

*Carol Sparks*

# Revelation

*The Personal Message*

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The Personal Message  
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## FOREWORD

The purpose of this study is to provide Christians with a tool for understanding Revelation through God's Word. It is designed to enhance spiritual understanding, knowledge of scripture and personal growth by means of individual or group study with a format that is easy to follow. The structure of the study lists the successive verses of Revelation along the left margin with corresponding scripture identified along the right margin. The scripture has been paraphrased using The New International Version of the Bible as the source of reference, with direct quotations noted. Key words are emphasized in bold print, followed by definitions and commentary. Every chapter includes a summary and some thought-provoking questions.

It is important for the reader to recognize several distinct characteristics about the Book of Revelation.

**FIRST:** Revelation is not written in linear sequence. Large segments of the text deal with descriptions of people and the influence they exercise over humanity. Other chapters explain the reason for the 'end time' events, the nature of the activity surrounding those events and the way they will impact the church.

**SECOND:** Revelation cannot be properly interpreted without including the teachings of Jesus in Matthew, chapters 24 and 25, and the 'end time' prophecy of Daniel.

**THIRD:** Revelation unites the message of the Old and New Testaments. The Old Testament reveals 'end time' conditions through the history and events of the nation of Israel and the warnings of the prophets. The New Testament reveals 'end time' conditions through the life and teachings of Jesus. The prophecy of the Old Testament and the testimony of Jesus will be confirmed at a single moment in time, when Christ returns for his church.

**FOURTH:** Prophecy in scripture had both 'real time' and 'end time' significance. The message was directed not only to the people who heard it first hand, but also to the church on a continuing basis throughout history. What held true for the past will hold true for the future.

**FIFTH:** Revelation is written to the church, for the church, and about the church with only a small portion of the text relating to the unsaved. It is a description of what is going to happen to the church during the 'end time' period of history. It is important to understand that all of creation will come under God's judgment through the Risen Christ and no one living during the 'end time' period will escape judgment, including the church.

Judgment of mankind takes place on earth. Our acceptance or rejection of Christ as Savior and Lord of our lives and our obedience to God's commands determines our final destination at the time of our death.

**SIXTH:** The 'end time' judgment of the church, before Christ returns, is known as the tribulation. Everyone who claims the name of Christ can expect to be persecuted. This action will result in personal purification and the elimination of unconverted Christians from the church. The

church must be made spotless before it can be raised to spend eternity with Christ.

The Christian community takes great comfort in the theory that Christ will rapture the church before the tribulation begins, protecting it from any 'end time' unpleasantness. Unfortunately, we have failed to take into account the current sinful condition of the church and the need for purification before Christ returns. Believing that Christ will return for his church before it is purified denies the holiness of God and makes a mockery of Christ's sacrifice on the cross. The contaminated church is the focus of and reason for Christ's warning and the action that will be taken.

**SEVENTH:** Obvious symbolic language is used to describe people and real events, both past and future. It is, however, the subtle, less obvious symbolism in scripture that draws us into a deeper level of spiritual understanding.

"Revelation, The Personal Message" dispels some of the myths about the nature of God's character, sacrifice, forgiveness, heaven and eternal life through close examination of Scripture.

God wants everyone to be saved and his love is available to all people. But, our salvation is based upon belief, submission and obedience to God's Son. We are saved from the penalty of sin by means of the sacrificial blood of Jesus, enabling us to reconcile with God.

The Old Testament reveals the need for reconciliation, while the New Testament reveals the means of reconciliation through a personal relationship with Jesus and the presence of the indwelling Holy Spirit. The Book of Revelation reinforces the importance of reconciliation while revealing the consequence of ignoring this guidance.

The information in this study is presented without the confusing terminology and theories that are normally associated with the study of Revelation. It is the result of more than twenty-five years of study and writing as God has directed. I give to you what God has given to me through his Holy Spirit.

It is in the seeking that God reveals himself, enabling us to grow in understanding and relationship with our Lord. May God convict, inspire and bless you as the Holy Spirit reveals the truth of God's 'end time' message through his Holy Word.

