

VERY FASCINATING BOOK OF REVELATION

By AGE 20 KNEW exact meaning of the obscure and interesting details-

Beast 10 Horns – European Economic Community / then added MORE!

Evil Dragon – Mr. Gossard (High School PE teacher)

666 – Computer Bar codes on products / Now PRINTED on BIBLES

Now Almost 60 > MAY HAVE MISSED SOMETHING!!

Answers SIMPLISTIC: Focus on My Country’s church > Not GOD’S CHURCH

ALL Need to take CLOSER LOOK at what Revelation ACTUALLY SAYS

Recent Conference of Christians in America – Question was ASKED

“How many Read at least 1 “Left Behind” (16 bks, Movies, Games)?” ALL!!

Then asked “How many READ Book of Revelation?” Very FEW Hands!!

Hope if I ask ZGC in couple weeks I see ALL your HANDS!

Many Christians NOT Read ONLY book in Bible Promises Blessing IF Read!

WE Read MANY – ALL? – of Other 65 Books in Bible – Last Book CLOSED!

Several REASONS why NOT Read Rev. > DIFFERENT, WEIRD, SCARRY

Some say “I get Paul, John, Luke, Mark, Moses, Isaiah” Rev. – WOW! Freaky

Elder in ICF Almaty “you need to be on LSD to understand Revelation!”

Confession?? Never Read Rev.? – Took LSD? – Reads Rev while on LSD??

Gotta Wrap head Around different STYLE of Literature in order to GET Rev.

Not just History, Law, Parable, Poetry > SOME > Visions, Dreams, SYMBOLS

Some might HATE Me make Confession: “Not Lord of Rings fan!” Read & Seen

Watch Movies to VEG / Relax – Too Much Work keep L of R Story Straight

Wikipedia List of Characters in Lord of the Rings, this is just letter A:

[Adrahil](#) - [Adrahil II](#) - [Aegnor](#) - [Aerandir](#) - [Aghan](#) - [Aglahad](#) - [Ailinel](#) - [Alatar](#) - [Aldamir](#) - [Aldor](#) - [Almarian](#) - [Almiel](#) - [Amandil](#) - [Amdír](#) - [Amlaith](#) - [Amrod](#) - [Amroth](#) - [Anardil](#) - [Anborn](#) - [Ancalagon The Black](#) - [Andróg](#) - [Angbor](#) - [Angelimar](#) - [Angelimir](#) - [Angrod](#) - [Anárion](#) - [Ar-Adûnakhôr](#) - [Ar-Gimilzôr](#) - [Ar-Pharazôn](#) - [Ar-Sakalthôr](#) - [Ar-Zimrathôn](#) - [Arador](#) - [Araglas](#) - [Aragorn I](#) - [Aragorn II Elessar](#) - [Aragost](#) - [Arahad I](#) - [Arahad II](#) - [Arahael](#) - [Aranarth](#) - [Aranuir](#) - [Araphant](#) - [Araphor](#) - [Arassuil](#) - [Arathorn I](#) - [Arathorn II](#) - [Araval](#) - [Aravir](#) - [Aravorn](#) - [Arciryas](#) - [Aredhel](#) - [Argeleb I](#) - [Argeleb II](#) - [Argonui](#) - [Arien](#) - [Artamir](#) - [Arthad](#) - [Arvedui](#) - [Arvegil](#) - [Arveleg I](#) - [Arveleg II](#) - [Arwen](#) - [Asgon](#) - [Atanamir](#) - [Atanatar I](#) - [Atanatar II](#) - [Aulë](#) - [Azaghâl](#) - [Azog](#)

Wanna LEARN & UNDERSTAND & ENJOY This? Good on Ya!! ENJOY!

Thankfully, Character List of Revelation is SHORTER – Names more Familiar Understand L of R, Harry Potter, Aesop’s, Homer, Shakespeare, Dante OPTION Christian to UNDERSTAND Revelation is a DUTY that will be a DELIGHT!



