of the things that God has done on our behalf and high times is doing today and will be doing in the future.

Now, I want to jump ahead just a little bit. I think verse 19, since we talked about what He has done, what He is doing and what He's going to do, the book of Revelation is the only book in the Bible that I'm worried of.

Now, I may be wrong. You checked me out on this. I wouldn't say you'd be under any circumstances. But it's the only one I've been able to find that has its own outline.

Do you remember when you were sitting back in school and your teacher gave you a book? She wanted you to read back when I was in school. We read some of Mark Twain's book about Huckleberry Finn and Tom Sawyer and so on and so forth.

And the teacher would tell us, now first of all, I want you to survey the book. That means to read the book. And then as you read a chapter, go back through that chapter and make an outline.

[11 : 28] And draw out all the high points. And that outline should give you high points that tells you the story of what happened in that chapter.

Well, God's really kind to us in the book of Revelation. Verse 19, does that very thing for us? God, the Lord Jesus Christ, tells John, here's what I want you to do, John. He said, John, I want you to write the things which thou hast seen.

There's the past. Once you write what you've seen, what's been revealed in the past to you here. And the things which are, that's the present.

That's what's happening right then while John is being included in the unveiling of Jesus Christ. Jesus is reporting to him. Say, hey, John, I want you to write what's been seen up to now.

[12 : 31] These verses here in chapter one, I want you to write about them. We're about to look at those things that work. And then we're going to look at what is.

In chapters two and chapter three is the age of the church. We all like to read and study the book of Acts, and rightly so, there's so much interesting things that happen to the early church in the book of Acts.

But you can only know about 30 years of church history in the book of Acts. If you read the book of Acts, you'll learn a lot about the Testament history too, because whenever they were about to stone to death, Stephen, you'll find things Stephen told the Sanhedrin court that you can only find in the book of Acts.

There were things that occurred, there were things that happened, but they're not revealed anywhere in the Old Testament, many of them, but they're revealed there in Stephen's testimony in Acts chapter seven.

So, here's what we've got. We've got a past. We've got a present for the church age. The church is at Ephesus, at Smyrna, at Sardis, by Tyre.

[13 : 56] And the other name is Skip from Mine, and then Philadelphia, and then Laodicea. And you just have to give me, I know as well as no more name, but I'm having a dull moment.

But anyway, you can look at the seven churches, are in chapter two and three, so you can see what they are. And those are the things that are present. We're presently in that. We have a church age. We're waiting right here tonight for the church. So, this is the present status of the church. And write the things which are and the things which shall be here after.

Okay, so we've got chapter one, it's the things that have been. We've got chapters two and three. We've got the church age, the things that are.

Now, let me ask you to turn over, since we've got this outline in a mind, over. We'll skip over the church age, chapters two and three, and we're going to look at chapter four, verse one.

[15 : 11] Chapter four, verse one. And what does it say after this? Did you get that? So, the last thing that John wrote, that Jesus told John wrote, write the things which are for the Coon.

You just read chapters two and chapter three, so you're going into chapter four and it says, okay, after the church age, after the Leos. Those are the last things that we see.

So, in chapter one, we've got the things that were, chapters two and three, we've got the things that are the church age, and chapter four, we've got the things, the beginning, of the things which are to come.

Chapters four through chapters twenty-two, will take you into the things which are to come.

Now, I'm going to read chapter four and verse one, I'm going to give you my interpretation of it, and I'm not alone in this interpretation, and you're free to disagree with me if you want to, that's your business.

[16 : 22] But I'd like for you to show me why I'm wrong. I'm going to show you why I'm wrong, I want you to show me why I'm wrong. And that's going to take you some time to dig into, don't just jump at and say something because you feel a certain way, or if somebody said something sometime, let's confine it to what the Bible itself says.

Because you know what who the best interpreter of the Bible is? The Bible. You know, I just now told you, there's all these allusions, 800 allusions even from the Old Testament, and the 404 verses of the book of Revelation are found in the Old Testament.

So where do you go to find the key to unlock these mysteries and these ideas that we see in the book of Revelation?

Well, they're found in the book of Revelation itself, or elsewhere in the Bible. And the reason a lot of pastors and teachers do not teach on the book of Jesus or the book of Revelation is because

they've not done their homework in the Old Testament.

Because that's part of the Bible too. All the scriptures get for edification that the man of God can be fully equipped to teach and preach and live a God's life on it.

