

The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ


Chapter One: Prologue and Commissioning of John

**Bamberg Apocalypse, "The Son of Man
and the Seven Lampstands" (1000 A.D.)**



The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

Chapter One Outline

- I. Prologue (1:1-8)  **TODAY!**
- II. Commissioning of John (1:9-20)
+ The Vision of the Son of Man

The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

Prologue (1:1-8)

“The Apocalypse of Jesus Christ...”

+ This phrase is the opening of Revelation. In the time of John, this was seen as being sufficient to indicate the content of a scroll (book).

+ In the Greek, it literally means that the revelation is of and from Jesus Christ. And as we are told, this revelation was given to Him, by the Father; Jesus then gave the revelation to His angel, to His servant John, to the seven Churches, to all Christians.

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Prologue (1:1-8)

“The Brief Commentary (vv. 1-3)”

+ It's also important for us to know HOW this revelation was given: “...*He made it known...*” or literally, He gave the revelation in word and with visuals.

- Not only was God's Word revealed to John's mind, but John saw the signs and wonders in visual form. It's as if John was watching an ancient motion picture and writing a commentary on what he saw.

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Prologue (1:1-8)

“...through His angel...”

+ The source is the Father and Jesus as the Mediator. Our Lord gives His revelation through His angel.

+ You will come to see that angels play a very important role throughout this book. They assist John with interpretation of visions and they, notably, keep John's focus on what's important in regard to each vision as they answer his questions (and ours!).

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Prologue (1:1-8)

“Blessed is the one reading aloud and the ones hearing...” (v.3)

+ Notice the special blessing to the one who reads aloud (claims) and the ones HEARING this book. Revelation is the only book of the Bible so singled out with such a unique blessing, although Scripture makes clear that reading and study of all Scripture brings blessings.

Originally, this text was written for the purpose of the pastor reading (reading) and the congregation hearing! (Beatitude #1)

7 BEATITUDES IN REVELATION!

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Prologue (1:1-8)

The Divine Confirmation (vv.4-6)



+ While John's name self-consciously does not appear in any of his other books; here it appears twice (vv.1, 4; also 1:9, 21:2, 22:8), leaving no question to the fact that the book is Apostolic.



Troas

(Alexandria)

Adramyttium

Assos

Pergamum

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Smyrna

Lydia

Ephesus

Hierapolis

Laodicea

Colossae

Miletus

Patmos

Caria

LYCIA

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Prologue (1:1-8)

**“...from the One Who Is and Who Was
and Who Is Coming...” (v.4)**

+ Let's review Exodus 3:14.

- Therefore, this is the Greek literary form of the Tetragrammon, or the Holy Name of God, YHWH (I AM).

- **hy6h5a6 rv6a15 hy6h5a6 (ejgwv eijmi oJ w[n)**

- The entire three-part phrase is really a rendition of the Holy Name of God by John, which has rabbinic. roots.

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Prologue (1:1-8)

“...and from the seven Spirits...” (v.4)

+ Notice that the seven Spirits have the same authority as God the Father and Jesus Christ.

- Therefore, this is clearly a reference to the Holy Spirit. (cf. Isaiah 11:1-3)

- **The number 7 symbolizes God in His perfection, completion, and holiness. This number, therefore, is very prominent in Revelation.**

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Prologue (1:1-8)

The Lord's Return (vv. 7, 8)

- + The Prologue concludes with a reference to our returning Lord Jesus.
 - Mt. 26:64; 1 Thess. 4:17)
- + ***"Behold..."*** occurs 27 times in Revelation and serves to draw our attention to an especially important point. The coming of Christ will be personal and visible, seen by all at once.
 - Clouds...symbolic of Christ's majesty and power.

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Prologue (1:1-8)

The Lord's Return (vv. 7, 8)

+ “...*all the peoples of the earth will mourn...*” not in repentance -- without warning it will be too late to repent. (Matt. 7:13, 14; 24:27, 30, 44; Luke 17:24; 1 Thess. 5:2)

So shall it be! Amen.

+ This is final! No second chance; no last moment opportunity. Excuses shall NOT be accepted; denials of God's Truth shall result in the instant realization of eternal damnation with NO appeal.

