

The Unveiling of Jesus Christ



Revelation 1

Seven-headed Beast from the Luther Bible

The Unveiling of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1

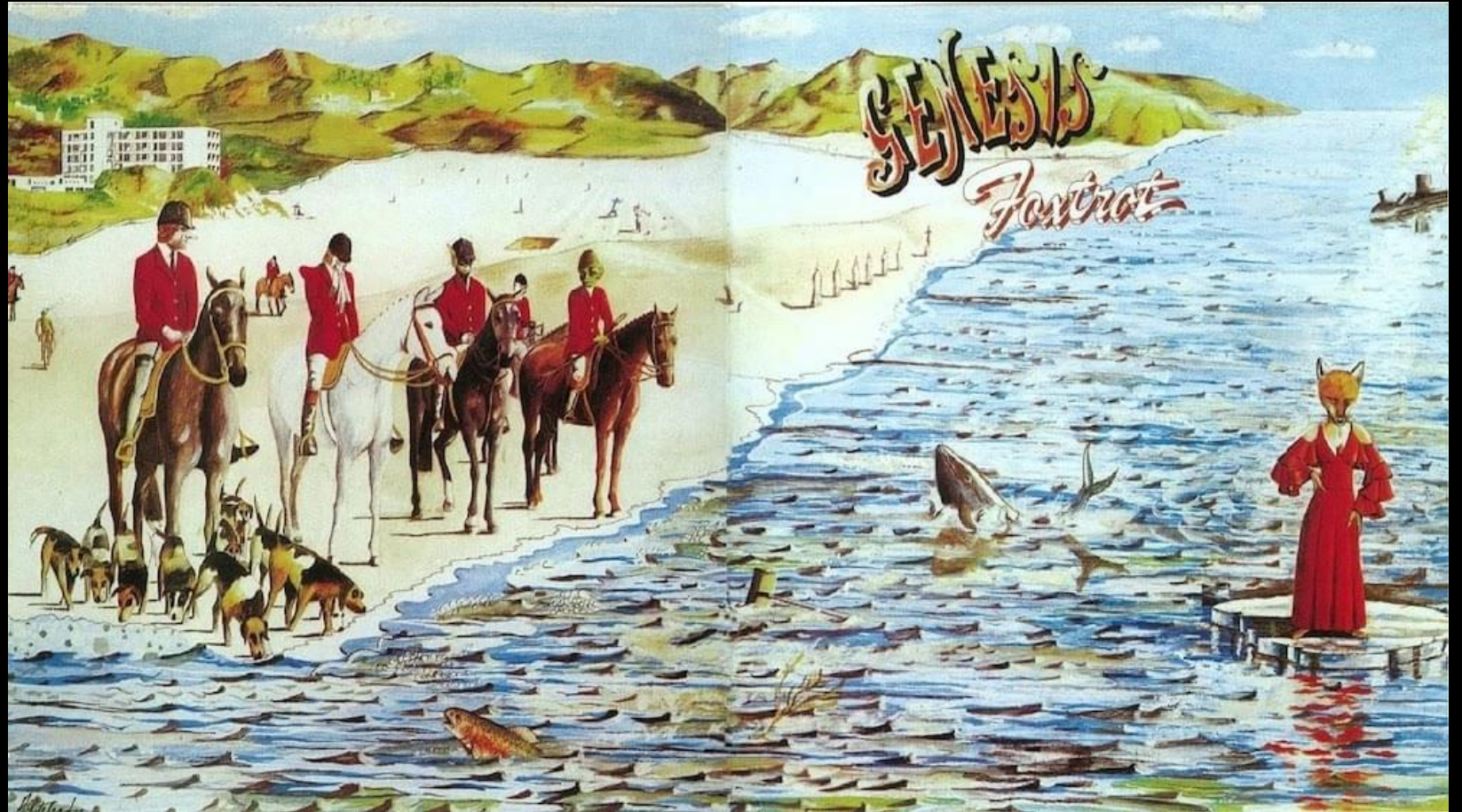
How I Came to Christ

The Unveiling of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1

How I Came to Christ

- Band:
Genesis
- Album:
Foxtrot
- Song:
Supper's
Ready

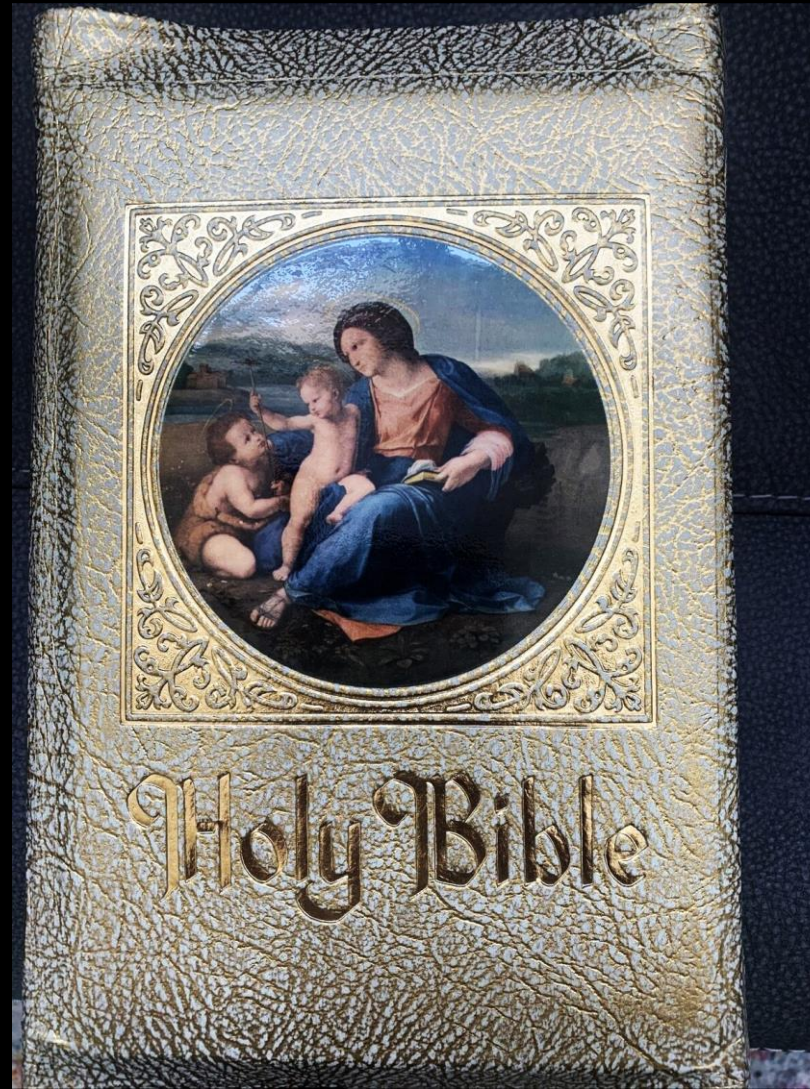


The Unveiling of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1

How I Came to Christ

- Holy Bible
Marian
Edition
(1953)
- My Friend
Jim Barrett



The Unveiling of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1

Introduction to the Book

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Introduction to the Book

- Author: Apostle John
- Recipients: Churches in the Roman Province of Asia
- Place: Patmos, a Greek Island
- Year: ~ 96 AD

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Introduction to the Book

- **Revelation** is more closely related to Old Testament prophecy than to any book in the New Testament.
- It rarely, if ever, quotes the Old Testament.
- Still, in its **22 chapters** and **404 verses**, there are **hundreds of references** to Old Testament text.

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Introduction to the Book



There are over five hundred references to the Old Testament in the Book of Revelation ...

Some of these references back to the Old Testament do speak of the very same thing as the Revelation ...

*– Arnold Fruchtenbaum (born 1943),
Siberian-born Messianic
Jewish Bible Teacher*

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Introduction to the Book



However, in others, the Revelation merely borrows a phrase or motif for the purpose of developing a new area.

