

“Do You See What I See?”

Study Guide for Revelation 1:8-20

Revelation 1:8 “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”

1. Jesus Christ is called the “Word of God”

(a) The writer of the book of Hebrews explains that “GOD... has in these last days spoken to us by His Son...” (Hebrews 1:1-2).

(b) Jesus is the personification of the written and spoken word.

i. John 1:1 “IN the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

(c) Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.”

Revelation 1:9 I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

2. John says he’s on Patmos “because of” the word of God, and “because of” the testimony of Jesus Christ.

(a) The first possibility: John as a missionary...

i. Matthew 28:18-20, “¹⁸And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, ‘All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.’ Amen.”

ii. Acts 10:42, “And He commanded us to preach to the people, and to testify that it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.”

(b) The second possibility: John as a prisoner...

i. Acts 4:13-20, “¹³Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled.

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And they realized that they had been with Jesus. ¹⁴And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it.

¹⁵But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, ¹⁶saying, ‘What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. ¹⁷But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name.’ ¹⁸So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹But Peter and John answered and said to them, ‘Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. ²⁰For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.’”

ii. John as a “brother and companion” to those who Jesus said are suffering.

A. Revelation 2:8-10, **“⁸And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, ‘These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: ⁹I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.’”**

(c) We will have tribulation

- i. John 16:33 **“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.”**
- ii. Acts 14:22, “... We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God.”

(d) Trials such as these make us better.

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- i. James 1:2-4, “²My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, ³knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. ⁴But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”

Revelation 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

Revelation 1:11 saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

3. Only by the Holy Spirit can we understand the things of God.

(a) John 14:26, “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”

(b) 1 Corinthians 2:14, “But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

4. “The Lord’s Day” (Revelation 1:10)

(a) In the New Testament, Sunday is always referred to as “the first day of the week”

- Matthew 28:1, “Now after the Sabbath, as the first day of the week began to dawn, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to see the tomb.”
- Mark 16:2, “Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.”
- Mark 16:9, “Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons.”

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- Luke 24:1, “Now on the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they, and certain other women with them, came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.”
- John 20:1, “Now on the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb.”
- John 20:19, “Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, ‘Peace be with you.’”
- Acts 20:7, “Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.”
- 1 Corinthians 16:2, “On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”

(b) The phrase “the day of the Lord” refers to the time when God personally intervenes in the affairs of mankind.

- Isaiah 13:6, “Wail, for the day of the LORD is at hand! It will come as destruction from the Almighty.”
- Isaiah 13:9, “Behold, the day of the LORD comes, Cruel, with both wrath and fierce anger, To lay the land desolate; And He will destroy its sinners from it.”
- Jeremiah 46:10, “For this is the day of the Lord GOD of hosts, A day of vengeance, That He may avenge Himself on His adversaries. The sword shall devour; It shall be satiated and made drunk with their blood...”
- Acts 2:20, “The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD.”

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- 2 Peter 3:10, “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up.”

Revelation 1:12 Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

Revelation 1:13 and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

Revelation 1:14 His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

Revelation 1:15 His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

Revelation 1:16 He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining in its strength.

5. Jesus revealed as:

(a) King of Kings

- i. Revelation 17:14, “... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”
- ii. Revelation 19:16, “And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.”

(b) Judge of the living and the dead,

- i. Acts 10:42, “... it is He who was ordained by God to be Judge of the living and the dead.”
- ii. 2 Timothy 4:1, “... the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom”
- iii. 1 Peter 4:5, “They will give an account to Him who is ready to judge the living and the dead.”

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(c) and our High Priest.

- i. Hebrews 2:17, “Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.”
- ii. Hebrews 3:1, “Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus”
- iii. Hebrews 4:14-15, “¹⁴Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] confession. ¹⁵For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin.”
- iv. Hebrews 9:11, “But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation.”

6. The “seven golden lampstands” in Revelation 1:12 are the seven churches.

(a) Revelation 1:20, “... the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.”

(b) Jesus said, “You are the light of the world...” (Matthew 5:14)

(c) There is nothing between Him and us.

- i. Revelation 1:13, “and in the midst of the seven lampstands One like the Son of Man”
- ii. Hebrews 4:16, “Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.”

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Revelation 1:17 And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, **“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.**

7. A few of the others in the Bible who fell on their faces

(a) Monoah and his wife (Samson’s parents)

- i. (Judges 13:20-22, “²⁰ ... When Manoah and his wife saw this, they fell on their faces to the ground. ²¹When the Angel of the LORD appeared no more to Manoah and his wife, then Manoah knew that He was the Angel of the LORD. ²²And Manoah said to his wife, ‘We shall surely die, because we have seen God!’ ”

(b) Ezekiel

- i. Ezekiel 3:23, “So I arose and went out into the plain, and behold, the glory of the LORD stood there, like the glory which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face.”
- ii. Ezekiel 43:3, “It was like the appearance of the vision which I saw—like the vision which I saw when I came to destroy the city. The visions were like the vision which I saw by the River Chebar; and I fell on my face.”
- iii. Ezekiel 44:4, “Also He brought me by way of the north gate to the front of the temple; so I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD; and I fell on my face.”

(c) Daniel

- i. Daniel 8:17, “So he came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, ‘Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end.’ ”
- ii. Daniel 10:8-9, “⁸Therefore I was left alone when I saw this great vision, and no strength remained in me; for my vigor was turned to frailty in me, and I retained no strength. ⁹Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.”

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iii. Daniel 10:15-17, “¹⁵When he had spoken such words to me, I turned my face toward the ground and became speechless. ¹⁶And suddenly, one having the likeness of the sons of men touched my lips; then I opened my mouth and spoke, saying to him who stood before me, ‘My lord, because of the vision my sorrows have overwhelmed me, and I have retained no strength. ¹⁷For how can this servant of my lord talk with you, my lord? As for me, no strength remains in me now, nor is any breath left in me.’ ”

iv. Peter, John, and James

A. Matthew 17:6, “And when the disciples heard [it,] they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.”

v. Even God’s friend, Abraham

A. Isaiah 41:8, “But you, Israel, are My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, The descendants of Abraham My friend.”

B. James 2:23, “And the Scripture was fulfilled which says, ‘Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.’ And he was called the friend of God.”

C. Genesis 17:1-3, “¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram and said to him, ‘I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless. ²And I will make My covenant between Me and you, and will multiply you exceedingly.’ ³Then Abram fell on his face, and God talked with him...”

8. We must never forget who Jesus is: GOD.

(a) Revelation 1:17, “... But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, ‘**Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.**’ ”

(b) Isaiah 44:6-8, “⁶Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: ‘I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God. ⁷And who can proclaim as I do? Then let him declare it and set it in order for Me, Since I appointed the ancient people. And the things that are coming and

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shall come, Let them show these to them. ⁸Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.’ ”

Revelation 1:18 “I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

Revelation 1:19 “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Revelation 1:20 “The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.