Letter from John – Apostle and Prisoner to 7 Struggling Churches in TURKEY
 GOSPEL PREACHED AROUND Mediterranean – MODEST RESULT
 ROMAN Empire continued WICKED WAY, OPPRESSION, PERSECUTION

EVIL PROSPERED / IDOLATRY FLOURISHED

LEADING RELIGION – CULT OF THE EMPEROR

Christians – MISUNDERSTOOD, HATED, PERSECUTED

“They will make war against the Lamb, but the Lamb will overcome them because he is Lord of lords and King of kings--and with him will be his called, chosen and faithful followers.”
 Revelation 17.14

ROMAN EMPIRE > Ancient History > CAESAR’S > Distant Memory

NEW SET OF STRUGGLES > Modern Man > Life never Better, never Worse

LOSS OF HOPE > HIV > Cancer > Poverty > Tyrants > SYRIA

Theme: God rules history and is bringing it to His appointed end in Christ, for the good of His Church, and the glory of His Name.

1. The Message of Jesus

a. Revealer Revelation LATIN / GREEK = Apocalypse “uncover” “show forth”

TITLE NOT REVELATIONS – singular Revelation of Jesus Christ

TO Jesus / FROM Jesus / ABOUT Jesus

Formal Title > JESUS CHRIST used 3 x’s in vs. 1-5 > Nowhere Else in Book

Simple Name ‘Jesus’ used 11 Times > Called THE LAMB 29 X’s

1. God - 1.1 “which God gave him”

“I saw in the right hand of him who sat on the throne a scroll with writing on both sides”
Revelation 5.1

2. Jesus Christ - v. 1 “the revelation of Jesus Christ” – NOT REVELATIONS

“in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son” Hebrews 1.2

3. His Angel - v. 1 “he made it known by sending his angel”

v. 10 “I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: Write”

4. John v. 1 “to his servant John” v. 2 “who testifies to everything he saw”

5. The Reader - v. 3 “Blessed is the one who reads the words”

Church Leaders READ ALOUD > Largely Illiterate Congregations

6. Listeners – v. 3 “those who hear it and take it to heart”

TRAGIC EVENTS DO NOT GUARANTEE PEOPLE WILL BELIEVE

Ch 9 Trumpets of God’s Judgment are Sounded

9.18 1/3 of mankind was killed by the 3 plagues of fire, smoke, and sulfur

“The rest of mankind that were not killed by these plagues still did not repent...they did not stop worshipping demons and idols” Revelation 9.20

Where AIDS is RAMPANT > People have RANDOM, UNPROTECTED Sex Act should create LIFE – One Man, One Woman – Death WISH for DEVIANT Kids Pounded with INFO about Dangers of Smoking: Can’t Wait to LIGHT Up! Blinded by ONE whose EVIL THRILL is to KILL, STEAL, DESTROY!

“No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him” Matthew 11.27

b. Redeemer

v. 5 “him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood”

NOT just WASHED Us Also FREED US: Slaves of Sin: Brings Final EXODUS

v. 18 “And I hold the keys of death and Hades” Impt People Measured by KEYS AUTHORITY > Not just as 2nd Member of Trinity, Divine Son

ESPECIALLY by His Victory Over Sin, Death, Hell, Devil > CONQUERED

SUPREMACY OF CHRIST – Revelation and Redemption > Truth and Life

Ch 20 EXERCISES those KEYS > Throws Satan and his Followers into Hades

c. Returning

v. 7 “Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”

ASCENDED into a Cloud > ANGELS said to Watching Disciples:

“This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.” Acts 1.11

John sees Jesus in Glory >

Knows His Revelation – Freed by His Redemption – Hopes in His Return

Sometimes – like Churches John wrote – view of Jesus is OBSCURED

January 1986 – lived in small town – Northwest Corner of Uganda

Heard Radio Uganda – broadcast from Kampala – capital 300 miles south

INAGURATION of PRESIDENT YOWERI MUSEVINI > Fair, Just, Christian

Our town was controlled by a Rebel Army – Crazy thugs with Guns

We FEARED our CONTROLLING Army – BUT KNEW DAYS NUMBERED

Good Friday, April of 1986 – Musevini’s troops liberated our Town

Children, *it is the last hour*, and as you have heard that antichrist is coming, so now many antichrists have come. Therefore we know that *it is the last hour*.

