Revelation Lesson 1

Chap 1:1-3

**Revelation 1:1-3 (NASB) us**
1  The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John,
2  who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw.
3  Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

**I. Introduction: "What You Have Seen" (**[**chap. 1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1)**)**

**A. Prologue (**[**1:1-3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A1-3)**)**

[**1:1**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A1)**.** The opening words, **The revelation of Jesus Christ,** indicate the subject of the entire book. The word "revelation" is a translation of the Greek *apokalypsis*, meaning "an unveiling" or "a disclosure." From this word comes the English "apocalypse."(We turned it into doom) revelation was given to John to communicate to others, **His servants,** and it prophesies **what must soon take place,** rather than relating a historic presentation as in the four Gospels. The word "soon" (*en tachei*; cf. [2:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+2%3A16); [22:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A7), [12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A12), [20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A20)) means that the action will be sudden when it comes, not necessarily that it will occur immediately. Once the end-time events begin, they will occur in rapid succession (cf. [Luke 18:8](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+18%3A8); [Acts 12:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+12%3A7); [22:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+22%3A18); [25:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ac+25%3A4); [Rom. 16:20](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+16%3A20)). The words, **He made it known,** are from the Greek verb *esēmanen*, meaning "to make known by signs or symbols," but the verb also includes communication by words. The angel messenger is not named but some believe he was Gabriel, who brought messages to Daniel, Mary, and Zechariah (cf. [Dan. 8:16](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A16); [9:21-22](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+9%3A21-22); [Luke 1:26-31](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Lk+1%3A26-31)). The reference to **John** as a **servant** (*doulos*, which normally means "slave") is the term used by Paul, James, Peter, and Jude (cf. [Rom. 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Ro+1%3A1); [Phil. 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Php+1%3A1); [Titus 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Tit+1%3A1); [James 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jas+1%3A1); [2 Peter 1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=2Pe+1%3A1); [Jude 1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Jude+1%3A1)) in speaking of their positions as God's servants.

[**1:2**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A2)**.** John faithfully described what **he saw** as **the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.** What John saw was a communication from—and about—Jesus Christ Himself.

[**1:3**](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A3)**.** The prologue concludes with a blessing on each individual **who reads the** book as well as on **those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it.** The implication is that a reader will read this message aloud to an audience. (Like today) Not only is there a blessing for the reader and the hearers, but there is also a blessing for those who respond in obedience.

John concluded his prologue with **the time is near.** The word "time" (*kairos*) refers to a period of time, that is, the time of the end ([Dan. 8:17](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+8%3A17); [11:35](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A35), [40](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+11%3A40); [12:4](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+12%3A4), [9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+12%3A9)). The end time, as a time period, is mentioned in [Revelation 11:18](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+11%3A18) and [12:12](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+12%3A12). In [12:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+12%3A14) the word "time" means a year (cf. [Dan. 7:25](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Da+7%3A25)); and the phrase "time, times, and half a time" means one year ("time") plus two years ("times") plus six months ("half a time"), totaling three and one-half years—the length of the time of "the end." [Revelation 1:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A3) includes the first of seven beatitudes in the book ([1:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A3); [14:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+14%3A13); [16:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A15); [19:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A9); [20:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A6); [22:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A7), [14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A14)).

The prologue presents concisely the basic facts underlying the entire book: its subjects, purpose, and angelic and human channels. It is most important to observe that the book was primarily intended to give a practical lesson to those who read and heed its contents.

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| **The Seven "Beatitudes" in Revelation** |
| "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" ([1:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A3)). |
| "Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write: "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. "Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them'" ([14:13](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+14%3A13)). |
| "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed" ([16:15](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+16%3A15)). |
| "Then the angel said to me, 'Write: "Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!"' And he added, 'These are the true words of God'" ([19:9](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+19%3A9)). |
| "Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years" ([20:6](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+20%3A6)). |
| "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book" ([22:7](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A7)). |
| "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city" ([22:14](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+22%3A14)). |

The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures by Dallas Seminary Faculty.

***Rev 1:1***

**Revelation 2:16 (NIV)**
16  Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

**Revelation 22:7 (NIV)**
7  "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

**Revelation 22:12 (NIV)**
12  "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done.

**Revelation 22:20 (NIV)**
20  He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

**Luke 18:8 (NIV)**
8  I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

**Acts 12:7 (NIV)**
7  Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him up. "Quick, get up!" he said, and the chains fell off Peter's wrists.

**Acts 22:18 (NIV)**
18  and saw the Lord speaking. 'Quick!' he said to me. 'Leave Jerusalem immediately, because they will not accept your testimony about me.'

**Acts 25:4 (NIV)**
4  Festus answered, "Paul is being held at Caesarea, and I myself am going there soon.

**Romans 16:20 (NIV)**
20  The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet. The grace of our Lord Jesus be with you.

**Daniel 8:16 (NIV)**
16  And I heard a man's voice from the Ulai calling, "Gabriel, tell this man the meaning of the vision."

**Daniel 9:21 (NIV)**
21  while I was still in prayer, Gabriel, the man I had seen in the earlier vision, came to me in swift flight about the time of the evening sacrifice.

**Daniel 9:22 (NIV)**
22  He instructed me and said to me, "Daniel, I have now come to give you insight and understanding.

