

REVELATION: SEVEN LETTERS: I RETURN!

**Revelation 1:1-20**

**1 The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated it by His angel to His bond-servant John, <sup>2</sup> who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup> Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near. <sup>4</sup> John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace, from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, <sup>5</sup> and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us and released us from our sins by His blood— <sup>6</sup> and He has made us to be a kingdom, priests to His God and Father—to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen. <sup>7</sup> BEHOLD, HE IS COMING WITH THE CLOUDS, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him. So it is to be. Amen. <sup>8</sup> "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." <sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." <sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; <sup>13</sup> and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. <sup>14</sup> His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup> In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. <sup>17</sup> When I saw Him, I fell at His feet like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup> and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. <sup>19</sup> Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. <sup>20</sup> As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. Revelation 1:1-20 NASB**

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- ***The Revelation of Jesus Christ.***
  - ***Given to John via an angel.***
  - ***The angel (see Revelation 21:9-10 and Revelation 22:1)***
  - ***John testifies to and vouches for all that he sees and hears.***
  - ***The Word of God and the testimony of Jesus.***
  - ***Revelation 1:3 is the first of seven beatitudes (blessings) in the Book of Revelations***
    - ***The Seven Beatitudes:***
      - ***Revelation 1:3***
      - ***Revelation 14:13***
      - ***Revelation 16:15***
      - ***Revelation 19:9***
      - ***Revelation 20:6***
      - ***Revelation 22:7***
      - ***Revelation 22:14***
  - ***John didn't need an 'introduction' so he starts his writing with a 'grace and peace' greeting from Jesus who is, who was, and who is to come and from the Holy Spirit...the seven spirits who are before His throne.***
  
- ***The Holy Spirit/Seven-Fold Spirits of God***

***The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.***  
***Isaiah 11:2 NASB***

- ***The Spirit of the Lord***
- ***The Spirit of Wisdom***
- ***The Spirit of Understanding***
- ***The Spirit of Counsel***
- ***The Spirit of Strength***
- ***The Spirit of Knowledge***
- ***The Spirit of the Fear of the Lord***
- ***John tells the churches that what he is writing to them comes from Jesus who is:***
  - ***The Faithful Witness (see Psalm 89)***
  - ***The First Born of the Dead***
  - ***The Ruler of the King of the Earth***
- ***Then John blesses Jesus who "loves us and released us from our sins by His blood."***

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- **Jesus has made us to be a kingdom of priests to His God and Father.**

**But you are A CHOSEN RACE, A royal PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PEOPLE FOR God's OWN POSSESSION, so that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; 1 Peter 2:9 NASB**

- **The Seven Churches:**

- **Ephesus**
- **Smyrna**
- **Pergamum**
- **Thyatira**
- **Sardis**
- **Philadelphia**
- **Laodicea**

- **The primary theme of The Book of Revelation:**

**<sup>7</sup> Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth shall gaze upon Him and beat their breasts and mourn and lament over Him. Even so [must it be]. Amen (so be it).**

**<sup>8</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord God, He Who is and Who was and Who is to come, the Almighty (the Ruler of all).  
Revelation 1:7-8 AMPC**

- **He is coming! "I AM" is coming!**

**<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and fellow partaker in the tribulation and kingdom and perseverance which are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like the sound of a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> saying, "Write in a book what you see, and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea." <sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands; <sup>13</sup> and in the middle of the lampstands I saw one like <sup>Ⓜ</sup>a son of man, clothed in a robe reaching to the feet, and girded across His chest with a golden sash. <sup>14</sup> His head and His hair were white like white wool, like snow; and His eyes were like a flame of fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like burnished bronze, when it has been made to glow in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup> In His right hand He held seven stars, and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its strength. <sup>17</sup> When I saw Him, I fell at His feet**

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**like a dead man. And He placed His right hand on me, saying, "Do not be afraid; I am the first and the last, <sup>18</sup> and the living One; and I was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of death and of Hades. <sup>19</sup> Therefore write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after these things. <sup>20</sup> As for the mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. Revelation 1:9-20 NASB**

