

# Revelation 1:1-20

## A. Introduction of the ultimate authors of Revelation (1:1-3)

1. Revelation of Christ (1:1a)—revelation about Christ or from Christ?
  - a. Christ is the center of Revelation
    1. Return in the air—I Thessalonians 4
    2. Rise of the Antichrist—Rev. 13:2
    3. Earth will experience trouble—Matthew 24
    4. Christ will return to the earth—Rev. 19:11-21
    5. 1,000 year reign—Rev. 20:4-6
    6. Release of Satan and Judgment—Rev. 20:7-15
    7. New World is created—Rev. 21-22
2. Agents of Revelation (1:1b-2)
3. Those who read and hear (1:3)
  - a. We must be witnesses as well—Revelation is both a promise and a demand—the time is near (historical)!

## B. Introduction to the audience and identity of God (1:4-8)

1. Churches in Asia (1:4a)
  - a. Not to be thought of in terms of historical time periods.
  - b. Ephesus—most prominent city.
2. From God with Love (1:4b)
  - a. Greetings the same as the other epistles; note Greek and Hebrew combined.
  - b. Seven Spirits?—archangels? Or sevenfold Spirit (Isaiah 11:2)
3. Jesus the Deliverer (1:5-6)
  - a. Attributes of Christ—1. “Faithful Witness” to the Father’s love—believers can depend on his promises. 2. “Firstborn” from the dead guarantees that believers will also rise. 3. “Ruler of the kings”—authority over all authority.
  - b. Equation: God’s Love=Freedom of sin through Jesus’ blood
  - c. **Call to worship: Salvation is not just what Jesus saves us from, but also what He saves us for!**
4. Concluding promise and affirmation (1:7-8)
  - a. Doxology—all history is in God’s hands—alpha and omega.

## C. Narrative Introduction: Vision of Christ (1:9-12)

1. Setting the Scene (1:9-10)
  - a. John was a brother and companion— a fellow sufferer along with these churches.
  - b. Endurance requires fortitude in view of God’s promises during times of trouble.
2. Among the Lampstands (1:11-12)
  - a. Jesus’ presence with His church—the lampstands (menorah). Symbolic of Israel and Judaism—symbolic of the Church Universal: provided light needed by priests in the sanctuary concealed from the light of the external world.
  - b. Lampstand—brings continuity—OT-NT

## D. Vision and the beginning of Jesus’ message to the churches (1:13-20)

1. John’s Vision of the Son of Man (1:13-16)
2. Jesus’ Message (1:17-20)