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## CHAPTER I CHRIST APPEARS

The Book of Revelation is an account of the series of visions God uses to communicate with John. The first chapter describes Christ's appearance, character, place and function in the church. He tells John to convey a message to the church about the events that will occur during the 'end time' period of history and how those events will impact the church.

**Rev 1:1** \_\_\_\_\_ The revelation of Jesus Christ, given by God to his servants about that which will soon take place in the final period of history.

**revelation** \_\_\_\_\_ to uncover, disclose, reveal, make known

**Jesus Christ** \_\_\_\_\_ information about the activity of the Risen Christ

**servants** \_\_\_\_\_ to those who are associated with the Christian church

**soon take place** \_\_\_\_\_ about the events that will occur prior to Christ's return

**Rev 1:1** \_\_\_\_\_ God's angel discloses the information about Jesus Christ.

**angel** \_\_\_\_\_ a descriptive word assigning personality, function and the activity of God's Holy Spirit

Only the Holy Spirit knows the thoughts of God \_\_\_ I Corinthians 2:11

God reveals his thoughts to us by his Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ I Corinthians 2:9,10

God wants us to know himself \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 1:17

No one but the Holy Spirit has the ability to communicate God's thoughts, plans and purposes for the individual, the church and creation. The Holy Spirit gives life, power and authority to God's Word, revealing hidden spiritual truths to those who belong to him. The visions explain the nature of and reasons for the events leading up to the return of Christ and their effect on believers living during that period of time.

The objective of our spiritual life is to be in a deep, abiding relationship with the Lord - one that is faithful, obedient, purposeful and fulfilling. The message is recorded by God's servant, John, as it is revealed for his understanding by God's Holy Spirit.

**Rev 1:2** \_\_\_\_\_ John qualifies as a messenger because he can testify to the validity of the deity and ministry of Jesus.

**testify** \_\_\_\_\_ to confirm evidence detailing what the witness has seen or knows

John had direct, personal contact with the Savior \_\_\_\_\_ I John 1:1

The information is presented as fact and truth by God's own Spirit.

The Holy Spirit reveals God's truth to us \_\_\_\_\_ I John 5:6

God's testimony is about Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ I John 5:9

God lives in the heart of those who accept the testimony about his Son \_\_\_\_\_ I John 5:10

The testimony reveals that salvation is through Jesus alone \_\_\_\_\_ I John 5:11,12

The testimony reveals the truth of prophecy \_\_\_\_\_ **Revelation 19:10**

**Rev 1:3** \_\_\_\_\_ God promises blessings of insight and understanding to those who seek the truth through the prophecy revealed in Revelation. We will reap the benefit of a clearer perspective of the events that will occur before Christ returns and the necessity for godly obedience.

**prophecy** \_\_\_\_\_ foretelling by divine inspiration of what is to come

This is the prophecy: Christ will return \_\_\_\_\_ **Revelation 22:12**

Revelation is based on Christ's promise to return and his return will be the fulfillment of prophecy.

Jesus has provided this testimony for the churches \_\_\_\_ **Revelation 22:16**

**Rev 1:4** \_\_\_\_\_ **The message is for the seven churches in Asia.**

**seven** \_\_\_\_\_ the spiritual symbol for whole, complete, perfect

God's message reveals his plan and purpose for the whole church, prior to Christ's return:

- warning Christians of wrongdoing
- calling the church to repentance

**The message is from God:** Who is constant and eternal  
Who was there in the beginning,  
Who is to come in the end.

Knowing that God is in control of unfolding events will instill a sense of calm in the midst of turmoil.

