

Blessed 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. Rev 1:3 ESV

I. INTRODUCTION

A. REVELATION, A CONSUMMATION OF THE PRECEDING SIXTY-FIVE BOOKS.

1. What Genesis begins, Revelation concludes. Dr. Charles Ryrie states in his book, *Revelation*, “Each book of the Bible is important, but the last book has the added significance of being the consummation and climax of God’s revelation.”
2. Dr. Henrietta Mears in *What the Bible Is All About* underscores the inspiration of Scripture in stating, “The Bible contains 66 books, written by 40 authors, (*many of which never knew one another, [added]*) covering a period of approximately 1600 years.” The book of Revelation is the Grand Finale concluding our Father’s story of Israel His betrothed and Israel His beloved Son.
3. Dan Juster’s Hebraic background adds weight to his book, *Jewish Roots*. He justifies Judaism’s emphasis on the Torah, the first five books of Moses. Juster states, “After all, the Torah is where God began His story.” The Torah establishes Israel’s eternal existence by covenant; Revelation foretells Israel’s restoration and final triumph through Messiah her Kinsman Redeemer.
4. Though for centuries Daniel’s 70th week has latently rested on the shelf of prophecy in Revelation it takes center stage upon opening the Seven Seals in chapter six.

B. REVELATION, A BOOK OF BLESSING AND PROPHECY

1. “*Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this **prophecy**, and keep the things that are written therein: for the time is at hand*” (Rev 1:3).
2. In his book *Revelation*, Dr.M.R, DeHaan states, “The book is not only a source of blessing to all who study it, and a revelation, but it is a **prophecy** of things to come.”
3. This sixty-sixth book is “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.” Some Bibles have the caption “The Revelation of St. John the Divine.” However, Christ the Messiah is the focus of Biblical prophecy, though veiled in types and shadows, He is the *aleph* (alpha) and the *tav* (omega) of all things, the central figure of Revelation the capstone that concludes the Father’s prophecies and plan.
4. In creation the “First Adam,” the “Son of God,” (Gen. 1:27; Lk 3:38) a type of Christ Messiah, failed to execute the Father’s plan. Through the obedience of the “Last Adam” “Son of God (Lk 3:22) the Father’s plan will be consummated:
 - a. Jew and Gentile will call Him “Our Father.”
 - b. His Name will be exalted, His will be done and
 - c. His Kingdom established on Earth as it is in heaven (Matthew 6: 9-10).
5. Ephesians 1:9-10 *And He made known to us the mystery of His will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times will have reached their fulfillment — to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ.*

II. PROLOGUE 1:1-8 (READ ALOUD)

A. THE TITLE, REVELATION—THE *APOKALUPSIS* 1:1

1. According to Dr. Henry Morris the title “Revelation” means “the unveiling, taking off the cover.”
2. Though the book reveals the Messiah Jesus Christ, **it is also the revelation given by the Messiah of end time events.**
3. The revelation is to show His servants things that will come to pass (Isa 42:9; 46:10; 48:5).
4. We are reminded our Father’s *way is prophetic*. The book of Revelation gives assurance and hope that the LORD is sovereign, omnipotent. **He controls the affairs of man and the world** (Dan 2:21-22, 4:34-35).

B. THE TIMING AND RELEASE OF THE REVELATION 1:1-2

1. The Father determines *the time and release of the prophecy* to **His chosen Messenger**, His Son, the Messiah of Israel (Isa. 49:5-6).
2. The Messiah chose an angel to give the message to John; John recorded the Apocalypse for the Church/His Body and finally (the 12 tribes of Israel).
3. In verse 1 John is given “the things that must **shortly take place.**”
 - Dr. Charles Ryrie states, “The word translated ‘shortly’ (*en tachei*) means that **when the time for judgment comes there will be no delay in its execution.** The time of the fulfillment may seem distant, but, when it starts, the execution will transpire rapidly.”

