

Revelation 1

Prologue-Greeting-Doxology & Vision

Becoming Closer

"The revelation of Jesus Christ"

- (Rev 1:1-2 NIV) The 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, (2) who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.
- What?
- To whom?
- Why?
- How?

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Blessed

- (Rev 1:3 NIV) Blessed 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.
- Reader
- Hearer
- Doer

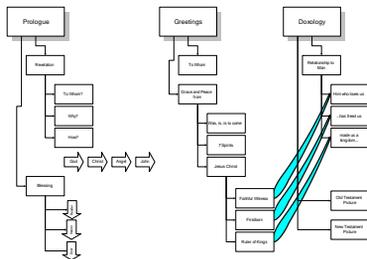
Becoming Closer

Poetry in the Bible

- Rhyme in
 - sound
 - rhythm
 - thought
- "Splash" and "Tapestry"
- Literal?

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Revelation 1:1-8



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The Bible is its own best interpreter

- Image -- where have I seen this before?
- Pattern -- where have I heard this before?
- Statement -- where is this confirmed in plain language?

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Greeting

- (Rev 1:4-5 NIV) John, 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, {5} and from Jesus Christ
- Seven Churches
- Grace and Peace from
 - him who....
 - seven spirits
 - Jesus Christ

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Jesus isJesus does

- (Rev 1:5 NIV) and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth
- (Rev 1:5-6 NIV) To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, {6} and 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.

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Old Things and New

- (Rev 1:7 NIV) Look, 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.
- (Rev 1:8 NIV) "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

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"In the Spirit.."

- (Rev 1:9-11 NIV) I, 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. {10} On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, {11} which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."
- Personal touches
- "In the Spirit"
 - Futurist
 - Everybody else
- Voice
 - Ex. 20:18-19
 - Isa. 57:21 - 58:1

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The Son of Man

- (Rev 1:12-16 NIV) I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, {13} and 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. {14} His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. {15} His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. {16} In 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.
- (Dan 7:9 NIV) "As I looked, "thrones were set in place, and the Ancient of Days took his seat. His clothing was as white as snow; the hair of his head was white like wool. His throne was flaming with fire, and its wheels were all ablaze.
- (Dan 10:5-6 NIV) I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of the finest gold around his waist. {6} His body was like chrysolite, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude.

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"...when I turned I saw..."



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Explanation

(Rev 1:17-18 NIV) *When 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.*

- Reaction
 - John
 - Daniel
 - Ezekiel
 - Peter
- Comfort
- Titles of Christ

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A Futurist Look

- (Rev 1:19 NIV) *"Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.*
- (Rev 4:1 NIV) *After this I looked, and there before me was a door standing open in heaven. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this."*

- The "proof text" of the futurist view.
- Allowed -- but not required.

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The Explanation

(Rev 1:20 NIV) *The 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.*

- Angels
 - "Messenger"
 - Bishops?
 - Guardian angel?
- Heavenly and Earthly
- Lampstands and Light

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