**Luke 1:26 (NIV)**
26  In the sixth month, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee,

**Luke 1:27 (NIV)**
27  to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

**Luke 1:28 (NIV)**
28  The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

**Luke 1:29 (NIV)**
29  Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

**Luke 1:30 (NIV)**
30  But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.

**Luke 1:31 (NIV)**
31  You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus.

**Romans 1:1 (NIV)**
1  Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God--

**Philippians 1:1 (NIV)**
1  Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all the saints in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons:

**Titus 1:1 (NIV)**
1  Paul, a servant of God and an apostle of Jesus Christ for the faith of God's elect and the knowledge of the truth that leads to godliness--

**James 1:1 (NIV)**
1  James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes scattered among the nations: Greetings.

**2 Peter 1:1 (NIV)**
1  Simon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who through the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ have received a faith as precious as ours:

**Jude 1:1 (NIV)**
1  Jude, a servant of Jesus Christ and a brother of James, To those who have been called, who are loved by God the Father and kept by Jesus Christ:

***Rev 1:3***

**Daniel 8:17 (NIV)**
17  As he came near the place where I was standing, I was terrified and fell prostrate. "Son of man," he said to me, "understand that the vision concerns the time of the end."

**Daniel 11:35 (NIV)**
35  Some of the wise will stumble, so that they may be refined, purified and made spotless until the time of the end, for it will still come at the appointed time.

**Daniel 11:40 (NIV)**
40  "At the time of the end the king of the South will engage him in battle, and the king of the North will storm out against him with chariots and cavalry and a great fleet of ships. He will invade many countries and sweep through them like a flood.

**Daniel 12:4 (NIV)**
4  But you, Daniel, close up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

**Daniel 12:9 (NIV)**
9  He replied, "Go your way, Daniel, because the words are closed up and sealed until the time of the end.

**Revelation 11:18 (NIV)**
18  The nations were angry; and your wrath has come. The time has come for judging the dead, and for rewarding your servants the prophets and your saints and those who reverence your name, both small and great-- and for destroying those who destroy the earth."

**Revelation 12:12 (NIV)**
12  Therefore rejoice, you heavens and you who dwell in them! But woe to the earth and the sea, because the devil has gone down to you! He is filled with fury, because he knows that his time is short."

**Revelation 12:14 (NIV)**
14  The woman was given the two wings of a great eagle, so that she might fly to the place prepared for her in the desert, where she would be taken care of for a time, times and half a time, out of the serpent's reach.

**Daniel 7:25 (NIV)**
25  He will speak against the Most High and oppress his saints and try to change the set times and the laws. The saints will be handed over to him for a time, times and half a time.

**Revelation 1:3 (NIV)**
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.

**Revelation 14:13 (NIV)**
13  Then I heard a voice from heaven say, "Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Yes," says the Spirit, "they will rest from their labor, for their deeds will follow them."

**Revelation 16:15 (NIV)**
15  "Behold, I come like a thief! Blessed is he who stays awake and keeps his clothes with him, so that he may not go naked and be shamefully exposed."

**Revelation 19:9 (NIV)**
9  Then the angel said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!'" And he added, "These are the true words of God."

**Revelation 20:6 (NIV)**
6  Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

**Revelation 22:7 (NIV)**
7  "Behold, I am coming soon! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book."

**Revelation 22:14 (NIV)**
14  "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city.

**Open it**

1. What is the strangest dream you have ever had?
 **In the hospital, I had several**

2. How would you describe, in 25 words or less, what angels are and what they do?
 **God’s creation made by him to do his bidding**

3. What outlandish predictions about the future have you heard at one time or another?
 **The world will end on this date**

4. Why do you think people are often interested in studying the book of Revelation?
 **To understand what is coming and be ready, some just to try and outguess it**
 **Explore it**

5. What is this book about? ([1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A1))
 **The Revelation of Jesus Christ**

6. What did God want us to learn from the book of Revelation? ([1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A1))
 T**he things that would soon be coming**
7. How did God deliver this revelation? ([1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A1))
 **By his angel**

8. To whom did God deliver this revelation? ([1:1](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A1))
 **To his bond servant John**

9. Why did God give us the book of Revelation? ([1:1-3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A1-3))
 **So we would have knowledge of what was to come** and to be blessed by teaching it

10. How much of the revelation he received did John report? ([1:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A2))
 **Everything he was allowed to**

11. What sources did John say were the basis of his revelation? ([1:2](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A2))
 **the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ**

12. What is promised to those who take the time to study this revelation? ([1:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A3))
 **That they would be blessed**

13. What did John urge his readers to do? Why? ([1:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A3))
 **Read and listen to understand what was coming, for the time is near**

14. How did John show urgency in what he wrote? ([1:3](http://www.crossbooks.com/verse.asp?ref=Rev+1%3A3))
 **He said the time was near, not as we now use the word but as God uses it**

**Get it**

15. How can we benefit from studying this book?
 **Having been forewarned of what is to come, we will not be shaken from our faith**

16. In what way does this "revelation of Jesus Christ" reveal Jesus to us?
 **That he loves us and is indeed God’s son**

17. What does it mean to "take to heart what is written"?
 **To know and believe it so much that the bad things don’t affect us like the unbeliever’s**

18. How does it make you feel to realize that God wants us to know what the future holds?
 **We must truly be his heirs**

19. What are some ways God might bless us through a study of Revelation?
 **So we may be prepared and perhaps lead others to Faith in God**

**Apply it**

20. What commitment can you make today that will help you get the most out of your study of Revelation?
 **Study, memorize, repeat, just do it**

21. How can you alter your life-style this week so that you can more honestly say that you are a servant of Jesus Christ?
 **Be more diligent in my studies and memorization**

22. For whom can you pray who needs to know the good news about our great Savior, Jesus Christ?
 **Our family and friends who don’t know God as their Savior**