*– Arnold Fruchtenbaum (born 1943),
Siberian-born Messianic
Jewish Bible Teacher*

Revelation 1 Outline

Revelation 1 Outline

1. John's Prologue to the Book 1:1-3
2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8
3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

1. John's Prologue to the Book 1:1-3

1. John's Prologue to the Book 1:1-3

1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- **Revelation**, or *Apocalypse (apokalypsis)*, means an uncovering, an unveiling, a disclosing.
- The very title tells us that this is not a closed book.
- It is one that God intends us to study.
- It is designed to reveal, not to cloud or confuse.

1. John's Prologue to the Book 1:1-3

1:1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ

- Of Jesus Christ can mean either (or both):

1. The Revelation belongs to Jesus.
2. It is Jesus who will be revealed.

1. John's Prologue to the Book 1:1-3

1:1 John

- The early church strongly supported the view that John the apostle was the author of the book.
- We won't argue with that.

1. John's Prologue to the Book 1:1-3

- 1:3 A threefold blessing to:

1. The one who reads aloud – aloud is implied, as in, to the congregation.
2. Those who hear – as in, the congregation.
3. And who keep – the same group as those who hear.

1. John's Prologue to the Book 1:1-3

*To inherit the promised blessing,
every individual in the group had to
combine obedience with hearing.*

*– Robert L. Thomas (born 1928),
The Master's Seminary*



1. John's Prologue to the Book 1:1-3

- 1:3 The time is near
- Back to v.1, "things which must shortly take place."
- Christ's goal is that we always be ready for his return.
- We should consider it imminent or close at hand.
- We don't know when it will happen, but each generation must be ready.

