



T H R E A D I N G T H E P E A R L S . o r g

# Threading the Pearls of the Book of Revelation

An Expository Study

Session I: Introduction

## REVELATION 1:1 — 1:8

Revelation is the only book in the Bible that specifically promises to bless the one who reads the words written in it —

Blessed are: those who **read**,  
those who **hear**, and  
those who **keep**  
the words of *this prophecy*.

[REV 1:3]

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ThreadingthePearls.org

E-mail:  
admin@threadingthepearls.org



## REVELATION 1

**1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to make known to his servants the things which must shortly come to pass: and signified, sending by his angel to his servant John,**

**Revelation of Jesus Christ**

LUKE 2:30-32, my eyes have seen Your salvation <sup>31</sup>Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, <sup>32</sup>*A light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel*";

1COR 14:26, Whenever you come together, each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation, has an interpretation. *Let all things be done for edification.*

**God gave [Jesus Christ]**

MATH 11:27, *All things have been delivered to Me by My Father*, and no one knows the Son except the Father. Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him;

JOHN 5:20, the Father loves the Son, and shows Him all things that He Himself does; and *He will show Him greater works than these, that you may marvel.*

**To show his servants**

DEUT 3:24-25, Lord God, *You have begun to show Your servant Your greatness and Your mighty hand, for what god is there in heaven or on earth who can do anything like Your works and Your mighty deeds?* <sup>25</sup>*I pray, let me cross over and see the good land beyond the Jordan, those pleasant mountains, and Lebanon*'.

**Must soon take place**

REV 22:6, he said to me, "These words are faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent His angel to show His servants the things which *must shortly take place.*

**He made it known**

PRO 1:22-23, How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. <sup>23</sup>Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; *I will make my words known to you.*

**Signified it\***

\*NOTE — Phrase not found in NIV translation; PRO 25:2-16, It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, But *the glory of kings is to search out a matter...*

(A 'Remaz' is a hint of some deeper meaning. Reading in Proverbs there are several hints, or connections, to other passages elsewhere in Scripture.)

- While reading PRO 25:3-16 on following page, refer also to: ZECH 13:9, ISA 16:5, REV 4:1, EPH 2:2, DAN 7:26, DAN 12:4, DAN 12:9, REV 10:4, ROM 15:14, MAL 3:1, EZE 3:1-3, and REV 10:10.)

**By sending his angel**

GEN 24:7, The Lord God of heaven, who took me from my father's house and from the land of my family, and who spoke to me and swore to me, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land,' *He will send His angel before you*, and you shall take a wife for my son from there.

**To his servant John**

JOHN 19:26-27, When Jesus therefore saw His mother, and *the disciple whom He loved* standing by, He said to His mother, "Woman, behold your son!" <sup>27</sup>Then He said to the disciple, "Behold your mother!" And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home.

## CONSIDER THIS —

MATH 11:27, *All things have been delivered to Me by My Father...*

— This was said before he went to the cross.

So, is this a past tense comment made regarding future events?

— We might wonder when Jesus received this revelation?



## REVELATION 1

**2 Who hath given testimony to the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ, what things soever he hath seen.**

**Signed it**

A 'Remaz' is a hint of some deeper meaning. Reading in Proverbs there are several hints, or connections, to other passages elsewhere in Scripture.

PRO 25:3-16, As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, So the heart of kings is unsearchable. <sup>4</sup>Take away the dross from silver, And it will go to *the silversmith for jewelry* [ZECH 13:9]. <sup>5</sup>Take away the wicked from before the king, And his *throne will be established in righteousness* [ISA 16:5]. <sup>6</sup>Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, And do not stand in the place of the great; <sup>7</sup>For it is better that he say to you, "*Come up here*," [REV 4:1] Than that you should be put lower *in the presence of the prince* [EPH 2:2], Whom your eyes have seen. <sup>8</sup>*Do not go hastily to court* [DAN 7:26]; For what will you do in the end, When your neighbor has put you to shame? <sup>9</sup>Debate your case with your neighbor, And *do not disclose the secret to another* [DAN 12:4, DAN 12:9, REV 10:4]; <sup>10</sup>Lest he who hears it expose your shame, And your reputation be ruined. <sup>11</sup>A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. <sup>12</sup>Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to *an obedient ear* [ROM 15:14]. <sup>13</sup>Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a *faithful messenger to those who send him* [MAL 3:1], For he refreshes the soul of his masters. <sup>14</sup>Whoever falsely boasts of giving Is like clouds and wind without rain. <sup>15</sup>By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, And a gentle tongue breaks a bone. <sup>16</sup>Have you found honey? *Eat only as much as you need* [EZE 3:1-3, REV 10:10], Lest you be filled with it and vomit.