1 John 2.18

FEEL like God’s Clock got BROKEN > Really LONG Hour – 2000 yrs So FAR

MISSION Accomplished – SALVATION Complete – FINISHED Work Cross –

VINDICATED by Resurrection – CERTAIN HOPE of His RETURN

Revelation: JESUS Victorious – COMING SOON – All is ACCOMPLISHED

2. The Presence of Jesus

a. In the Scriptures What did God give Struggling SAINTS in Hour of Need?

v. 3 “Blessed is the one who –

GETS A NEW COOL CELL PHONE w/ ALL BELLS & WHISTLES

GETS BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A LAMBORGINI DIABLO

- reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it”

v. 11 “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches”

WHEN GOD WANTS HIS PEOPLE TO KNOW HIS LOVE & POWER

HE WRITES IT DOWN IN A BOOK

REMINDS THEM OF ALL HE HAS DONE

“loves us and has freed us (loosed us) from our sins by his blood and made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father” Revelation 1.5

IMPORTANCE OF THE WORD > Letter to each of the 7 CHURCHES?

All 7 Say: “To the angel of the Church WRITE – these are THE WORDS...

“He who has an ear let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” Revelation 2.7

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

b. In the Godhead > God’s Grace and Peace come from three-fold Source

vs. 4,5 “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*, and from *Jesus Christ*”

ETERNAL GOD – Who IS, who WAS, and who is TO COME – Almighty

SEVEN = Perfection / Completion in Bible > Seven-fold Spirit of God / Perfect

Lampstand God commanded to be MADE of His People has 7 Lights



“You shall make a lampstand of pure gold... You shall make seven lamps for it”

Exodus 25.31,37

Prophet Zechariah has VISION that Links – Seven LAMPS to Spirit of GOD

And the angel...said to me, “What do you see?” I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold...and seven lamps on it...Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts.

Zechariah 4.1,2,6

“*Seven* spirits – do they mean the one Spirit in his essential nature, as seven churches stand for the one church as she really is? Or do they mean the Spirit equally present in each of the churches? Or do they mean the sevenfold gifts of the Spirit? We cannot know for sure. But we are duly warned that for some of the locked doors of Revelation, keys may be hard to find.” Michael Wilcock

“and from Jesus Christ” > all of God’s Promises are ‘yes’ and ‘amen’ in Him

Focus – as it should be – of Introduction of Revelation of Jesus is ON JESUS

Prophet v. 5 “Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness”

Priest v. 5 “who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood”

King v. 6 “who...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.”

c. Over the World – Risen Jesus is the Ruling Jesus

World SENT ITS ARSENAL OF WEAPONS AGAINST JESUS

He was nailed to Cross – Dead Body Sealed into a Tomb

John sees Jesus RISEN IN VICTORY v. 5 “Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth”

Faithful Witness – EVEN TO THE POINT OF DEATH

Firstborn from Dead – HIGHEST OF THOSE RAISED FROM DEAD

Ruler of the Kings of the Earth – SOVEREIGN OVER ALL RULERS

HIS ENEMIES WILL BE SHOCKED AND SENTENCED -

v. 7 “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.”