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- 1:4-5 A Trinitarian blessing
- But including the seven spirits.
- Why does John refer to the Holy Spirit in this way?
- Or is this even from the Holy Spirit at all?

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- Revelation 4:5

From the throne came flashes of lightning, and rumblings and peals of thunder, and before the throne were burning seven torches of fire, which are the seven spirits of God.

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- Revelation 5:6

And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- John be thinking of Zechariah 4:1-10.
- Also, Isaiah 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 the fear of the Lord.

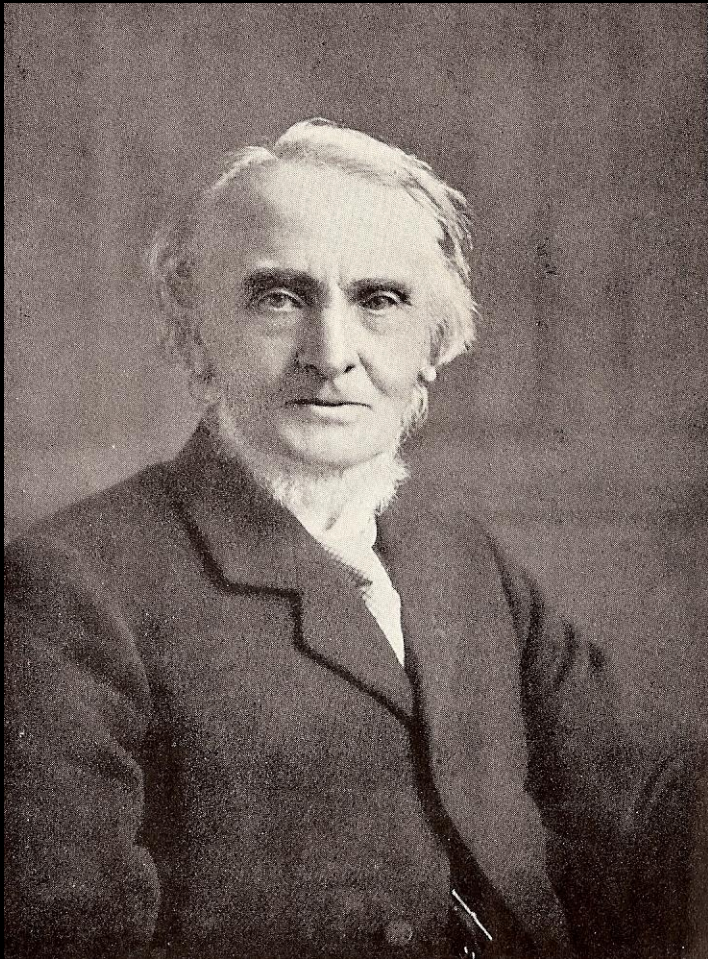
2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- 1:5 Firstborn of the dead
- He is firstborn in the sense that he is the first human chronologically to receive a glorified body.
- He is the firstborn also in the sense of rank.
- He is positionally superior to every other man that ever lived.

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- Ruler over the kings of the earth
- Christ rules over everyone and everything – as this book will reveal.
- This supreme authority is the source of our greatest grace and peace.

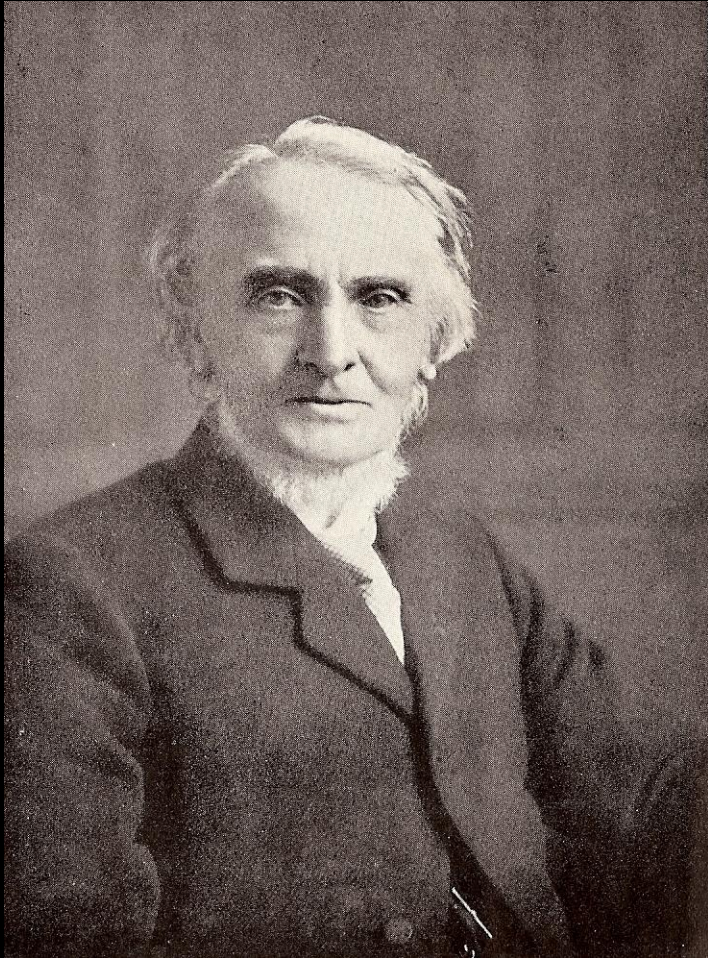
2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8