**[John] who testifies**

JOHN 21:24, This is *the disciple who is bearing witness about these things*, and who has written these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

**Everything [John] saw**

By contrast to —

LUKE 9:35-36, ...a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" <sup>36</sup>When the voice had ceased, Jesus was found alone. But they kept quiet, and *told no one in those days any of the things they had seen*.

**Word of God**

HEB 13:6-7, we may boldly say: "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?" <sup>7</sup>Remember those who rule over you, *who have spoken the word of God to you*, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct.

**Testimony of Jesus Christ**

REV 19:10, Worship God! For *the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy*.

## CONSIDER THIS —

JOHN 12:32-33, "I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself."

<sup>33</sup>*This He said, signifying by what death He would die."*

— Likewise, the words used in Revelation are meant to represent, to symbolize, or to signify what is being revealed.



## REVELATION 1

**3 Blessed is he, that readeth and heareth the words of this prophecy; and keepeth those things which are written in it; for the time is at hand.**

**Blessed**

PSM 34:8, Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; *Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!*

**The one who reads the words**

1THES 5:27, I charge you by the Lord that this epistle be *read to all the holy brethren.*

**Prophecy**

2PET 1:19-21, we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; <sup>20</sup>knowing this first, that *no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation*, <sup>21</sup>for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.

**Blessed are those who hear [this prophecy]**

MATH 10:27, Whatever I tell you in the dark, speak in the light; and *what you hear in the ear, preach on the housetops.*

**Take to heart what is written**

DEUT 30:14, ... *the word is very near you, in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it.*

**Time is near**

1PET 1:8-12, Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, <sup>9</sup>receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls. <sup>10</sup>Of this salvation the prophets have inquired and searched carefully, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, <sup>11</sup>searching what, or *what manner of time*, the Spirit of Christ who was in them was indicating when He testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow...

## CONSIDER THIS —

LUKE 4:18-21, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; <sup>19</sup>To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” <sup>20</sup>Then He closed the book... <sup>21</sup>And He began to say to them, “*Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing.*”

— It follows, that Jesus’ return will also fulfill Scripture, thus *fulfilling prophecy.*



## REVELATION 1

**4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia. Grace be unto you and peace from him that is, and that was, and that is to come, and from the seven spirits which are before his throne,**

**John**

ACTS 4:19-20, Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. <sup>20</sup>"For *we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard*".

**To the seven churches**

3JON 1:5-6, Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the brethren and for strangers, <sup>6</sup>who have *borne witness of your love before the church*. If you send them forward on their journey in a manner worthy of God, you will do well.

**In the province of Asia**

2COR 1:8, we do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, of our *trouble which came to us in Asia*: that we were burdened beyond measure, above strength, so that we despaired even of life.

**From him who is... who was... who is to come**

REV 4:8, And the four living creatures, each of them with six wings, are full of eyes all around and within, and day and night they never cease to say, "Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God Almighty, *who was and is and is to come!*"

**The sevenfold Spirit**

ISA 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.

**His throne**

ISA 6:1, I saw *the Lord sitting upon a throne*, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple;  
REV 4:2, a throne stood in heaven, with *one seated on the throne*.

## CONSIDER THIS —

ROM 15:12-13, "Isaiah says: "There shall be a root of Jesse; And He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, *In Him the Gentiles shall hope.*" <sup>13</sup>Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

— Revelation highlights events for which our hope eagerly waits.

We can anticipate these events without doubt; because, our security in is God's faithfulness to His word.