JOHN ENTHUSIASTICALLY ADDS – “So shall it be, Amen!”

v. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Title for God / Nothing less than God / First & Last letters of Greek Alphabet

v. 17 “I am the First and the Last”

“First because before me a God was not formed; last because after me there shall not be another. First because all things are from me; last, because all things are to me; from me the beginning, to me the end. First, because I am the cause of origin; last, because I am the judge and the end”

Commentary text by Richard of St. Victor, 12th Century

d. In Glory v. 6 “to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen

v. 12 JOHN turned to See the Son of Man in HIS GLORY

BOOK begins like Ezekiel and Isaiah > GLORIOUS VISION OF GOD

Same Savior with whom he reclined at the table

ENDED EARTHLY HUMILIATION / NOW IN HEAVENLY GLORY

CONTRAST with Paul – “I know a man in Christ who...was caught up to paradise, heard inexpressible things, *not permitted to tell*” 2 Corinthians 12.2,4

LOUD VOICE LIKE A TRUMPET SHOUTS TO JOHN

v. 10 “write what you see on a scroll and send it to the seven churches”

vs. 13-16 Someone ‘like a son of man,’ dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. 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.

PICTURE OF GLORIFIED JESUS – SON OF MAN

NOT PRECISE DESCRIPTION FOR A POLICE ARTIST

STRING OF OT QUOTATIONS – mostly Daniel – ABOUT GOD

Son of Man – form of man, glorified God-man

Robe to his feet, golden sash on chest – Glory that is deservedly His

Head & hair like wool, white as snow – describes purity and eternity

C.C. BALD Bible Prof. > Heaven all Bald > On Earth > Advanced Sanctification

Heaven > WHITE HAIR > I am getting there!

Eyes blazing like fire – nothing is hidden from his gaze

Feet like bronze in a furnace – splendor and strength

Voice like rushing waters – sovereign authority over all earth’s creatures

Right hand 7 stars – power and protection for his people

Mouth held double edged sword – Executive authority of His Word

Face like the Sun – Glorious Lord of Transfiguration

“Beware of *overinterpretation* - to track down the source of each descriptive phrase and compile a catalogue would be to *unweave the rainbow*. John uses his allusions for their evocative and emotive power. . . . His aim is to set the echoes of memory and association ringing . . . to call forth from his readers the same response of overwhelming and annihilating wonder which he experienced in his prophetic trance”

G. B. Caird

e. In the Church – Risen Jesus DWELLS in His Church

vs. 12,13 “Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man”

Strange Words > Turned to SEE THE VOICE > In Lampstands See the LORD

v. 20 “the seven lampstands are the seven churches”

NOT Just ABRSTRACT, IDEAL, INVISIBLE Church – REAL PEOPLE

v. 11 Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea

NOTHING will Separate Jesus from His BLOOD BOUGHT Children

Revelation is PICTURE Show illustrating a PROMISE

Jesus makes PROMISE in 1st Book of NT > PICTURE Show in last Book of NT

I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. Matthew 16.18

CHURCH > LIGHTHOUSE > Holds Out the Message of God

“children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe as you hold out the word of life” Philippians 2.15,16

“For where two or three come together in my name, there am I with them.”

Matthew 18.20

IF JESUS IS HERE AS WE GATHER IN HIS NAME – Where is He?

ORTHODOX – Special Presence in Religious Buildings, Priests, and Icons

Roman CATHOLICS – Real Presence of Body and Blood of Jesus in Mass

PENTECOSTALS – Presence of Spirit in Gifts, Signs, Wonders

One hour of 7/11 worship – 7 word songs sung 11 times for one hour

ANSWER? Here by Faith: Even if WE cannot Touch, Taste, or Hear Him

HE IS HERE BECAUSE HE PROMISED TO BE – GOD CANNOT LIE

SOME “I went to church, and did not get anything out of it”

Nothing in CHURCH to GET > Maybe you’ll get some BORING SERMONS

IF WHAT YOU WANT > Grace, Peace, Hope, Joy, Forgiveness > CHRIST

YOU WANT THOSE? Come to Christ > CHURCH is to Point you to Him

Come to Church to GIVE > PRAISE to God – Week, Lifetime of Blessings

Encouragement – LOVE – Friendship > SAINTS and the STRANGERS

3. Our Response to Jesus

a. Awe of God’s Presence

v. 17 “when I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead”