**Rev 1:4** \_\_\_\_\_ **The message is given by the seven spirits** [the Holy Spirit]

**seven** \_\_\_\_\_ the perfect nature of God's Holy Spirit,  
characterized as: indwelling \_\_\_\_\_ II Timothy 1:14  
wisdom  
understanding  
counsel  
power  
knowledge  
fear \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 11:2

**Rev 1:5** \_\_\_\_\_ **The message is from Jesus Christ; the faithful witness**

**Jesus** \_\_\_\_\_ God manifest in human form

**Christ** \_\_\_\_\_ the Risen Savior

**witness** \_\_\_\_\_ one who gives sworn testimony; testimony or evidence

Jesus gives us advance knowledge  
of future events \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 24:25

Only the Risen Savior has the authority to announce God's message to the church. There is no other reliable source of information.

**Rev 1:5** \_\_\_\_\_ **The message is from Jesus Christ; the first born**

**first born** \_\_\_\_\_ The first (and only) human being to be raised from physical death to eternal life with God in heaven.

Christ Jesus was raised from the  
dead and seated at God's right hand \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 1: 20,21  
No one but Jesus has ever entered heaven \_\_\_\_\_ John 3:13  
No one but Christ has ever seen God \_\_\_\_\_ John 1:18  
No human being has ever seen God \_\_\_\_\_ John 6:46

No one but Christ has been resurrected from death to eternal life with God. Christ's resurrection to eternal life gives him the distinction of being the only person to stand in God's presence. Therefore, he is the only person who is able to intercede on our behalf. Christians will be resurrected when Christ returns for the church and the unsaved will experience a resurrection following the millennium.

**paradise** \_\_\_\_\_ At death, the Christian's spirit enters paradise \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 23:43  
a place of rest

Believers enter into a restful sleep in Christ \_\_\_\_\_ I Thessalonians 4:14  
The place of rest will be glorious \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 11:10  
The disobedient will not enter God's rest \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 3:18,19  
Paul was caught up to the third heaven \_\_\_\_\_ II Corinthians 12:1-4

1<sup>st</sup> heaven \_\_\_\_\_ the human heart \_\_\_\_\_ God's indwelling kingdom

2<sup>nd</sup> heaven \_\_\_\_\_ the church body \_\_\_\_\_ God's earthly kingdom

3<sup>rd</sup> heaven \_\_\_\_\_ Paradise \_\_\_\_\_ a place of rest for the spirit of departed saints

Those who go to paradise are assured of heaven \_\_\_\_\_ **Revelation 2:7**

heaven \_\_\_\_\_ God's eternal kingdom, the final reward for born-again Christians

Entrance into heaven will occur following the final judgment \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 25:31-33

Born-again Christians will enter heaven \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 25:34

The unsaved will be cast into hell \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 25:41

**Rev 1:5** \_\_\_\_\_ **The message is from Jesus Christ; the ruler**

**ruler** \_\_\_\_\_ one who governs; sovereign; king

Jesus was born to be king \_\_\_\_\_ John 18:37

Christ is head of the church \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 1:22,23

**Rev 1:5** \_\_\_\_\_ **The message is from Jesus Christ who loves us** and has freed us from our sins by means of his sacrifice on the cross.

For those who believe, our confessed sins are washed away in the blood of Jesus, who descended into hell on our behalf, freeing us from the penalty of eternal punishment.

Jesus spent three days and nights  
in hell to pay the price for our sins \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 12:40

Jesus descended into hell, was  
resurrected and ascended into heaven  
making him Lord over all creation \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 4:9

We have been set free from sin \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6:18

No longer a slave to sin, Satan and worldly values, we are free to live under the authority of Christ.

**Rev 1:6** \_\_\_\_\_ **The message is from Jesus Christ who calls us to a priesthood**

**priesthood** \_\_\_\_\_ to be a group of people serving in the ministry of prayer

God's people are a kingdom of priests  
drawing the unsaved to Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ I Peter 2:5

Believers are part of a royal priesthood \_\_\_\_\_ I Peter 2:9

As part of God's kingdom we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, not by human strength.

God's kingdom is eternal \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel 4:3

Seek God's kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 6:33

God's kingdom is one of power \_\_\_\_\_ I Corinthians 4:20

**Rev 1:7** \_\_\_\_\_ John is given a vision of Christ coming with the clouds.

This is not the return of Christ or the rapture of the church. This image is given to John for the purpose of recognition and communication.