## REVELATION 1

**5 And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth, who hath loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,**

**From Jesus Christ**

HEB 13:8, Jesus Christ is the same *yesterday, today, and forever.*

**Faithful witness**

HEB 1:2, in these last days *he has spoken to us by his Son*, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom also he created the world.

**Firstborn of the dead**

1COR 15:20, in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the *firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.*

**Ruler of the kings of the earth**

PSM 89:27, I will make him the firstborn, *the highest of the kings of the earth;*

JOHN 17:1-3, Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You, <sup>2</sup>as *You have given Him authority over all flesh*, that He should give eternal life to as many as You have given Him. <sup>3</sup>"And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

**Loved us**

EPH 5:2, walk in love, as Christ also has *loved us and given Himself for us*, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma;

JOHN 13:1, Jesus knew that His hour had come that He should depart from this world to the Father, having loved His own who were in the world, He *loved them to the end.*

**Freed us from our sins**

JOHN 13:8, Jesus answered him, "*If I do not wash you*, you have no part with Me";

1COR 6:11, you have had every stain *washed* off: now you have been set apart as holy: now *you have been pronounced free from guilt*; in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and through the Spirit of our God.

**His blood**

MATH 26:28, this is My blood of the new covenant, which is *shed for many for the remission of sins;*

ROM 3:23-25, all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup>being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup>whom God set forth as *a propitiation by His blood, through faith*, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.

## CONSIDER THIS —

PSM 119:160, "*The entirety of Your word is truth*, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever."

— By reading the word of God we begin to recognize the truth.



## REVELATION 1

**6 And hath made us a kingdom, and priests to God and his Father, to him be glory and empire for ever and ever. Amen.**

**[He] has made us to be**

EPH 1:3-6, Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ, <sup>4</sup>just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love, <sup>5</sup>having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which *He has made us accepted in the Beloved*.

**Kingdom and priests**

EXO 19:6, you shall be to me *a kingdom of priests* and a holy nation;

1PET 2:9-10, you are a chosen generation, *a royal priesthood*, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; <sup>10</sup>who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained mercy but now have obtained mercy.

**Serve his God**

JOHN 20:17, Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and *to My God and your God*'".

**Serve his... Father**

MARK 1:9-11, It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. <sup>11</sup>Then a voice came from heaven, "You are *My beloved Son*, in whom I am well pleased".

**Glory and power forever**

DAN 7:13-14, behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him. <sup>14</sup>Then *to Him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom*, That all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion, Which shall not pass away, And His kingdom the one Which shall not be destroyed.

## CONSIDER THIS —

ROM 15:5-6, "Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be like-minded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, <sup>6</sup>*that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

— Immersing ourselves in his word makes us less susceptible to be deceived by false teachers, corrupt doctrine, or erroneous interpretation of Scripture.



## REVELATION 1

**7 Behold, he cometh with the clouds, and every eye shall see him, and they also that pierced him. And all the tribes of the earth shall bewail themselves because of him. Even so. Amen.**

**Coming with the clouds**

MATH 26:63-64, Jesus kept silent. And the high priest answered and said to Him, "I put You under oath by the living God: Tell us if You are the Christ, the Son of God!"<sup>64</sup> Jesus said to him, "It is as you said. Nevertheless, I say to you, hereafter you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and *coming on the clouds of heaven*";

ACTS 1:11, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, *will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven*";

DAN 7:13, behold, One like the Son of Man, *Coming with the clouds of heaven!*

**Every eye will see him**

ISA 45:22-24, "*Look to Me*, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other."<sup>23</sup> I have sworn by Myself; The word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, And shall not return, That to Me every knee shall bow, Every tongue shall take an oath;

PHIL 2:9-11, God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name,<sup>10</sup> that *at the name of Jesus every knee should bow*, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth,<sup>11</sup> and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

**Those who pierced him**

JOHN 19:33-34, when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs.<sup>34</sup> But one of *the soldiers pierced His side with a spear*, and immediately blood and water came out;

PSM 22:15-16, My strength is dried up like a potsherd, And My tongue clings to My jaws; You have brought Me to the dust of death.<sup>16</sup> For dogs have surrounded Me; The congregation of the wicked has enclosed Me. *They pierced My hands and My feet*;

ZECH 12:10, I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then *they will look on Me whom they pierced*. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn;

ISA 53:5, *he was wounded [pierced] for our transgressions*; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his stripes we are healed.