C. THE PROMISE AND EXHORTATION 1:3

1. Revelation carries a promise of blessing for those who **read aloud, hear and obey** (Rev 1:3).
 - The divine beatitude, “Blessed,” occurs seven times in Revelation (chapters 1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14).
2. In verse 3, “**for the time is near.**”
 - a. The **epilogue** underscores the **prologue** stating, “**the time is near**” (Rev 22:10).
 - b. **Near** (*engus*) means **impending** or **at hand**.
 - c. Consider **Elijah’s Timeline - Week of Millenniums** - Messiah’s Appearing our Readiness?
† **Day 5** (4000 - 5000) **Thursday** - Hebrews 9:26 “*He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself.*”
Day 6 (5000 - 6000) **Friday** - Hebrews 9:28
 - Present Jewish year = 5774, possible error of 210 years that need to be added.

5774	6000
+210	-5984
5984 yrs	16 yrs (2030)

Covenants & Prophecies agree with Elijah’s Timeline

~ **Day 7** (6000) = Day of Christ Initiates Restoration of Israel’s Kingdom / Sabbath Rest /
(Ex. 31:12, 16-17; Hos.3:3-5; 6:1-2 & John 2:1-11; Rom. 8:18-23)

D. THE DIVINE GREETING 1:4-5

1. The greeting and benediction are contained in verses 4-5.
2. The salutation begins, “**John to the seven churches which are in Asia.**”
3. The seven messages went forth to seven Asiatic churches especially selected for the LORD’S distinct purposes.
4. Walter Scott in *Exposition of the Revelation of Jesus Christ* points out other important churches in the same region are omitted, while **the seven churches selected are named in the order a traveler would naturally visit them.**

5. These **seven churches** in Asia Minor:
 - a. Collectively express completeness.
 - b. Prophetically unfold the complete history of the Church Age.
6. “**Grace unto you and peace**” is the greeting; the blessed possession of the true believer.
 - a. As apocalyptic events unfold, believers will need **Grace** and **Peace** for the prophetic events that close the Sixth Day. The Seven will only intensify as the birth pains increase.
 - b. Neither things nor persons can rob the believer of “**grace and peace**,” given and maintained by the indwelling Holy Spirit.
7. The divine greeting (vs.4) comes from the Almighty, the Eternal One, our Father (Ex 3:14);
8. And from the Spirit. The Spirit’s seven-fold ministry, identified as “the Seven Spirits,” refers to the *fullness of the Spirit* (Isa 11:2).
9. And Grace and Peace from Jesus Christ Messiah brings a three fold witness of His power to provide rest and quietness to believers. (Isa. 32:17).
10. And (vs 5) from Jesus the Messiah, the Son, here titled “**the Faithful Witness...**”
 - a. Arno Gaebelein writes, “ ‘**the faithful witness**’ describes His holy and perfect life on earth. ‘**The first begotten from the dead.**’ He died a shameful death on the cross and finished the Work the Father gave Him to do. Risen from the dead He is the **First Begotten** as well as the **First Fruits**. ‘**The Prince of the kings of the earth.**’ This is His future title and reveals His coming Glory.’ ”
 - b. Walter Scott states, “ ‘The life of our Lord from the manger to the Cross is embraced in this comprehensive title, ‘...the Faithful...’ Christ alone passed through earth in His solitary rugged path of unswerving devotedness...without break or flaw and in all holy separateness to God. ‘For this purpose I was born and for this purpose I have come into the world—to bear witness to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth listens to My voice’ ” (Jn 18:37).

E. THE DEDICATION 1:5B-6

1. The book is dedicated to the Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Author and about Whom it speaks.
2. Three things are ascribed to Him:
 - a. **He loves us (present tense).**
 - b. **He freed us from our sins by His Blood.**
 - c. **He made us a kingdom and priests unto His God and Father.**
 - d. Dr. Charles Ryrie points out, “ ‘Kingdom’ views believers corporately and anticipates our association with Christ in His future reign (5:9-10), whereas ‘priests’ sees them individually ministering to our Lord forever.”

F. THE KEYNOTE 1:7

1. Verse 7 is the theme of the book, a reference to Messiah’s second coming.
2. It is after the Tribulation (Matt 24:29-30).
3. It will be public; all shall see Him and lament His crucifixion. Ryrie states that Zechariah 12:10 is not limited to the Tribes of Israel but will include all peoples of the earth.