Daniel recorded the same image in his vision \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel 7:13

John witnessed a similar scene at the transfiguration \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 17:2

Jesus changed from human form to supernatural form at the transfiguration, providing unquestionable proof of his deity and eventual victory over death. Peter and James were present at the transfiguration providing import and validity to the experience, giving John full assurance of the reality of the event.

A matter must be resolved with two or more witnesses \_\_\_\_\_ Deuteronomy 19:15

God provided John with two witnesses at the transfiguration \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 17:1

God provided Jesus with two witnesses at his transfiguration \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 17:3

**Moses** \_\_\_\_\_ the prophet, the law giver \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 21:1  
**Elijah** \_\_\_\_\_ the prophet, the reconciler \_\_\_\_\_ Malachi 4:5,6

Two witnesses also appeared at the ascension of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 1:10,11

Because of his previous experience, John is able to record his vision, confident in the knowledge of Christ's identity and his return, without the need for questions or second-guessing.

**Rev 1:7** \_\_\_\_\_ When the return of Christ is a reality, the event will be witnessed by everyone who has ever lived.

**will** \_\_\_\_\_ expected or required to

There was testimony of his death \_\_\_\_\_ John 19:34-37

There will be mourning and grief for the One they pierced \_\_\_\_\_ Zechariah 12:10

In an instant, we will be forced to acknowledge the state of our relationship with Christ, which defines our attitude and behavior.

**Rev 1:8** \_\_\_\_\_ I am the beginning and the end.  
 I am the reason for life.  
 I am all you will ever need.

The book of Revelation was written by John:

- in approximately 96 A.D.
- while in exile on the island of Patmos, off the coast of Asia Minor
- during a period of violent persecution by the Roman Empire

Revelation chronicles ‘end time’ events; the period of time just prior to Christ’s return, using much of the same symbolic terminology that was used in the Old Testament.

The word signify is used in other translations \_\_\_\_\_ **Revelation 1:1**

**signify** \_\_\_\_\_ to make known by signs, speech or action; to have import; to be of importance or consequence

While the symbolic language in Revelation is challenging, symbolism has the quality of enhancing the importance of the message and its significance for our lives. God wants us to understand its meaning.

**Rev 1:9** \_\_\_\_\_ John describes himself as a brother in Christ, a fellow sufferer, sharing in God’s kingdom on earth as he awaits Christ’s return. He was exiled because of his belief in Jesus as Lord and for refusing to participate in emperor worship. His own personal letters reveal his concern for the church as he issues strong warnings against compromise with worldly influences.

**Rev 1:10** \_\_\_\_\_ John was praying in the Spirit, on the Sabbath, when he heard a loud voice.

**in the Spirit** \_\_\_\_\_ a reference to John’s prayer life; not an indication of a supernatural condition

Prayer is an essential feature of the Christian life \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 6:18

The Holy Spirit will guide us in our prayers \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 8:26

**Rev 1:11** \_\_\_\_\_ John was deep in prayer when the Lord appeared to him with a message for the church.

The names of the churches are actual descriptions of the Lord’s characteristics and his personal connection with the church. The cities and events mentioned in the letters are used as a reference to compare the condition of the early church to the condition of the church as it exists today. When we focus on a particular location or period of history the personal message of Revelation is lost in the interpretation. John was told to record the vision he was about to receive and give the information to the collective church. The message is meant to be understood and applied to the lives of each individual. It should encourage the church community to re-evaluate the focus and goal of their ministry.

**Rev 1:12** \_\_\_\_\_ Then, seven golden lampstands appeared before John.

**golden lampstands** represent the church \_\_\_\_\_ **Revelation 1:20**

In the Old Testament, the lampstand had a base and shaft of pure gold representing a tree ornately decorated with almond buds and flowers with six branches that grew from the main stem. The lampstand supported the lamps that burned continuously in the Holy Place of the tabernacle, supplying the only source of light that represented God's presence. While Jesus is the source of the light, the church is called to represent God's presence in a dark world.