WHAT Happened? Swat by WHITE SUIT Coat of Mighty TELEVANGELIST

IF WE SAW WHAT JOHN SAW – WE WOULD ALL BE SLAIN

Nano-Second GLIMPSE – of God’s Glory – INCREDIBLE EXPERIENCE

Like Moses hidden in Rock – Saw the backside of God passing by

Like Jacob at Bethel – Angels of God up and down God’s Ladder

Like Manoa & wife – Saw angel of God ascend in the flames

Like Soldiers in Garden who collapsed as Jesus said “I AM”

TYPICAL POSTURE OF BOOK OF REVELATION

“he twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne, and worship him”
Revelation 4.10

GREAT AWARENESS OF JOHN

v. 10 “on the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit” – DAY of RESURRECTION

v. 17 “Then he placed his right hand on me and said: "Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.”

HAND OF CREATOR GOD > COMFORT and CONFIDENCE

NOT come to CONQUER John > But to CONSECRATE him for Service

“This book carries the reader into another dimension – he has but the slightest foot-hold in the time-and-space world with which he is familiar. He is carried, not into some never-never land of fancy, but into the ever-ever land of God’s eternal values and judgments.”
J.B. Phillips

2 Common Extremes in Interpretation

1. Only Ancient History of 1st C Church – book belongs in a MUSEUM

2. Modern Handbook of Contemporary Society – for TV NEWSHOWS

Modern Prophecy Teachers – have ability to open the 7 Seals

IDENTITY of Beast – Hitler, Geo. Bush, Assad – current BADIES

Both EXTREMES miss FOUNDATIONAL PRINCIPLE

v. 3 “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.”

BLESSING for All People of God / All Time / All Places

From John’s First Readers in 7 Churches of Asia Minor

to The Final Generation before the Return of Christ

Revelation NOT OBSCURING – Not 1st C SUDOKU Puzzle to Work Out

WONDERFUL, ENCOURAGING ASSURANCES

God sees their tears / Their Prayers rule the World / Their Savior Reigns

History is moving toward – God Appointed & God Glorifying End

“The book of Revelation is a series of pictures. The pictures move. They are full of action. Everything is constantly astir. You see one picture. It soon makes places for another; again, another, and another. If you really wish to understand the book, you must imagine that you are enjoying a movie” William Hendriksen

WISDOM OF GOD– PICTURES are meaningful for all esp. CHILDREN

Unless you receive the kingdom of God like a little child, you’ll not enter

Unless you read Revelation like a child, you will never understand it

Apostle John – Artist with Words – Describing the Indescribable

Colors, smells, monsters, demons, thrones, angels, Lamb that was Slain

UNIQUE LITERATURE – not theological precision of Paul or

Historical accuracy of Luke

FULLY WORD OF GOD – in Wonderful, Dazzling Words of Man

b. Urgency in God’s Purpose – wonder must not lull us into slumber

NOT PUZZLE FOR CHURCH TO WASTE TIME IN SPECULATION

v. 1 “what must soon take place” v. 3 “the time is near”

“This information immediately injects the note of urgency into what he is writing. It should be heeded as in effect a warning that the Apocalypse is not a collection of puzzles and cryptograms for those who find such things amusing and diverting: the fearful judgments so graphically depicted in John’s visions are real and they are impending.” Philip Edgcumbe Hughes

Jesus “Yes, I am coming soon”

Revelation 22.20

Time of NEW COVENANT FULFILLMENT > Contrast to time of Daniel

“Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end.”

