

The book of Revelation

Chapter 1-Part 1

“The first chapter of the Apocalypse consists of _____ easily recognized parts.”

1. Introduction: 1:1-3

-This book is the revelation of Jesus Christ (vs 1a) not just because Christ communicates it to John but also because it is a book about Him (His victory in _____ and in _____)

-There is a chain of communication that is mentioned here:

1. **God** (this is a reference specifically to the _____) gave this to Christ. “It was God who highly exalted the Mediator and committed to Him the government of the world in the interest of the Church.” (61)
2. **The Son**. “He both reveals this plan to His Church and as Mediator enthroned in glory causes it to be realized in _____. He reigns on high.” (61)
3. **His angel**. An angel for the majority of the book acts as John’s _____.
4. **The Apostle John**. John bore witness to these things and passed them on to the _____.
5. **The reader**. The letters of the Apostles were usually read aloud to the assembled _____.
6. **The hearer**. The first of seven beatitudes (or pronouncement of blessing) is here given to the reader and hearer of these words. The hearer that is here mentioned is the active hearer who receives these words by _____ which is evidenced by obedience of life and conduct.

-Within the introduction there are two phrases which have to do with _____.

1. “...the things that must _____ take place.” (vs 1)
2. “...for the time is _____.” (vs 3)

In reference to these two statements Hendriksen writes, “This plan pertains to things that must soon occur. They begin to happen at once... Remember the time is at hand; the predictions begin to be fulfilled immediately.” (61 & 62)

2. The salutation and adoration (1:4-6)

-While this letter is addressed to the seven churches that are in Asia it is a common thought to see these seven churches as being representative of the _____ church throughout every age.

“These seven churches represent the entire Church throughout this dispensation.” (62)

“Though other New Testament writings show that churches existed in other cities of western Asia Minor when Revelation was given, these seven represent the

churches of Jesus Christ generally, since their number, seven, symbolizes completeness.” (Triumph of the Lamb, Johnson, pg. 14)

-The salutation here is ordered in such a beautiful way to highlight our Triune God. Grace and _____ come to us first from the Father (the Eternal One and blessed fountainhead of all goodness). They are _____ to us by the Spirit because of the work of the Jesus Christ (He came as a _____ to the truth, died for our sin but rose victorious over death, and is now the ruler of kings on earth).

-Praise is now offered (which is always the proper response to the wonder of redemption) “to Him, who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood, and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.”

-We have been _____ from our sin and have been made into a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6) “In the Church Israel lives on.” (63)

3. The Announcement of Christ’s Second Coming (1:7)

The Second Coming of Christ will happen and not only will believers, who are eager for Him to come again, see Him but also those who rejected Him. Hendriksen writes, “This is not the mourning of repentance but that of hopelessness.” (64)

This provides comfort to the saints by reminding them that evil will not always be. There will be an end to suffering and it will be when the Lord comes in glory.

4. Christ’s Self-Designation (1:8)

Here Christ is clearly identified with being _____ God. Also, Christ calls Himself the beginning and end (alpha & omega) and then refers to Himself in the exact way the Father was referred to in verse 4. The ending words “the Almighty” serve to not only give doctrinal truth but also to _____ the feeble hearts of struggling saints.

“Take courage; your enemy cannot destroy your Christ.” (64)