G. THE PROPHECY AUTHENTICATED 1:8

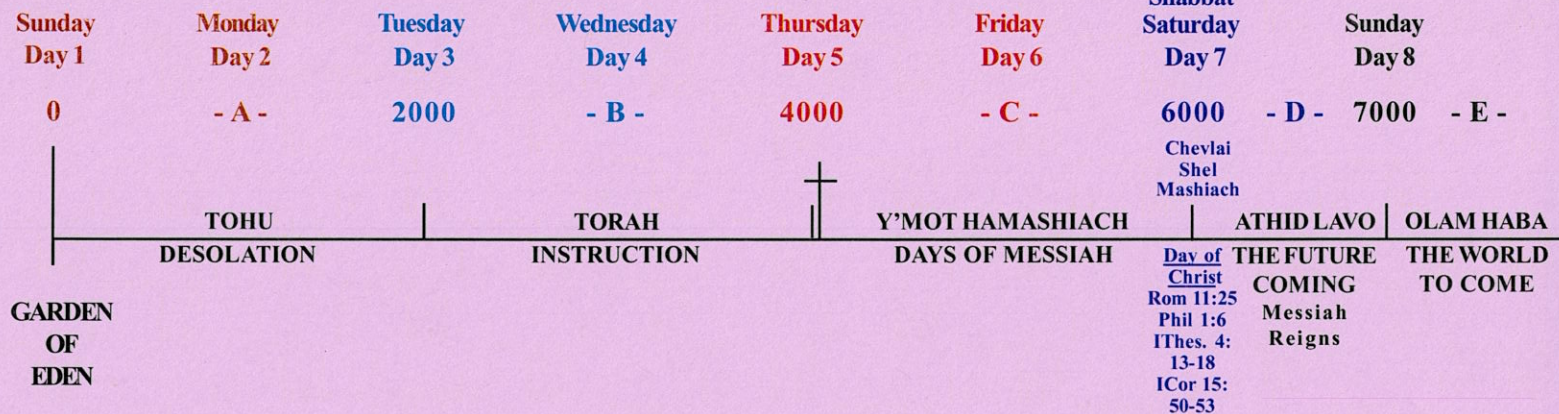
The Father, the Eternally Existing and all-powerful One, states that He is the Beginning and the End of all things. The **Almighty One** steps forward to verify the whole of the prophecy.

“**Almighty**” is used eight times in Revelation (1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:6; 21:22) which includes the thought of omnipotence and universal rulership.

ELIJAH'S PROPHETIC TIMELINE

The Rabinic Teaching of God's Timeline For the Earth Is Based On Genesis 1:1 - 2:2; Psalm 90:4

- Everyman's Talmud, Abraham Cohen - p.356
"It was taught in the School of Elijah, the world will endure six thousand years - two thousand years in chaos, two thousand with Torah, and two thousand years will be the Days of Messiah" (Sanhedrin 97a)
- All dates are figured from the creation of Adam
- 2000 years - called *Tohu - Desolation* = Days 1 and 2 / A
- 2000 years - *Torah* = Days 3 and 4 / B
- 2000 years - *Y'Mot HaMashiach - Days of Messiah* = Days 5 and 6 / C
- 1000 years - *Athid Lavo* - Messianic Age = Day 7 / D
- *Olam Haba* - The World to Come = Day 8 / E - *I Corinthians 15:26-28*



Covenants/Prophecies
 for/with Israel
 7th Day, Sabbath
 Ex 31:12-13, 17-18
 Israel to be Restored
 on the 3rd Day
 Hos 3:3-5; 6:1-2
 John 2:1-11

Shabbat
 Saturday
 Day 7

Chevlai
 Shel
 Mashiach

Day of
 Christ
 Rom 11:25
 Phil 1:6
 I Thes. 4:
 13-18
 I Cor 15:
 50-53

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Rosh HaShanah and the Kingdom to Come, Joseph Good
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