Jesus is the light \_\_\_\_\_ John 8:12

We are to be the light that  
leads the unsaved to Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 5:16

**Rev 1:13** \_\_\_\_\_ Someone looking like the son of man was standing among the lampstands wearing a robe with a golden sash around his chest.

**son of man** \_\_\_\_\_ a title declaring the humanity of God in the person of Jesus

Human likeness, in the appearance of a man \_\_\_\_\_ Philippians 2:7,8

**robe** \_\_\_\_\_ the garment of the High Priest.

Sacred garments \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 28:2-4

The train of his robe fills the temple \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 6:1

A symbol for healing \_\_\_\_\_ Mark 5:27-29

**sash** \_\_\_\_\_ a symbol of authority worn by people in high position

Jesus is given full authority in heaven  
and on earth \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 28:18

The hem of Christ's robe is immeasurable, enabling all who reach out to the Lord to have a life-changing experience. God wants us to be reconciled to himself, healed of our sinful condition, laying claim to our eternal inheritance through a personal relationship with the Lord.

God wants everyone to receive forgiveness \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 10:43

God wants everyone to be saved \_\_\_\_\_ I Timothy 2:3,4

Salvation (deliverance from sin) is achieved through the sacrifice Jesus made on the Cross. Eternal life is achieved through a personal relationship with the Lord who acts as our High Priest.

Jesus' resurrection qualifies his priesthood \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 7:16

Jesus is a priest forever \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 7:21

Jesus is able to save completely \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 7:24,25

**priest** \_\_\_\_\_ one who intercedes on our behalf

Christ is man's redeemer, intercessor and judge. He will restore the righteous and punish sin.

Priests serve as judges \_\_\_\_\_ Ezekiel 44:24

**judge** \_\_\_\_\_ one who is qualified to pass sentence: pardon or condemn

God appointed Christ as judge  
over the living and the dead \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 10:42

We will all stand before the  
judgment seat of God \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 14:10

Everyone will stand before Christ (saved and unsaved, alike) to receive their sentence at the final judgment.

**Rev 1:14** \_\_\_\_\_ His hair was white and his eyes were blazing.

**white** \_\_\_\_\_ the symbol for purity and holiness, implies antiquity

Who originated from ancient times \_\_\_\_\_ Micah 5:2

**eyes** \_\_\_\_\_ signify omniscience and omnipresence

Nothing is hidden from God \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 4:13

God knows the condition of the heart and the motive behind every thought and action.

**Rev 1:15** \_\_\_\_\_ The feet of Christ were like bronze.

**bronze** \_\_\_\_\_ a **durable** alloy

**durable** \_\_\_\_\_ having the quality of lasting,  
to hold out against destructive change

Neither time nor Satan can hinder the purposes of God.

God's purposes will stand \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 46:10

**Rev 1:15** \_\_\_\_\_ His voice had a distinct quality.

The voice of Christ, full of power and authority – eliminating all other sounds, will be heard by everyone when he returns.

His voice will be powerful \_\_\_\_\_ Psalms 29:3-9

His voice will resound \_\_\_\_\_ Jeremiah 25:30,31

Everyone will hear his  
voice, at his return \_\_\_\_\_ John 5:28,29

John has described the appearance of Christ as he was revealed to him.

**Rev 1:16** \_\_\_\_\_ In his right hand he held the seven stars.

**seven stars** are the Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ **Revelations 1:20**

**stars and angels** \_\_\_\_\_ also a symbolic description of believers

Stars represent God's children \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 15:5

We are upheld by God's right hand \_\_\_\_\_ Psalms 63:8

God's children lead the unsaved  
to Christ \_\_\_\_\_ Daniel 12:3

As God's children, we do his  
will through obedience \_\_\_\_\_ Psalms 103:20,21

God symbolically holds his children in his right hand; those who have a personal relationship with the Lord, living obediently in God's will through his indwelling Holy Spirit.

