

Syllabus
The Book of Revelation
Chapter 1

Introduction: Revelation 1:1-2

Rev. 1:1 ¶ *The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show unto His servants, even the things which must shortly come to pass: and He sent and signified it by His angel unto His servant John;*

Rev. 1:2 *who bare witness of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, even of all things that he saw. (ASV)*

- The Divine Title:

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- Revelation – Greek *apokalupsis*, whence “Apocalypse”

kalumma = a veil

apo = from

apokalupto (v) = to unveil

- E. W. Bullinger: The Unveiling, Revealing, and Presentation to earth and heaven of the Lord Jesus Christ (Messiah) as KING of kings and LORD of lords. (The Companion Bible, page 1883.)

- Clarence Larkin: The unveiling of those events that precede and accompany His return to earth. (The Book of Revelation, page 1.)

- God gave the revelation to Jesus to show unto His servants.
This is of utmost importance to we servants living nearer the time.

- “things which must *en speed* come to pass”

The Book closes with Jesus saying, “Surely I come quickly.”

As God sees time a day equals a thousand years, and a thousand years a day. (Psalm 90:4, 2 Peter 3:8.)

Jesus’ return to be in approximately two days.

- His angel is involved.

- The Apostle John (writer of a Gospel and three Epistles) is the Witness of things shown him, and also the Scribe. The year, approximately 96 AD.

John was in exile on the Isle of Patmos in the Aegean Sea.
He was in his 90s. Others of the Twelve died martyr's deaths.
Attempts had been made on John's life, but God
protected him, evidently to give him this Revelation.

Tertullian, the Second Century theologian, in The Prescription Against Heretics, in Chapter 36 writes:

Since, moreover, you [skeptics] are close upon Italy, you have Rome, from which there comes even into our own hands the very authority (of apostles themselves). How happy is its church, on which apostles poured forth all their doctrine along with their blood! Where Peter endures a passion like his Lord's! [Crucified upside down]. Where Paul wins his crown in a death like John's. [Beheaded as John the Baptist.] Where the Apostle John was first plunged, unhurt, into boiling oil, and thence remitted to his island-exile.

The Blessing: Revelation 1:3

Rev. 1:3 † *Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.* (KJV)

- The only Book which promises blessing for reading, hearing....

Tehillim ArtScroll Tanach Series, comments on Psalm 115:12-14

"These words provide a most accurate description of *bracha* (blessing).

Blessing means increase and abundance; whereas the closest definition of *klalah* (curse) is decrease and loss." (Ibn Ezra)

Brim suggestion: Ask for the Spirit of Wisdom and Revelation as you begin the study of this Book (Eph. 1:17.)

Expect blessing, and increase from the One Who promised it.

"The Book is Prophecy..." Revelation 1:3

- God has chosen that His Holy Written Word be more than one-half prophecy. Some say two-thirds.
- Most has been fulfilled.
- This Book is about to be fulfilled.
- God's Litmus Test for being God: *Telling the end from the beginning.*
Isaiah 41:8, 9, 11, 12, 22, 23, 26

- The Book of Revelation shows us the beginning from the end.
- Peter gives Source and Key to correct interpretation of Prophecy:

2Pet. 1:19 ¶ We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise:

2Pet. 1:20 *In your hearts knowing this first, that ****no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation.**

2Pet. 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.
(KJV)

*Brim note: I have taken the liberty to move the last phrase in v.19 to v.20. There is no punctuation in the original Scriptures. An elderly gentleman who did a Finnish translation of the Bible explained to me that it should be so, as He has already arisen in the believers' hearts—and it is only to the world that His arising as the Day Star is in the future.

Peter calls New Testament believers to take heed to Old Testament Prophets.

The Book of Revelation declares:

Rev. 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, **the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.**

Brim note: The light of the O.T. prophets shines into the otherwise darkness of today's world events. Just as Jesus said, watching the fig tree and the other trees (nations) sheds light on His coming (Luke 21:29-33.)

**** “no prophecy of the Scripture is of any isolated interpretation.”**

All prophecy must harmonize with the whole body of Scripture. One cannot lift a word of prophecy out of its place within the whole body of scriptural prophecy, and give it an isolated, or private interpretation.

Any interpretation of the Book of Revelation must recognize its harmony with the Old Testament. It harmonizes with all O.T. prophecy, but is especially connected to Genesis and Daniel.

**The Revelation to be sent to Seven Churches
Verses 4-7 – The Introductory Cover Letter**

Rev. 1:4 ¶ John to the seven churches that 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 that are before His throne;

Rev. 1:5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loveth us, and loosed us from our sins by his blood;

Rev. 1:6 and He made us to be a kingdom, to be priests unto his God and Father; to Him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Rev. 1:7 Behold, He cometh with the clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and they that pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth shall mourn over Him. Even so, Amen.

