

CCCN Bible Study End Times Notes – Pastor John Stackhouse

Revelation 1

The book was actually called “**The Revelation of Jesus Christ**”. In Greek, *revelation* is *apokalypsis*, which means ‘to expose in full view what was formerly hidden, veiled, or secret’. The author is traditionally believed to be the Apostle John (who also wrote the Gospel of John and the three epistles of John) while exiled on the Isle of Patmos.

My commentary stresses that “the church needs to be reminded that the neglected Book of Revelation is the very Word of God to us.”

John tells us that the time is near. Remember that in eschatological (end-times) terms, “near” is a matter of perspective. It is near when thought of in terms of eternity.

All of the churches listed are in modern day Turkey. Why these churches? Most likely, it is because they are indicative of churches in general. The reason they are in the order that they are in is because it was the normal travel circuit between Ephesus and Laodicea.



“The seven spirits” is one of the ways that they described the Holy Spirit. It represent the activity of the risen Christ through the Holy Spirit in and to the seven churches.

Jesus is “**the firstborn of the dead.**” The Apostle Paul also used this description of Jesus in the books of Romans and Colossians. It was His death that cleanses us and restores our relationship with the Father and it is His resurrection that gave us the hope of our own resurrection. He is the source of our new life in Christ, so He is the firstborn of those that were dead to God. **Psalm 89:27** says “**I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.**”

One of the things I want to bring to your attention is that you may want to look back to Daniel 7 every once in a while. John makes at least 31 allusions to it in the book of Revelation. “**Coming with the clouds**” is one of those allusions (**Daniel 7:13**).

It is likely that all the peoples of the earth will wail because of the judgment they now know is upon them, rather than remorse for crucifying Christ.

Verse 8 includes four names of God. Alpha and Omega not only signify the First and the Last, but also signify the Beginning and the End. The Greek word for Almighty is *pantokratōr*, which means “the one who has his hands on everything.” Think about this: while God is outside of space and time and all of creation, nothing lies outside of Him.

In verse 10, John tells us that he was transported into the realm of prophetic visions and that it was on a Sunday. It is also possible that John was specifically speaking about an Easter Sunday.

In verse 11, it is possible that John is hearing the voice of Jesus, but it is more likely that it is the angel that speaks to John as several occasions. John is told to write down the things he sees and hears and send it to the seven churches and tells John which churches he is to write to.

In verse 12, the 7 lampstands represent the 7 churches in particular, but symbolically, also all churches of Christ, and Jesus is the source of the light, which is why He is standing in the midst of them. It is interesting that John says that he saw one “like the Son of Man.” He is definitely changed from when John knew Him. John uses a seven-fold description of Jesus.

The “double-edged sword” that comes from the mouth of the Messiah is the Word of God.

Jesus says that the seven stars that are in His right hand are the seven “angels” of the seven churches and that the lampstands are the churches themselves. These “angels” are most likely the pastors and elders of those churches.