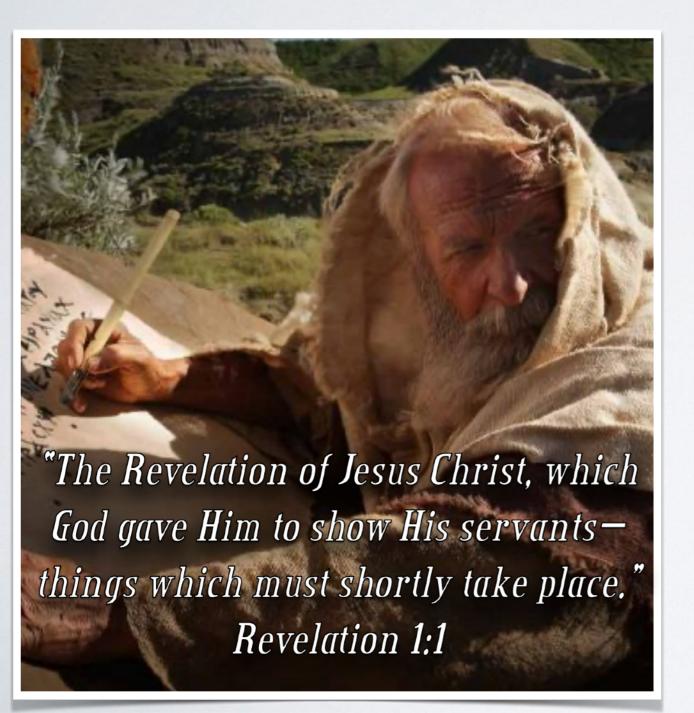
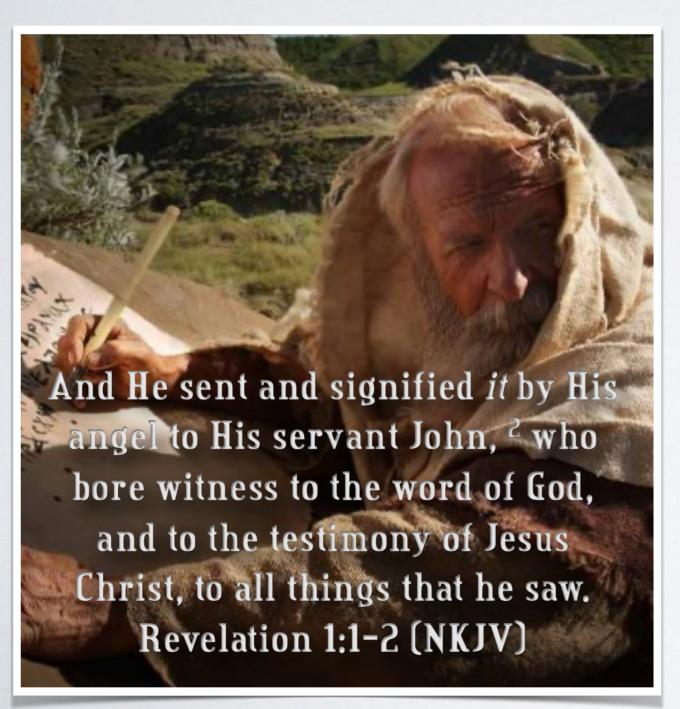


Introduction to John's Book of Revelation



- Written by the apostle John (1;1,4,9; 22:8)
- Vision received by John while on the Isle of Patmos (1:9)
- Written to the 7 churches of Asia (1:4)
- Written during the time of severe Roman Persecution (95,96 AD)

How Do You Read This Book of Symbols?



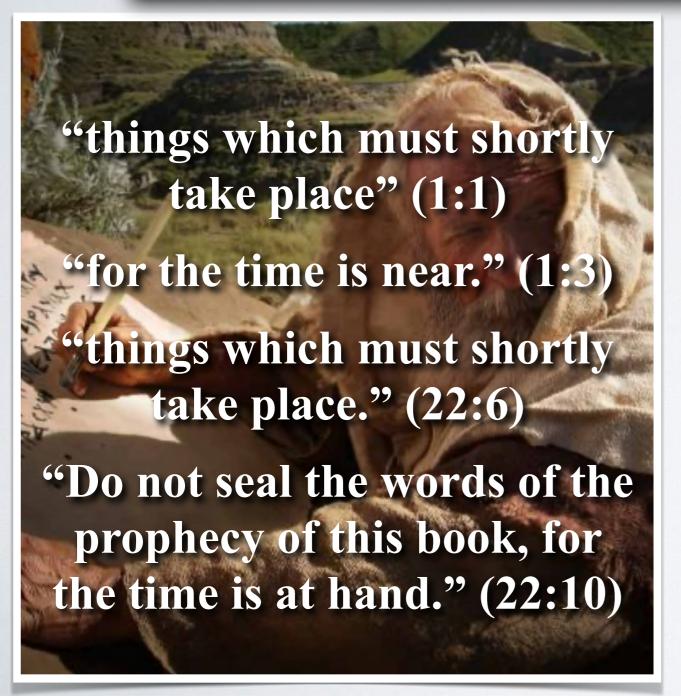
- APOCALYPTIC IN NATURE
- **LIMITED PROPHETIC**
- PRIMARILY SYMBOLIC
- VISIONS ARE SEQUENTIAL
- NUMBERS USED AS SYMBOLS
- THE LITERATURE SPEAKS TO A PARTICULAR HISTORICAL SITUATION.