To: The Seven Churches in Asia (Minor)

Seven churches then in existence, in a relatively small area of what is now Turkey, known as Asia Minor.

Not all the churches then in existence are mentioned.

There were others for example: Corinth, Phillipi, Antioch, etc.

Perhaps symbolic.

From: The Godhead, The Holy Trinity

(Listed here in this order: The Eternal Father, The Holy Spirit, The Son.)

From: Him *Who Is, and Who Was, and Who Is to Come*

This is the translation of His Name – יהוה

Reading from right to left the letters are: Yod, Heh, Vav, Heh

This is the Name we mispronounce Jehovah, or Yaweh

יהוה

(L to R: Yod, He', Vav, He')

The Ineffable Name of God

Ineffable: Inexpressible, beyond words, unutterable, unspeakable

Mispronounced: Jehovah, Yaweh

The Stone Edition of the Chumash,
ArtScrolls, Page 304 and 305

This Name...represents the eternity of God, for it is composed of the letters that spell...*He was, He is, and He will be*, meaning that God's Being is timeless. It is a proper noun, for it is the actual Name of God, and is known as Shem HaMeforash, or the "Ineffable Name." In respect for its great sanctity, it is not pronounced as it is written. Instead, it is pronounced Adonoy during prayer or when reading from the Torah; in ordinary speech, the word HaShem [The Name] is substituted for it.

Brim Note: The King James Version carries out this tradition using LORD for the Name יהוה

- David Baron in his book, *Israel in the Plan of God* (pages 31-) describes it as:

"The Glorious Name."

The "Name" of God, which is so often spoken in Scripture, reminds us first of all of the great and glorious fact of *His self-revelation*....There is much about God which men might learn from nature. The heavens declare His glory, and the firmament sheweth His handiwork. But nature, though it testifies of His existence, and of His infinite power and wisdom, does not reveal to us His Character or *His moral glory*...*His moral character*...His special relationship to those whom He has endowed with intelligence and with the sense of moral responsibility.

The Name had to be revealed; God had to make Himself known... "The Name" stands in Scripture *as the embodiment of God's character, as He Himself has revealed it*.

...this particular Name is the *personal* Name of the God of the history of Redemption...God Himself first "proclaimed the Name Jehovah," with all the glorious attributes which appertain to it, to Moses—on that memorable day when after he was safely put in a cleft of the rock, God "*descended in the cloud and stood with him there...and Jehovah passed by before him and proclaimed—Jehovah, Jehovah, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abundant in lovingkindness and truth; keeping mercy (or 'lovingkindness') for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgressions, and sin; and that will by no means clear the guilty...*"(Exodus 34:5-7).

Consider the revelation of His Character in these Compound Names of Jehovah:

Jehovah Raphe'cha - The LORD Your Healer, Exodus 15:26

Jehovah Roi - The LORD My Shepherd - Psalm 23:1

Jehovah Tsidkinu - The LORD Our Righteousness - Jer. 23:6; Jer. 33:16

Jehovah Shalom - The LORD Peace - Judges 6:24

Jehovah Shamma - The LORD is There - Ezekiel 48:35

(It is enlightening to consider how they apply to Israel, Jerusalem, and to the future.)

From: The Seven Spirits Who Are Before His Throne

The Holy Spirit: Identified by His Seven Attributes

Is. 11:2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;

These attributes are symbolized in the branches of the Menorah (lampstand). The six branch out from one central stem.

Exodus 25:31, 32 (The Stone Edition of the Chumash)

You shall make a Menorah of pure gold, hammered out shall the Menorah be made, its base, its shaft, its cups, its knobs, and its blossoms shall be [hammered] from it. Six branches shall emerge from its sides...

Wikipedia: The **menorah** ([Hebrew](#): מְנוּרָה [məno:'ra:]) is described in the Bible as the seven-lamp (six branches) ancient Hebrew lampstand made of gold and used in the [portable sanctuary](#) set up by [Moses](#) in the wilderness and later in the [Temple in Jerusalem](#). Fresh [olive oil](#) of the purest quality was burned daily to light its lamps.

The six branches, taken two by two represent,
The Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding
The Spirit of Counsel and Might
The Spirit of Knowledge and of the Fear of the Lord
The six branch off the Center Stem representing the Holy Spirit's source as
The Father God Himself.

From: Jesus Christ, The Faithful Witness...

He “loosed” us from sin in His own blood,
He made us a royal priesthood, a kingdom of priests. We are all priests and kings.
He is Coming Again! (Rev. 1:5-7.)