Daniel 12.4

Book of Revelation NOTHING NEW – All Truths told in 1st 65 books of Bible

COSMIC Celebration – Curtain Lifted on FINAL DAY – Hope of GOSPEL

Now in Christ – ALL IS READY – SALVATION IS ACCOMPLISHED

Accomplished > Victory on Cross – Grave is Empty – Reigns in Heaven

“understand the present time...the hour has come for you to wake up from slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here”

Romans 13.11

c. Endure by God's Power

Perhaps 50 years earlier John heard Jesus say these words –

“You will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me...because of the increase of wickedness the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved”

Matthew 24.9-13

JOHN HAD STOOD FIRM FOR 50 YEARS – and would until the end

John's Gospel > Savior / John's Letters > Security / John's Revelation > Sovereign

WAS NOT ON AEGEAN CRUISE – prisoner for the Word of God

v. 9 “companion in suffering and kingdom and patient endurance”

Roman Prisoner on Island of Patmos > small, rocky 16 km long, 8 km wide

Aegean Sea > 66 km. SW of Miletus > coast of Asia Minor > modern Turkey

Roman Authorities > Preaching was Seditious > Wanted to Halt Church Growth

Steadfast “in the Spirit on the Lord's Day” Filled with God, Focused on God

Not filled with alcoholic spirits on Caesar's Day

To a church facing persecution and death, the message they most needed to hear was one that assured them of a Helmsman, a Governor, a Transformer who would keep His people, no matter what. Derek Thomas

SUFFERING & GLORY GO TOGETHER – one leads to the other

Pathway to the Crown is by way of the Cross

John writes from Caesar’s Prison but Soon Caesar would be in Christ’s Prison

Calls Himself BROTHER JOHN > No Artificial Barrier of Position or Status

HE HAS ENDURED the SUFFERING THEY WILL AND ARE ENDURING

RESPONSE TO THIS GLORIOUS JESUS?

AWE – OBEDIENCE – ENDURANCE

Chronicles of Narnia > C.S. Lewis > Portrays Christ as Great Lion

Becomes quite a Shock for Peter and Susan...

“Aslan a man!” said Mr. Beaver sternly. “Certainly not. I tell you he is the King of the wood and the son of the great Emperor-beyond-the sea. Don’t you know who is the King of the Beasts? Aslan is a lion – the Lion, the great Lion.”

“Ooh!” said Susan, “I’d thought he was a man. Is he – quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion.”

“That you will, dearie, and no mistake,” said Mrs. Beaver; “if there’s anyone who can appear before Aslan without their knees knocking, they’re either braver than most or else just silly.”

“Then he isn’t safe?” said Lucy.

“Safe?” said Mrs. Beaver; “don’t you hear what Mrs. Beaver tells you? Who said anything about being safe? ‘Course he isn’t safe. But he is good. He’s the King, I tell you.”

“I’m longing to see him,” said Peter, “even if I do feel frightened when it comes to the point.”

“That’s right, son of Adam,” said Mr. Beaver, bringing his paw down on the table with such a crash that made all the cups and saucers rattle. “And so you shall. Word has been sent that you are to meet him to-morrow...”

C.S. Lewis

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe

Revelation 1:¹The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants the things that must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ²who bore witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw. ³Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near. ⁴John 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, ⁵and from Jesus Christ the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth. To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood ⁶and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen. ⁸“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.” ⁹I, John, your brother and partner in the tribulation and the kingdom and the patient endurance that are in Jesus, was on the island called Patmos on account of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet ¹¹saying, “Write what you see in a book 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.” ¹²Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, ¹⁵his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. ¹⁷When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, “Fear not, I am the first and the last, ¹⁸and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades. ¹⁹Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this. ²⁰As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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.

1. After 26 N.T. books, why one more Bible book about Jesus? “The most difficult and yet most urgent need of the Christian is to keep a steady eye on Jesus.” Reflect and respond.
2. Compare and contrast John’s pictures of Jesus in his Gospel and in this Revelation.
3. According to verse 9, what is the two-fold experience in which all believers share?
4. Tease out the truths revealed in chapter 1 about the relationship between Jesus and His Church.