

THE REVELATION:

Living *Daily* with the End in Mind

Part One

January 6, 2008

What's the World Coming to?

Revelation 1:1-20

Introduction – A Word of Hope from Another World...

- ◆ For a little boy in America
- ◆ For a lonely disciple in Patmos
- ◆ For you and me today

Important Questions Before We Begin

1. Why teach this book now?
2. How will we approach our study?
 - The Interpretation
 - The Structure
 - The Unique Characteristics
3. What's the goal of our study?

I. Answer = A Word of Hope from the Father

¹The **revelation** of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants **what must soon take place**. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ²who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³Blessed is the one who reads the **words of this prophecy**, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because **the time is near**. (Rev. 1: 1-3)

◆ **Message:** Don't be deceived—The Future is Certain!

II. Answer = A Word Hope For His Church

⁴John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before **his throne**, ⁵and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and **the ruler of the kings of the earth**.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶and has made us to be **a kingdom** and priests to serve his God and Father—to **him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen**.

⁷Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. **So shall it be! Amen**.

⁸**"I am the Alpha and the Omega,"** says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, **the Almighty**." (Rev. 1:4-8).

◆ **Message:** Don't be discouraged—God is In Control!

III. Answer = A Word of Hope from the Risen Lord

⁹I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

¹²I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and **among the lampstands** was someone "like a son of man," dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸**I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.** (Rev. 1: 9-18)

◆ Message: Don't be afraid—Your Future is Secure!

IV. Answer = John's Divine Assignment

¹⁹"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. (Rev. 1:19-20)

Application: A Word of Hope For Us Today

1. HIS PROMISE – The future is certain! (v. 7)
2. HIS PROVISION – We are secure! (v. 5-6)
3. HIS PRESENCE – We will never be alone! (v. 13)
4. HIS POWER – He will judge the world! (v. 18)

Discussion Questions

1. What world issues most concern you?
2. What personal issues most discourage you?
3. Why is it unwise to put our hope in people, things, or circumstances?
4. When life is hard do you tend to "look at the score board" (present circumstances) or listen to your Father's voice from another world?