BENEDICTION - Revelation 1:1-3

Revelation 1:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ. which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

- God is the origin of the REVELATION (1; 2 Tim. 3:16; 1 Cor. 2:12,13; Eph. 3:1-5; 2 Peter 1:19-21)
- Mediated by Jesus Christ Himself (1:1; Heb. 1:1,2)
- The purpose of this message was to "make known" for the Christians to whom the letter is addressed things which were SOON to take place. (1:1,3; 22:6,10)

BENEDICTION - Revelation 1:1-3



- The book of REVELATION is not about the end of the world, and it was not penned for the sake of the last generation just prior to the end of world history.
- The visions of the Revelation speak to the needs and concerns of those first century Christians!
- "Shortly" cannot be made to imply the the inclusion of, nor the skipping over of, thousands of years.

BENEDICTION - Revelation 1:1-3

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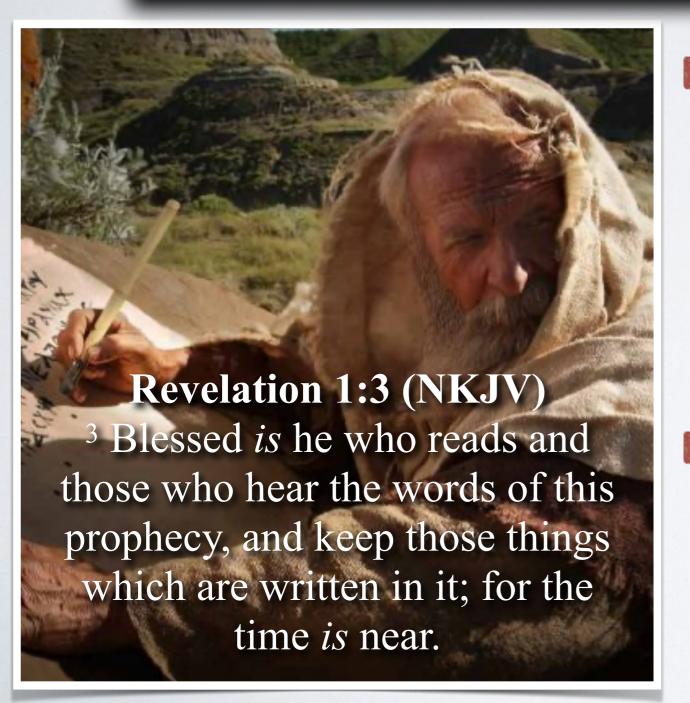
- The channel through which the message came to John was an angel (messenger) who "signified" it, i.e., the method of communication was through "signs."
- For this reason the book is classed as "apocalyptic," for it employs signs and symbols to express the message.

BENEDICTION - Revelation 1:1-3

Revelation 1:1–2 (NKJV) ¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ. which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John, ² who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

- John was the human agent who delivered God's message to the churches. He was the "earthen vessel" God used to make known what was about to happen (2 Cor. 4:7; 2 Pet. 1:21).
- By the miracle of divine inspiration John was able to see these visions and to chronicle these truths of God about Jesus Christ and the things which must shortly come to pass.

BENEDICTION - Revelation 1:1-3



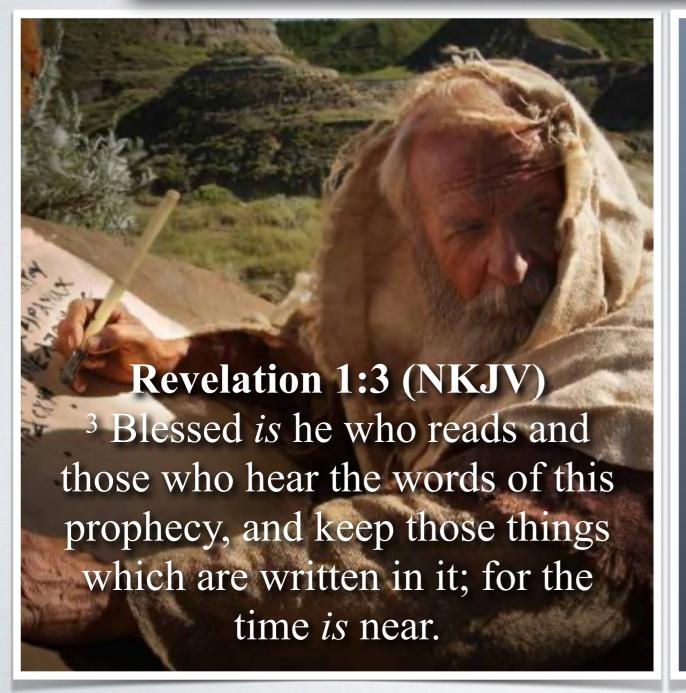
- God's favor rests upon all who read, hear, (understand), and keep (believe, obey with perseverance), the things which are written in this prophecy, (lit. "forth telling" the things of God, many times future events).
- Seven beatitudes are found in Revelation which pronounce blessings to various recipients (1:3; 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7; 22:14).