No one can snatch us from his hand \_\_\_\_\_ John 10:28

No one can separate us from the Lord. We do, however, have the ability to sever our relationship with God if we choose to forsake him by reason of exercising our own free will to walk away from him. Our relationship with the Lord is a blessing, not a trap. It is something we can cherish or reject. It is our choice.

**Rev 1:16** \_\_\_\_\_ His words are like a sharp-double edged sword.

**sword** \_\_\_\_\_ a weapon used in battle

The sword is the Word of God \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 6:17

God's Word, the sword of truth, is aimed at the heart.

Evil thoughts come from the heart \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 15:19

Spoken with conviction, God's Word  
pierces the heart and stirs the conscience \_\_\_\_\_ Acts 2:37

Scripture sets the standard for godly behavior. The Holy Spirit convicts us of our sinfulness, producing a sense of sorrow for having grieved the Lord. In turn, this creates a desire in us to turn away from our sin, toward God.

Repentance leads to salvation \_\_\_\_\_ II Corinthians 7:10

His sword cuts both ways \_\_\_\_\_ John 12:48

The sword judges \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 4:12

The same sword, the Gospel message, that frees the believer will also condemn those who reject God's Word and his Son. In the end, the truth of God's Word will be evident to everyone.

**Rev 1:16** \_\_\_\_\_ His face was like the shining brilliance of the sun.

When Christ returns, there will be an immediate recognition of his identity and of our eternal destination, based on our acceptance or rejection of his testimony and obedience to God's law.

**Rev 1:17** \_\_\_\_\_ Overwhelmed at the sight of the Lord, John falls at his feet in a state of reverence and fear. Christ, then, touches John and speaks reassuring words.

**Rev 1:17** \_\_\_\_\_ God is the First and the Last.

God existed before creation and  
no other god will stand with him  
at the end of time \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 44:6

God is creator of all things \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 45:12

**Rev 1:18** \_\_\_\_\_ Christ is the Living One who cannot die again.

Christ has mastered death and cannot die again \_\_\_\_\_ Romans 6:9,10

Only God had the power to raise  
Jesus Christ from the dead. Since  
Christ and God are one and the  
same person, the language of  
separation signifies individual  
function and identity \_\_\_\_\_ Ephesians 1:19,20

Raised from the dead and seated at the right hand of God, Christ is the only person able to mediate between man and God – no one else has that power or authority because no one else stands in the presence of God.

**one mediator** \_\_\_\_\_ the man, Christ Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ I Timothy 2:5

Representations of idols do not  
exist in God's presence and cannot  
possibly intercede on mankind's behalf \_\_\_\_\_ Deuteronomy 4:15-17

Scripture states very clearly that created images cannot claim life, give life, intercede or give guidance on our behalf.

Idols have no value \_\_\_\_\_ Habakkuk 2:18,19

Do not make idols of silver or gold \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 20:23

This issue is addressed in the first three commandments.

Have no other gods before me \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 20:3

Do not make an idol or worship idols \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 20:4,5

Do not pray to God through anyone  
other than Jesus Christ \_\_\_\_\_ Exodus 20:7

Idols are powerless to save human souls. Access to God through the person of Christ Jesus is based on faith and personal relationship. The Lord's authority in the church cannot be limited by special circumstances or sidelined in favor of someone or something else. Praying to appointed gods and saints, invoking God's name in an oath or in connection with fear-driven superstitious rites will not have a positive impact on man's eternal destination. Worshiping God through the risen Christ is a fundamental part of the equation for spending eternity with God. The balance of power is placed squarely on the shoulders of Christ Jesus.

**Rev 1:18** \_\_\_\_\_ It is Christ who holds the keys of death and Hades.

**hold** \_\_\_\_\_ to keep forcibly, as against an adversary; to have possession of; control

**keys** \_\_\_\_\_ something that secures or controls entrance

**death** \_\_\_\_\_ separation from God

**Hades** \_\_\_\_\_ where the spirit of the unsaved exists until the final judgment

At the time of death, our body and soul dies. The spirit has perpetual life. The spirit of the born again Christian (because it is holy) is at rest (in a state of sleep) in the presence of the Lord in paradise, while the spirit of the unsaved person exists in torment in Hades. Both remain in this state until the resurrection.