The Apocalypse

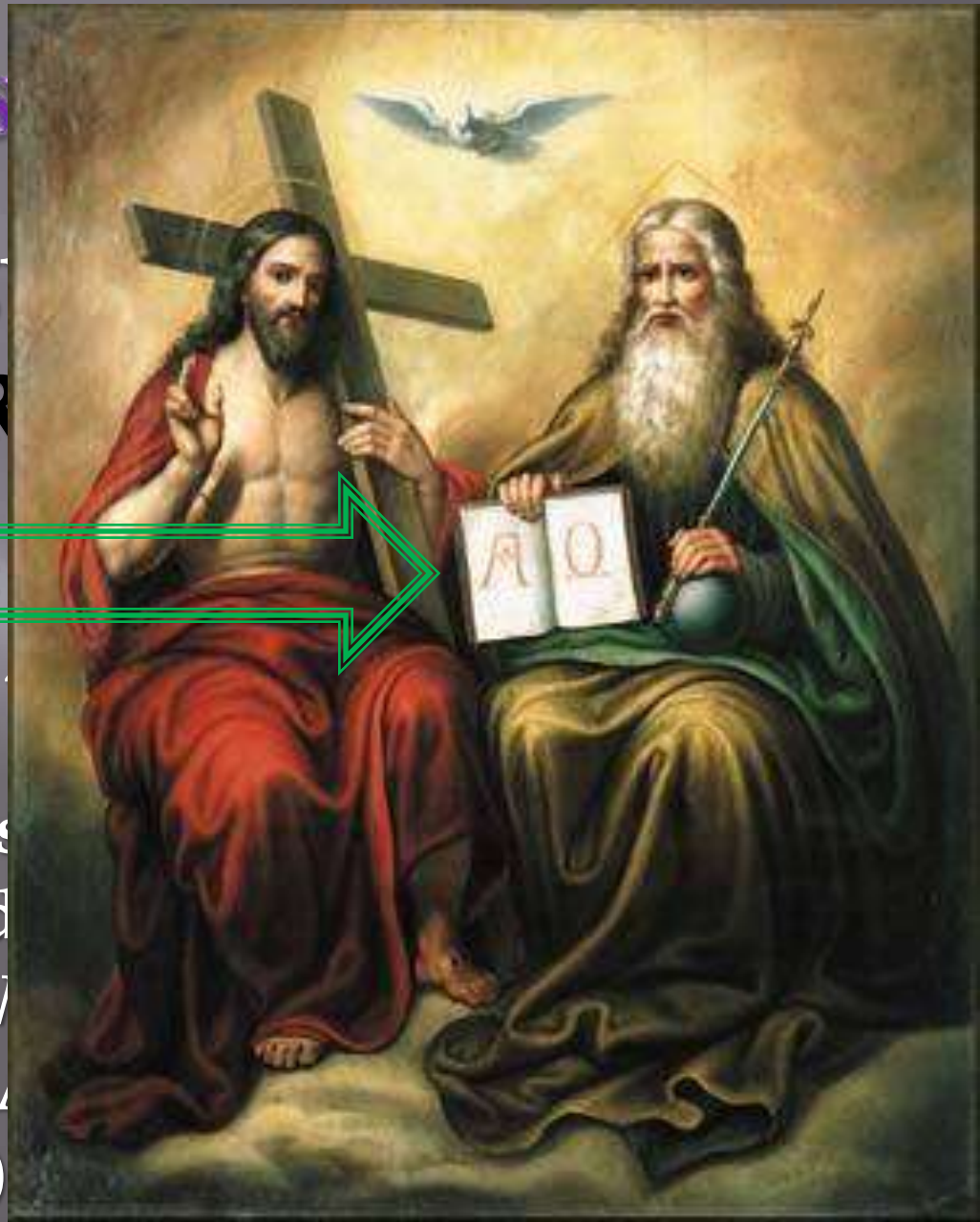
Prologue

The Lord's R

+ *Alpha and the Omega:*
of the Greek (our A and

- cf. Isaiah 44:6

+ God, having given His
Himself as the uncreated
and Reason for Being. W
ministry claims to be "I
God's Name (His Name)



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Prologue (1:1-8)

The Lord's Return (vv. 7, 8)

+ V.8: This isn't Christ, giving testimony of Himself, rather it's His Father! Just as He spoke at His Son's Baptism and Transfiguration, the Father gives His eternal confirmation of His Son and the words of Revelation. He then signs His doxology,

"The Almighty"



Conclusion of Chapter 1