**All... will mourn because of him**

AMOS 1:2, The Lord roars from Zion, And utters His voice from Jerusalem; *The pastures of the shepherds mourn*, And the top of Carmel withers";

ZECH 12:12, "*And the land shall mourn, every family by itself*: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves.

## CONSIDER THIS —

AMOS 3:7, "Surely the Lord God does nothing, *Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets*."

— God is consistent throughout Scripture in telling the prophets before He acts.





## REVELATION 1

**8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, saith the Lord God, who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.**

**I am**

JOHN 5:56-58, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day, and he saw it and was glad." <sup>57</sup>Then the Jews said to Him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have You seen Abraham?" <sup>58</sup>Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM".

**Alpha and Omega\***

ISA 41:4, Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, *the first, and with the last*; I am he;

REV 21:6, he said to me, "It is done! *I am the Alpha and the Omega*, the beginning and the end;

\* NOTE — Two non-translated instances of aleph-tau (ⲀⲚ is the Hebrew equivalent of ΑΩ in Greek) occur in —  
GEN 1:1, In the beginning God ⲀⲚ created the heavens and the earth;  
And —  
ZECH 12:10, then they will look on Me ⲀⲚ whom they pierced.

**Beginning and the End**

REV 21:6-7, He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End*. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts."<sup>7</sup>He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

**Says the Lord God**

ROM 14:11-12, it is written: "*As I live, says the Lord*, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God."<sup>12</sup>So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

**Who is**

JER 10:10, the Lord is the true God; *He is the living God* and the everlasting King. At His wrath the earth will tremble, And the nations will not be able to endure His indignation.

**Who was**

PSM 90:2, Before the mountains were brought forth, Or ever You had formed the earth and the world, Even *from everlasting to everlasting*, You are God.

**Who is to come**

DAN 6:26, I make a decree that in every dominion of my kingdom men must tremble and fear before the God of Daniel. For *He is the living God, And steadfast forever*; His kingdom is the one which shall not be destroyed, And His dominion shall endure to the end.

**Almighty**

2COR 6:18, I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, *Says the Lord Almighty*.

## CONSIDER THIS —

1COR 10:4, "all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and *that Rock was Christ*."

— Idioms are figures of speech covering a various array of topics. Several are consistent throughout Scripture. Revelation uses many of idioms found throughout the Bible. We will notice that idioms and other figures of speech found in Revelation are used in the same manner as in the Old Testament.



## GROUP DISCUSSION

REV 1:1 ...things which must shortly come to pass...

The things described in the Book of Revelation must soon take place; or, they must shortly take place.

- ⊕ **1a. Considering the Book of Revelation was pinned nearly 2000 years ago, how can we make any sense of this phrase: ‘things which must *shortly* come to pass’?**

The phrase, ‘things which must shortly come to pass’ might be better understood as:

“things which will *occur in rapid succession once begun.*”

- ⊕ **1b. How might this understanding help us to make better sense of when the things in Revelation will occur?**

REV 1:1, he... signified it...

- ⊕ **2a. What does it mean that Jesus has signified His revelation?**

Read JOHN 12:32-33, And I [Jesus], if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. <sup>33</sup>This he said, *signifying* what death he should die.

- ⊕ **2b. How might the verb, ‘to signify’ in Revelation, seem to hint at some deeper meaning (a ‘remaz’)?**

REV 1:3, Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it...

- ⊕ **3a. List a number of blessings that come to those who read and hear the Book of Revelation.**

- ⊕ **3b. How might we ‘*keep* those things which are written’?**

REV 1:7, every eye shall see him, and... all the tribes of the earth shall bewail themselves because of him.

When Jesus returns, all will mourn because of him.

- ⊕ **4a. Why would they mourn the sight of Jesus returning?**

- ⊕ **4b. Would ‘all the tribes of the earth’ include the church? Why, or why not?**

NEXT SESSION —