

**JESUS REIGNS**  
**REVELATION, #1**  
Revelation 1:1-8  
Pastor Dennis Clanton  
Woodland Church  
Wednesday, February 21, 2018

*“This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, who faithfully reported everything he saw. This is his report of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near. This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him— even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen! “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.” (Revelation 1:1–8, NLT)*

**IDEALIST** – Timeless principles.

**HISTORICIST** – Detailed map from days of Jesus until His return.

**PRETERIST** – Read Revelation as the seven churches understood it.

**FUTURIST** – Some events are waiting to be fulfilled.

**ECLECTIC** – A mixture of IDEALIST, PRETERIST and FUTURIST.

**SYMBOLISM** – An understanding of the Old Testament helps.

1. THE SEVEN CHURCHES UNDERSTOOD THEM.
2. THEIR ENEMIES UNDERSTOOD SOME OF THEM.
3. THEY STRUCK TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF THE ENEMIES OF GOD.
4. THEY GIVE CONFIDENCE TO THE PEOPLE OF GOD.
5. SYMBOLS HID THE TRUTH FROM THE ENEMIES OF GOD.
6. SYMBOLS HAVE A TIMELESS NATURE.
7. SYMBOLS HAVE EMOTIONAL POWER.

**GENESIS – Deals with our creation.**

**REVELATION – Deals with us as a new creation.**

REVELATION WAS WRITTEN TO SEVEN CHURCHES. (REVELATION 2-3)

**Revelation is to be thought about, prayed about, and obeyed.**

*“God blesses the one who reads the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.”*  
(Revelation 1:3, NLT)

**Revelation will give me confidence.**

REVELATION HAS MORE ALLUSIONS TO THE OLD TESTAMENT BUT NO LENGTHY QUOTATIONS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT.

IT IS APOCALYPTIC AND PROPHETIC.

*“This is a revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants the events that must soon take place. He sent an angel to present this revelation to his servant John, ... the words of this prophecy to the church, and he blesses all who listen to its message and obey what it says, for the time is near.”*  
(Revelation 1:3, NLT)

**APOCALYPTIC – To unveil what was hidden, symbols, vast upheaval, decisive act of God.**

**REVELATION – Theological, evangelistic, ethical, and call to repentance.**

**APOCALYPTIC – The freedom of God.**

**REVELATION – The freedom of people to choose.**

**I must respond to Revelation since it is written for me too.**

*“But don’t just listen to God’s word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.” (James 1:22, NLT)*

*“Remember, it is sin to know what you ought to do and then not do it.” (James 4:17, NLT)*

**Therefore, being a passionate follower of Christ (a life defined by worship) is my key to understanding Revelation.**

**Read Revelation with adoration and not speculation.**

*“And so, dear brothers and sisters, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all he has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind he will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship him. Don’t copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think. Then you will learn to know God’s will for you, which is good and pleasing and perfect.” (Romans 12:1–2, NLT)*

## **JESUS**

**1. His Word has authority, power, and purpose.**

*“This letter is from John to the seven churches in the province of Asia. Grace and peace to you from the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne; and from Jesus Christ. He is the faithful witness to these things, the first to rise from the dead, and the ruler of all the kings of the world. All glory to him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by shedding his blood for us. He has made us a Kingdom of priests for God his Father. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen. Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him— even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen! “I am the Alpha and the Omega—the beginning and the end,” says the Lord God. “I am the one who is, who always was, and who is still to come—the Almighty One.” (Revelation 1:4–8, NLT)*

*“I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God’s Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of Patmos for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus. It was the Lord’s Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. It said, “Write in a book everything you see, and send it to the seven churches in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.” When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw seven gold lampstands. And standing in the middle of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man. He was wearing a long robe with a gold sash across his chest. His head and his hair were white like wool, as white as snow. And his eyes were like flames of fire. His feet were like polished bronze refined in a furnace, and his voice thundered like mighty ocean waves. He held seven stars in his right hand, and a sharp two-edged sword came from his mouth. And his face was like the sun in all its brilliance. When I saw him, I fell at his feet as if I were dead. But he laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid! I am the First and the Last. I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave. “Write down what you have seen—both the things that are now happening and the things that will happen. This is the meaning of the mystery of the seven stars you saw in my right hand and the seven gold lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.” (Revelation 1:9–20, NLT)*

- 2. The Long Robe – Symbol of the Master**
- 3. The Golden Sash – Symbol of the Perfection and Purity of His Reign**
- 4. His Head and Hair – Symbol of the Glory of God**
- 5. Eyes of Flame and Fire – Symbol of His warmth, tenderness, discernment and insight.**
- 6. Bronze Feet – Symbol of the His death and resurrection.**
- 7. Voice like the Mighty Ocean – Symbol of the living Word of God.**
- 8. Mouth with a Two-Edged Sword – Symbol of the power to slash and slay.**

*“Take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.” (Ephesians 6:17, NLT)*

**REVELATION IS A BOOK OF HOPE, TRUTH ABOUT THE END OF TIME AS WE KNOW IT, AND WHAT IT WILL BE LIKE TO WORSHIP GOD FOREVERMORE!**