

First things in the Apocalypse of Jesus Christ

Revelation 1:1-11

The book of Revelation/Apocalypse: The revealing, the unveiling of the Lord Jesus Christ in all His regal authority as final judge and terminator of the kingdoms of men (see Daniel 2:31-36), as the Lord who disciplines and then redeems Israel, as the Son of David who returns to gather and rule over Israel, as the Son of Man and Last Adam who returns to rule and reign over the nations and all creation, as the master and Lord over angels good and fallen, and as the final judge of each person's soul, and as the Lord and Chief Jailer of Death, Hades and of Hell: the final lake of fire, and as the creator and the light and the gracious giver of the New Heavens and Earth.

He is indeed, The Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last!

V1, the Revelation: **Apocalupsis** of _____, by order the the Triune God-head, to His bond-servants (that's all of us church age saints).

"soon take place" - soon-**tachos** with quickness- when they come they will come **in rapid succession!** Bang! Bang! Bang! without rest or a break.

V2, John the apostle, who was experiential and visual witness of the 1st Coming, is now witness to the 2nd Coming! How exciting and reliable a testimony!

V3, "Blessed is he" - to read or to hear **and to heed**. To hear or read with understanding is wonderful. But to heed, to take to heart and conform, is another spiritual level of blessing and happiness altogether! (There are 7 blessings/beatitudes in Revelation. 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, 22:7 & 22:14.)

The time (kairos) is near-- the period that covers the end

v4, John is given the authority and task of addressing this revelation to seven churches in Asia minor. There are many more churches in the world - one in each city: Corinth, Thessaloniki, Colossae, etc. But these seven are accurate representatives of the spiritual conditions of all churches. They all fall somewhere into the attitudes and behaviors of these seven representatives.

Next we have a blessing from the Triune God!

The words grace and peace concisely summarize both a Christian's standing before God and his experience. "Grace" speaks of God's attitude toward believers; "peace" speaks both of their standing with God and their experience of divine peace.

Seven Spirits speaks of the seven-fold ministry or expressions of the one Holy Spirit: Isaiah 11:2-3, Rev 3:1, 4:5 and 5:6.