[18:00] And that's where God breathed. It's all God breathed from Genesis through the last verses of the book of Revelation. Chapter 4 verse 1 says, after this, after chapters 1, 2, and 3, after this I looked, and by the way I want you to understand, there's a lot of people who says that the things that John sees and hears are just a vision or a dream or something like that, but that's not what the Bible thinks.

It says he lived. You'll see that he fell with the grain. You'll see that he heard things and saw things. That's not a vision. That's an actual, this is occurring in a place where God, the Son, is meeting with one of his most wonderful apostles, John the Apostle.

After this I looked, and behold, a door was opened in heaven. Who's the door to the sheep? You go John chapter 10, so you want to find out who the door is?

Who is? It's Jesus. Jesus is the door. If there's a door open in heaven, you're going to go. If you're going to heaven, you're going to go through that door.

[19:22] You ain't going to go through another. You ain't going to go through a window. You ain't going through the side street or something like that. There are those that think they are and think that they can, but they're going to hear some very sad words in Matthew chapter 7.

And those sad words are some of the saddest words that's ever been heard. I never knew. You know why? Because they tried to come to God some of the way and through the door.

And that door is the one and only door Jesus Christ. There's a minute. He is the door to the sheep. My little pastor used to tell me years ago, said, Brother Delft said, You got to be careful when you get out here in this way at the city and church.

He said, when the sheep get up sometimes, there's a few goats trying to stride the lane. And I thought about that a lot. And also we got bringing your attention back to chapters 2 and chapter 3. And by the way, that does church asard. It's not coming in the mind. Whenever we look at them, they're in a specific order too. And if they were in any other order, the information that's are would be not complete.

[20:45] But they're in the right order. They're in the complete order that they need to be. And one of the sad things is the church asard. The church asard is really the Reformation church.

A lot of people don't like it when you pick on the Reformation church. The Reformation church has some wonderful fun. They preached and they taught salvation and grace and faith through the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hey, ain't nothing wrong with that. That's Bible. That's a simple thing to the Bible. But there is a Catholic who was messed up and they had a lot of other problems that they didn't address.

And my words to the church asard and the Reformation church, Jesus said this, he said, behold, you got a name. You got a name hanging over the door. Oh, you've done some good things there, looks like it. You got a name.

But I'm here to tell you it's your day. And if I tire is the Roman Catholic church and that's the church that's being looked at before the church of Sapa Sardis.

[22:11] With all of its problems, Jesus even found some good things about it. But Sardis, Jesus found not one good commendation to give to Sardis, nor to lay it to see it.

Sardis, the denominational church, that's where it is. Behold, they got a lot of big names out there. But when you start to search, the heart of it is no beat. It's dead.

Verse 4, verse 1, chapter 4, I have this, I look, and behold, the door was open and had, and the first voice which I heard was that it were of a trumpet.

You're going to hear, you heard about the trumpet in chapter 1 of Revelation. We could look there and see that. We're hearing about it again in verse 4 and we're going to hear more about the trumpet.

So we're in chapter 8 of the book of Revelation and what type of trumpets and the sounds that they make. And we won't get there in chapter 8 tonight, but he heard the voice of a trumpet.

[23:28] And we've already been revealed to that voice. He heard the voice which I heard was of a trumpet, talking with me.

If a trumpet is a voice that's speaking to you, it's going to get your attention. But if we had an orchestra here tonight and we were playing a lot of musical instruments, pianists, banjos, violins,

and all different types of woodwinds and clarinets and saxophones, you name it. But if they had some people started up with trumpets, they could drown out the whole crowd. Because trumpets have a piercing and they're an absolute attention-getting instrument. That's why they use trumpets to sound battle calls in order because if trumpets could rise above the sounds of the battle, the soldiers could hear them and they were directed what to do next. Where to assemble, where to go, where to retreat from, where to go to, and how to plan their next attack, which would come under the voice of the trumpet.

[24 : 44] And we hear a sound of a trumpet, one speaking as a trumpet, talking with me. Let me ask you a question. When's the last time you had a trumpet talk?

I've had some trumpet talks in my life. I've had some times at the Lord Jesus. Even though I was in the midst of the battle and the battle he'd called me to, maybe I was about to take the wrong step. Maybe some of the pieces of armor I had left in the barracks or something like that and the trumpet spoke with me and told me, act like you got the helmet of salvation on. Act like you're walking in the gospel of the preparation of the gospel of faith. Where's the sword of the spirit work? When did you invoke the word like that? He can get your attention. Even though you're about the things of the Father, sometimes you need a little more direction even while you're in the midst of the battle.

And John is about to hear from the Lord in the midst of all of this thing that's going on around him. Now, we have switched gears from time's past, time present, and to when? Time future.