Hell, an inclusive description of  
the designation of the unsaved \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 16:19-31

The spirits in Hades have awareness \_\_\_\_\_ Isaiah 14:5

Both the saved and unsaved will experience a future bodily resurrection. Since our bodies are nothing but mass that will decay, the soul that gives us life must be resurrected with the body.

flesh and blood cannot inherit  
eternal life \_\_\_\_\_ I Corinthians 15:50

It is God's breath of life (soul and  
spirit) that gives us life and being \_\_\_\_\_ Genesis 2:7

The breath of God gives and restores life \_\_\_\_\_ Ezekiel 37:3-10

The body and soul, reunited with the spirit at the resurrection, will enter heaven or hell following the final judgment.

Don't be afraid of men, fear God who  
can destroy the body and soul in hell \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 10:28

Fear the one who has the power  
to cast you into hell \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 12:5

Every soul belongs to God and "the  
soul who sins is the one who will die" \_\_\_\_\_ (NIV) \_\_\_\_\_ Ezekiel 18:4

We don't need to fear mortal men who can extinguish our earthly life; we do need to respect and revere the one who has the power to punish our body and soul for eternity. Our final destination hinges on our acceptance or rejection of Christ as Lord. Christ is the key to eternal life with God and he holds the keys to eternal separation from God.

Christ is the only way to heaven \_\_\_\_\_ John 14:6

The church holds the keys to God's  
kingdom \_\_\_\_\_ Matthew 16:18,19

The church was created for believers to be able to gather together to worship and praise God as one body. In this unique setting, we are able to share our spiritual gifts as we minister to each other through love, support and encouragement.

We are called to share the gospel  
message throughout the world \_\_\_\_\_ Luke 24:47

The church is charged with carrying the message of repentance, forgiveness and salvation to the unbelieving world.

**Rev 1:19** \_\_\_\_\_ Write, therefore,

what you have seen \_\_\_\_\_ the Glorious Risen Savior,

what is now \_\_\_\_\_ Christ's personal message to the church,

what will take place later \_\_\_\_ the 'end time' events that will occur before  
Christ returns.

## CHAPTER 1 – SUMMARY

### Prologue

The Book of Revelation is:

- the disclosure of the role of Jesus Christ in the events that will occur during the ‘end time’ period of history
- given to John, by means of the Holy Spirit
- the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ
- a blessing to the one who reads this prophecy and takes it to heart

### Greetings and Doxology

- greetings to the seven churches in Asia
- from God, the Holy Spirit and Jesus Christ, who is: the faithful witness  
the firstborn from the dead  
the ruler of the kings of the earth  
who loves us  
freed us from our sins by his blood  
made us to be a kingdom of priests

### Christ appears before John

- this is not the return of Christ
- Christ makes a declaration of who he is

### Description of John

- fellow Christian
- exiled to Patmos for his faithfulness to Jesus and the Word of God
- John was praying on the Sabbath when Christ appeared

### The Command

- to record the vision and give it to the seven churches: Ephesus  
Smyrna  
Pergamum  
Thyatira  
Sardis  
Philadelphia  
Laodicea

### Description of Christ

- like a son of man/Jesus
- among the golden lampstands/the Holy Spirit
- flowing robe, golden sash, white hair, blazing eyes, bronze feet, powerful voice

Christ is qualified to deliver the message because: He is the First and Last

He is the Living One

He is alive forever

He holds the keys of death and Hades

### The mystery

- seven stars are the Holy Spirit and individual believers
- seven churches represent the collective church
- seven lampstands are the church, reflecting the light of God’s truth in a dark world

Consider your perception of the modern church.

Consider your perception of Christ's role in the church.

Consider your perception of what it means to be a Christian.