**<sup>9</sup> I, John, your brother and companion (sharer and participator) with you in the tribulation and kingdom and patient endurance [which are] in Jesus Christ, was on the isle called Patmos, [banished] on account of [my witnessing to] the Word of God and the testimony (the proof, the evidence) for Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup> I was in the Spirit [rapt in His power] on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a great voice like the calling of a war trumpet, <sup>11</sup> Saying, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last. Write promptly what you see (your vision) in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia—to Ephesus and to Smyrna and to Pergamum and to Thyatira and to Sardis and to Philadelphia and to Laodicea. <sup>12</sup> Then I turned to see [whose was] the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> And in the midst of the lampstands [One] like a Son of Man, clothed with a robe which reached to His feet and with a girdle of gold about His breast. <sup>14</sup> His head and His hair were white like white wool, [as white] as snow, and His eyes [flashed] like a flame of fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet glowed like burnished (bright) bronze as it is refined in a furnace, and His voice was like the sound of many waters. <sup>16</sup> In His right hand He held seven stars, and from His mouth there came forth a sharp two-edged sword, and His face was like the sun shining in full power at midday. <sup>17</sup> When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as if dead. But He laid His right hand on me and said, Do not be afraid! I am the First and the Last, <sup>18</sup> And the Ever-living One [I am living in the eternity of the eternities]. I died, but see, I am alive forevermore; and I possess the keys of death and Hades (the realm of the dead). <sup>19</sup> Write therefore the things you see, what they are [and signify] and what is to take place hereafter. <sup>20</sup> As to the hidden meaning (the mystery) of the seven stars which you saw on My right hand and the seven lampstands of gold: the seven stars are the seven angels (messengers) of the seven assemblies (churches) and the seven lampstands are the seven churches. Revelation 1:9-20 AMPC**

- **John tells us that he is a brother, a fellow participant in the trouble (tribulation), kingdom and patient endurance that are in Jesus.**

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- ***He was on the island of Patmos because of his ministry for the Lord and he was 'in the Spirit' on the Lord's day.***
- ***He was 'rapt' in the powerful presence of God on a Sunday.***
- ***Some translations simply say that John was in a trance of the Spirit...***
- ***While he was encountering the Spirit of God, he heard and saw things that we writes for us.***
- ***He hears a voice (v11)... "Write in a book what you see and hear and send it to the seven churches."***
- ***He turns to 'see the voice' and he sees seven golden lampstands and the Son of Man wearing a robe with a gold sash.***
- ***His head and his hair were white like wool, white like snow, His eyes were a flame of fire, His feet glowed like burnished bronze, and His voice was like the sound of many waters.***
- ***He had seven stars in His right hand, out of His mouth came a two-edged sword and His face was like the sun shining at full strength.***
  - ***WOW!***
- ***John saw Him and fell at His feet like a dead man.***
- ***Jesus places His hand on John and tells him, "Don't be afraid."***
- ***Jesus then identifies and describes Himself to John.***
  - ***I AM the first and the last/ the Alpha and Omega"***
  - ***I AM the Living One.***
  - ***I was dead...***
  - ***I AM alive and forevermore and I have the keys to death and Hades!***

***<sup>8</sup> Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God, <sup>9</sup> who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was granted us in Christ Jesus from all eternity, <sup>10</sup> but now has been revealed by the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. 2 Timothy 1:8-10 NASB***

***<sup>14</sup> Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, <sup>15</sup> and might free those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. Hebrews 2:14-15 NASB***

- ***He tells John to write all that he has seen and all that he will see to the seven churches.***

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- ***He explains that the seven lampstands are the seven churches, and the seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.***
- ***Angels are messengers...so Jesus wants His people to hear His words are He will give angelic assistance and human spokesmen to equip and empower His people.***

***Did I mention this?? He is coming back!***