[26 : 05] A door is open in heaven and a voice told him one. A voice which I heard was as if it were a trumpet talking with me, which said, come up heaven. Hey folks, that's the trumpet we're on here. That's the voice we've been waiting to hear.

Ever since I got saved, I've been waiting, Spencer, to hear that voice. Come up here, my beloved, come up here. Come into me. Wow. One day we're going to hear that trumpet voice. And we're going through that doorway.

And that trumpet voice is the Lord and that doorway is the Lord. The only way into heaven is through the doorway of Lord Jesus Christ. There's no one. There's thieves and there are robbers that are going to try another way. But what's God going to tell them? Depart from that. I never knew. But what's He going to say to His blood? Hey, welcome, well done. Now, good and faithful, sorry. Have you been faithful in the few things? No, I place you in charge of many.

And by the way, the separate table is waiting for it. Wow. What a day that's going to be. That's right.

[27 : 29] It's something that will follow. We've got a past. We've got a present. But we've got an eternal future.

The lost man has an eternal future too. But it's an eternity in life. Our eternity is a whole different place. Like I said earlier, we've got a hell of a shun and a heaven to get to. And Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

No man is going to heaven. No man is coming to the body but by Him. Which says, come up here and I will show thee things which must be what.

Here I am. Now, if we look back to verse 19 in Revelation 1, does it start to make sense to you? We have a divine outline from God in verse 19.

Write the things, John. John, write these things. These are Jesus's words. Which thou hast seen the past. Okay, chapter one. And the things which are chapters two and three, the church age.

[28 : 45] By the way, I done told you a while ago the book of Acts shows you the first 30 or so years. In the book of Acts, you see the history of the first 30 years of the church.

Well, that's good to know that. But do you know, chapters two and three shows you 2,000 years through to that age of the church.

And those churches, if they weren't any other order, wouldn't they be? So God's placed them in a certain order to His good pleasure to convey to us not only what the book reveals in our past, our present, but also the future.

And I want you to notice where the church is in that future. The church is not here on this earth. The church is in heaven. I'm going to forget that tonight and on. I'll go as far as I can go. I just hope I'm quitting your appetite to delve into a little book of Jude and into a little bigger book of Revelation and not be afraid to do young homework and search out all this stuff for yourself.

And maybe the next time I come, you'll be able to confront me and say, Brother Delbert, you're right about that. And here's why. And if you come with a Bible open, I'll listen to you.

[30 : 12] But if you come in the name of some man or some group or some, I ain't going to pay ten nights' attention to you. Now, Bible speaks. When the trumpet blows, I'm listening.

Yeah. God's attention did when the trumpet blowed because He also knew the door was open. The door was open and the trumpet was blowing and the boy said, What? Come up here. Amen. Amen. And also the things which shall be here at. Okay. Now, verse two, who by our record gave to his angel a signify.

These things are rendered into sign, verse, verse, verse one, by his angel unto his servant, who, John. John's one who's recording what he sees, what he views, and what he knows about.

Who by our record of the Word of God and all the testimony of Jesus Christ. You know, we're supposed to do the same thing. We're supposed to borrow a record of the Word of God and to the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ.

[31 : 30] And of all the things which he saw, that's what happened. He saw things, he heard things, he fell to the ground.

Verse three, blessed is he that readeth. Now, here's another verse that you can have in the book for every word. Not only does it contain an absolute accounting or outline of this book, it also gives you something.

I've not found anywhere else in the Bible also. Now, you'll be blessed for reading the Bible in general, but this specific book says if you read, hearing and listening to what it says, you've got a blessing from God.

So if you didn't get anything else tonight, you've got at least one blessing from God by hearing and reading the Word of God, in particular, the book of Revelation.

So if you borrow a record of the Word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ and all the things he saw, blessed is he that readeth and they that hear the words of this prophecy.

[32 : 45] Also, I want you to know that it's not a pie in the sky kind of thing. It's not something that's out there, that's some kind of vision. It's not an illusion.

God's Word calls it prophecy. Here it is. There are people going around preaching today that this is not prophecy. Well, I don't know what to do. Verse 3, because verse 3 itself says, this is what? This prophecy.

Keep those things which are written therein for the time is at hand. My goodness, God's always got a timing. Tonight, you're here in part of God's timing to hear what he's saying to his church in these last moments.

It's an exciting time to live in. We hear about COVID-19. We hear about the wars and rumors of wars. We hear about uncertainty. We hear about economic catastrophes.