Oh, brethren! There is no tranquility for a man anywhere else but in the humble, hearty recognition of that Lord as his Lord ...

*– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)),
Scottish/English Baptist Pastor*

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8



Crown Him with your reverence, with your loyal desires; crown Him with your love, the most precious of all the crowns that He wears, and you will find that grace and peace come to you from Him."

*– Alexander Maclaren (1826 – 1910)),
Scottish/English Baptist Pastor*

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- 1:7 This verse combines words and ideas from both Daniel 7 and Zechariah 12.
- There is a mourning of repentance that takes place among those who are waiting for Him.
- A mourning of despair is what's left for those who have rejected Him.
- Jesus said it before His crucifixion.

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- Matthew 24:30

Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”
- God stands outside of time and rules over it.
- No other being can take this independent and authoritative position.
- Note also what we see toward the end of the book.

2. John's Greeting to the Churches 1:4-8

- Revelation 22:12-13

12 Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.

13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

- 1:9 We all share in the kingdom, but we also share in tribulation and patient endurance.
- John wasn't on Patmos for a vacation.
- He was put there to remove him from his place of influence in Ephesus.
- Yet it's here that God gave him his most influential writing of all.

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

- 1:9 Godly patience or patient endurance is not a passive quality.
- Strong's Lexicon explains it this way.

In the NT, the characteristic of a man who is not swerved from his deliberate purpose and his loyalty to faith and piety by even the greatest trials and sufferings

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

- 1:10 The Lord's Day probably means Sunday.
- There is later evidence that the term was used this way in that part of the world.
- Maybe John used it first since it appears nowhere else in the Bible.
- Or maybe believers were using it that way already.

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

- 1:13-16 You can compare with Daniel's vision in Daniel 10 (but we won't do that here).
- Jesus explains the seven stars and seven lampstands in v.20.

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

- 1:17 Fell at His feet as though dead
- OT prophets had similar responses.
- At an earlier time in his life, John was one of Jesus's closest friends.
- It's worth considering how we might respond in the presence of the Lord.

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

- 1:18 Jesus Christ totally controls life and death.
- Life is one of His primary attributes.
- He died because we needed Him to do so.
- His work on the cross is complete. Life is His to give.
- He holds the key to death itself and can release us from its power.

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

- 1:19 This verse can act as something of an outline for the book.
- Here in the first chapter what we can expect as we continue reading.
- Acts 1:8 functions in a similar way for that book.

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

After writing the vision he had just seen (chapter 1), John was to share about the present state of the seven churches (chapters 2–3), and then the future tribulation and eternal state (chapters 4–22).

– Tony Evans, Bible teacher



3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

- 1:20 The stars and lampstands are here explained.
- This will be clarified further in the next two chapters.
- For now, a quick explanation from Tony Evans will do.

3. John's Vision of the Son of Man 1:9-20

The Greek word translated “angel” ... angelos, means “messenger,” and that’s the intended sense here. The pastors who declare God’s Word, then, are God’s messengers to the churches. The seven lampstands represent the churches themselves, specifically the spiritual light they are to emit.

– Tony Evans, Bible teacher



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Conclusions

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- **Revelation** gives us incentive to read, hear and keep the words of this prophecy.
- Learn to love this book and you will learn to love the whole Bible.

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Conclusions

- **Revelation** reminds us that God is sovereign over history from beginning to end.
- The world is moving toward a set conclusion that we will get a glimpse of over the next several months.
- This book reminds us to be aware of God's prophetic plan so that world events do not catch us off guard.

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Conclusions

- 2 Peter 3:3-4, 9

3 knowing this first of all, that scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own sinful desires. 4 They will say, “Where is the promise of his coming? For ever since the fathers fell asleep, all things are continuing as they were from the beginning of creation.” ...

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- 2 Peter 3:3-4, 9

9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

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Conclusions



At His first coming, He dealt with sin, at His second coming He will deal with sinners. We must live ... freed by His blood or ... under His coming judgment ... If you will not let Him deal with you in love, He must come to you as your Judge.

– Donald Grey Barnhouse (1895 – 1960), Presbyterian pastor and early radio Bible teacher