Jesus Identifies Himself with Revelation of Who He Is

Rev. 1:8 ¶ I am the Alpha and the Omega, saith the Lord God, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty.

Brim Note: I believe that Jesus did not say, “I am the Alpha and the Omega.”
These are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet.

1. Jesus did not speak Greek in His earthwalk.
He spoke Aramaic, the everyday language during His time.
He studied the Scriptures in Hebrew; He spoke Hebrew.
2. The oldest N.T. manuscripts now in existence are in Greek, because
The Apostles went out to the Greek-speaking world.
3. When Paul heard a voice from Heaven, it was in the Hebrew tongue.
Acts 26:14.

I believe Jesus identified Himself as, “**I am the Aleph, and I am the Tav.**”

These are the first and last letters of the Hebrew Alephbet, (as well as Aramaic).

א ת

Aleph, Tav
(Reading right to left)
The first and last letters of the Hebrew Alephbet
Pronounced: Et
No translation

א מ ת

R to L: Aleph, Mem, Tav
The first, middle, and last letters of the Hebrew Alephbet
Pronounced: Emet
Translation: Truth

A good reference Bible gives the Hebrew Alephbet in Psalm 119.
Under each letter there are eight verses.
Each verse begins with the letter that heads that group of eight.
Children learned to read from this.
Also, there are several Psalms which are in the order of the Alephbet; they are considered fundamental.
Aleph is the first letter—Bet the second.
Therefore this is the Hebrew Alephbet.

Greeks later called their first letter Alpha and the second Bet.
So Greek and English have an Alphabet.

The Aleph and the Tav—the first and last letters of the Hebrew also spell a word.
This important word is in the Hebrew of Genesis 1:1, but is not translated into any of our English translations.
It is untranslatable.

Spelled אַת (Aleph Tav.) Hebrew is read from right to left.
Pronounced ET.
It marks someone, or something, as unique, notable.
We might attempt to see it as “from A to Z.”
Everything. All there is.

It is in the original of Genesis 1:1, but left out in translation, as follows:

Gen. 1:1 ¶ In the beginning God created (אֶת) the heavens and the (אֶת) earth.

Here is Genesis 1:1 in the original Hebrew text:

אֶת בְּרִאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת
הָאָרֶץ: וְהָאָרֶץ הִיְתָה תֵהוֹ וְנָחַשׁ

א
א-ב

Phonetically from right to left it reads: B'Rishit (In the Beginning), bara (created), Elohim (God) et h'shamayim (the heavens), and et h'aretz (the earth.)

ספר בראשית

THE BOOK OF GENESIS.

בראשית

CHAPTER I.

IN the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness *was* upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.

4 And God saw the light, that *it was* good: and God divided the light from the darkness.

5 And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

6 And God said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters.

7 And God made the firmament, and divided the waters which *were* under the firmament from the waters which *were* above the firmament: and it was so.

8 And God called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

9 And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one

בְּרֵאשִׁית בָּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת הַשָּׁמַיִם וְאֶת

הָאָרֶץ: וְהָאָרֶץ הָיְתָה תוֹהוּ וָבֹהוּ וְחָשֶׁךְ

עַל־פְּנֵי תְהוֹם וְרוּחַ אֱלֹהִים מְרַחֶפֶת עַל־

פְּנֵי הַמַּיִם: וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהי־אֹר

וַיְהי־אֹר: וַיֵּרָא אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָאֹר

כִּי־טוֹב וַיְבָרֶךְ אֱלֹהִים בֵּין הָאֹר וּבֵין

הַחֹשֶׁךְ: וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים לְאֹר יוֹם

וְלַחֹשֶׁךְ לַיְלָה וַיְהי־עֶרֶב וַיְהי־בֹקֶר

יוֹם אֶחָד: פ

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יְהי רָקִיעַ בְּתוֹךְ הַמַּיִם

וַיְהי מִבְדִּיל בֵּין מַיִם לַמַּיִם: וַיַּעַשׂ

אֱלֹהִים אֶת־הָרָקִיעַ וַיְבָרֶךְ בֵּין הַמַּיִם

אֲשֶׁר מִתַּחַת לָרָקִיעַ וּבֵין הַמַּיִם אֲשֶׁר

מֵעַל לָרָקִיעַ וַיְהיֶכֶן: וַיִּקְרָא אֱלֹהִים

לָרָקִיעַ שָׁמַיִם וַיְהי־עֶרֶב וַיְהי־בֹקֶר יוֹם

שֵׁנִי: פ

וַיֹּאמֶר אֱלֹהִים יִקְוּ הַמַּיִם מִתַּחַת הַשָּׁמַיִם

ב' רבתי, י.

Jesus is the Aleph Tav, the A to Z, the Everything of Genesis 1:1.