We hear about this political party opposed to that political party. What's going to happen to us if such and such ain't elected or such and such is elected? I'm going to tell you Jesus already knows who's going to be elected and it's not going to change his outcome. It's not going to change something. It'll be his wife.

[34 : 22] Because we don't rest in the Democrat or the Republican party. We rest in the finished works of the cross in the Lord Jesus Christ. That's who we're talking about. Who's been unveiled again? Jesus.

This has been unveiled right here in this description. Verse 4, John to the seven churches. He told John to write the seven churches.

John to the seven churches which are in Asia. Asia is not China or Japan. We usually when we speak Asia, that's who we think of. We were involved in the war back in the 60s and 70s. French end of China or the Asian war.

Korea was an Asian war. We were in battle in war too. Japan was an Asian war. The Asian campaign. Vietnam was an Asian war.

That's a little further east in what we're talking about here. We're talking about the entryway into Asia. What today we would call Turkey. These churches are located there in Turkey. In western Turkey as a matter of fact. Not so far from Romania. Not so far. You can take a bus ride one day. Dan Haik and B. from Matthews has farm and B. in Turkey.

[35 : 47] John at the seven churches which are in Asia. Grace and the Eve and peace. I like John repeats what Paul always said. Grace and peace.

If you ain't got no grace, you ain't gonna have no peace. Just don't work that way. Ain't gonna be no mercy. Ain't gonna be no peace. Ain't gonna be no accept without the grace of God. Hal Lindsey had a great acronym for the word grace.

G-R-A-C-E. God's riches at Christ's expense. What's the whole book of Revelation about here? Who's in the book?

Jesus Christ. The Lord Jesus. Unveiling of Christ. John to the seven churches which are in Asia. Grace be unto you and peace from which is and which was and which is to come.

We have a trend of delusion here. The three. He was, he is and he'll be which to come. Who's the outline of the book? What's the outline of the book?

[37 : 03] Write about the things which were. Who's that? Yeah, the Lord. Who is, he still is. The Lord and which is to come. We're directed by the Spirit and then unveiling this by the Father.

So we have a trinity, allusion to the trinity here. Right up in the first verses of the book of Revelation which are before and from the seventh spiritual which are before his throne.

There's a throne, right? When you get into chapter four and chapter five, you're gonna see that throne, right? You can get over to either of them in chapter six. You can see that throne.

Well, we're not gonna go much further and I'll let you go. Hopefully this is just to whet your appetite a little bit and encourage you in this timely season that we're in.

I think that the church age is about to come to an end here on this earth and we don't want our friends and our neighbors and our loved ones or any one else to be left here upon this earth.

[38 : 13] We don't want to see them go with us, leave with the Lord. And have made us kings and priests. Verse six.

And from Jesus Christ, verse five, who is the faithful witness and the first begotten all the day.

We're not the first one to be resuscitated because he wasn't resuscitated. He was resurrected.

Some people had been brought back from a dead but they died and they died again.

Or they were like enic. They were taken out. They were translated. Jesus is the first fruit of the resurrection.

And you don't want, you don't want, hope you have tonight. Even if we don't get raptured out of here in our lifetime. You don't want the destinations assigned.

We'll be raised just as Christ will raise. We'll have a resurrection body just like Christ had a resurrection body. And we'll have an eternal home which is called heaven because the Lord Jesus has died.

[39 : 29] And how is it like that? He said, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness and the first begotten of the day. And the prince of the kings of the earth. He is king of kings. And he's Lord of worlds.

And the hymn that liveeth us and washeth us from our sins. How? We sung about it tonight. There's power, wonder, working power in the precious blood of the land.

There's no salvation without the shed in the blood. Jesus willfully, purposely and gladly bathed the Father.

And died a death, a suffering, terrible death on the cross. He was buried in a martin and as prophesied in hundreds of different ways, he met every obligation of the prophets.

He was resurrected on the third and upon the last. And if you're here and just repenting of your sins, and you've asked God to forgive you and Jesus to forgive you of your sins.

[40 : 55] And as accepted hymn as a Savior, you've been washed wider than snow. Though your sins were like scarlet, you've been made wider snow in the eyes of God.

And that's what Jesus has in on. Well, I'm going to leave you there. I encourage you to go on with you. You've studied in the book of Revelation, the book of Jig. Notice the apostasy that's in the church world today.

Notice how that many times the precious blood is left out, the wonderful gospel message is left out, social issues become the priority when it should be the mind on it.

But don't ever forget, in Lailin, is the Lord Jesus Christ. That's the Apostate. Brothers, high extra, that's all I've got to say.