John 1:1 ¶ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:2 The same was in the beginning with God.

John 1:3 All things were made through him; and without him was not anything made that hath been made. (ASV)

Rev. 1:8 ¶ *I am the Alpha and the Omega, saith the Lord God, Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty.*

Just after identifying Himself as the Aleph and the Tav, He identifies Himself with the Name of God: Who is, Who was, and Who is to come, the Almighty.

This same association is made where the seal in the foreheads of the 144,000 is revealed in the original manuscripts to be “His Name and His Father’s Name.” (The King James does not translate the following correctly. So I use another translation.)

Rev. 14:1 THEN I looked, and behold, the Lamb stood on Mount Zion, and with Him 144,000 [men] who had His name and His Father’s name inscribed on their foreheads. (Amplified)

I believe this to be one Name, the יהוה

This is the Name that was on the golden plate on the High Priest’s forehead.

Exodus 28:36-38 (Stone Edition Chumash)

36 You shall make a Head-plate of pure gold, and you shall engrave upon it, engraved like a signet ring, “HOLY TO יהוה”...

38 It shall be on Aaron’s forehead...always to bring them favor before יהוה

Brim Note: In thinking on Jesus calling Himself by the Name of His Father, perhaps this is **the Name above all names** that was given to Him—joined to His Name.

Phil. 2:9 Wherefore also God highly exalted him, and gave unto him **the** name which is above every name;

Phil. 2:10 that in the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven and *things* on earth and *things* under the earth,

Phil. 2:11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (ASV)

I used the ASV, because the KJV does not get the article right. It uses “a” name... The original manuscripts use the definite article “the.”

Rev. 1:9 † *I John, your brother and partaker with you in the tribulation and kingdom and patience which are in Jesus, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.*

Rev. 1:10 *I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and I heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet*

Rev. 1:11 *saying, What thou seest, write in a book and send it to the seven churches: unto Ephesus...Smyrna, ... Pergamum, ... Thyatira, ...Sardis, ... Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. (ASV)*

- Some believe that John was "in the Spirit" in a state of ecstasy on a Sunday...
 - Some believe that he was transported into "the Day of the Lord..."
- I lean to the latter. Sunday was not called "the Lord's day" until much later.

Rev. 1:12 *Then I turned to see [whose was] the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands,*

Rev. 1:13 *And in the midst of the lampstands [One] like a Son of Man, clothed with a robe which reached to His feet and with a girdle of gold about His breast.†*

Rev. 1:14 *His head and His hair were white like white wool, [as white] as snow, and His eyes [flashed] like a flame of fire.†*

Rev. 1:15 *His feet glowed like burnished (bright) bronze as it is refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.†*

Rev. 1:16 *In His right hand He held seven stars, and from His mouth there came forth a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full power at midday.† (AMP)*

The Amplified translation correctly translates *lamp stands*, and not *candle stick*.
A candle stick holds a candle which burns a wick coming out of a candle.
See the definition of the Lampstand (Menorah) above. It is holds lamps which burn pure olive oil, symbolic of The Holy Spirit.

Rev. 1:17 *And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:*

Rev. 1:18 *I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

(See Col. 3:15, Ps. 68:18; Isa. 53:12; Eph. 4:8...)

Rev. 1:19 *Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;*

Verse 19 is KEY to rightly dividing the Book of Revelation. For it contains things Past, Present (at that time, approximately 96 AD), and Future.

Jesus interprets the symbols:

Rev. 1:20 *As to the hidden meaning (the mystery) of the seven stars which you saw on My right hand and the seven lampstands of gold: the seven stars are the seven angels (messengers) of the seven assemblies (churches) and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (AMP)*

Seven stars = Seven Angels of the assemblies (churches.)

I believe these to be God's own angels, supernatural heavenly beings. True assemblies (churches) have angels assigned to help them just as individual believers have angels assigned to help them.

Seven Lampstands = The Seven Churches

Keep this in mind as we go to Chapter Two where the Lord speaks of removing an assembly's lampstand.

In Chapter One, The Holy Spirit is described in His seven attributes as the Lampstand before the Throne of God.

The idea is that the assemblies (churches) on earth are also Lampstands which are to be receiving their light from the Holy Spirit, the Lampstand in Heaven.

An assembly on earth is to receive light from the Throne in Heaven, and to transmit it to earth.

Earth's people have a right to expect the true light from Heaven to be reflected in the assemblies of God on earth.

When Jesus corrected the assembly at Ephesus, he said that if they did not repent, He would remove their Lampstand. (Revelation 2:1-5.)

It is sad but true, that it is possible to meet in a group that calls itself a church (it may even look like a church) but it has no Lampstand transmitting light and revelation from God's throne.