BENEDICTION - Revelation 1:1-3



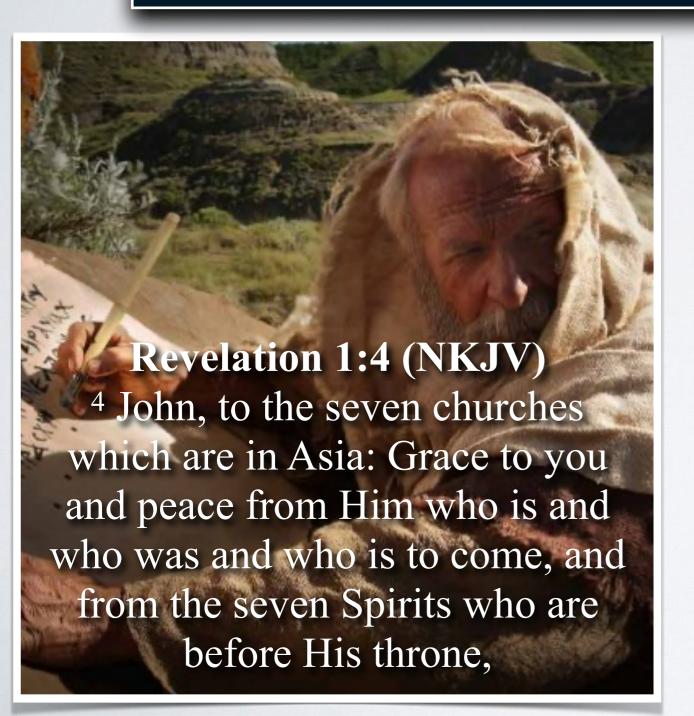
- 1. "Blessed is he who reads, hears, and keeps those things which are written ..." (1:3)
- 2."are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." ... (14:13
- 3."is he who watches, and keeps his garments," (16:15)
- 4. are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!" (19:9)
- 5. "and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection." (20:6)
- 6."is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book." (22:7)
- 7. "are those who do His commandments, ... have the right to the tree of life, ... enter through the gates into the city." (22:14)

BENEDICTION - Revelation 1:1-3



"John's coming "crisis" was simply the persecution of the church, and that all the varied imagery of his book has no other purpose than this, to disclose to the prospective martyrs the real nature of their sufferings and its place in the eternal purpose of God..."

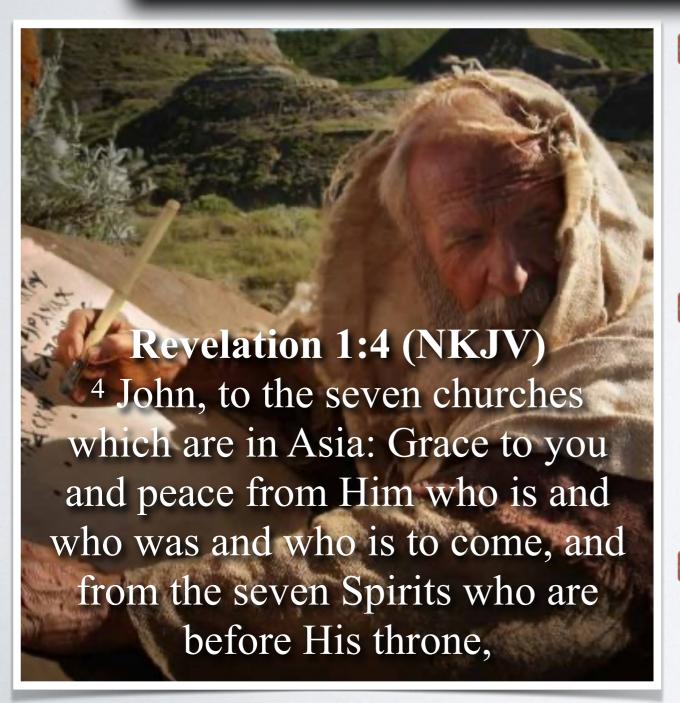
(Caird, G. B. The Revelation of St. John the Divine. Harper's New Testament Commentaries. New York: Harper & Row, 1966.).



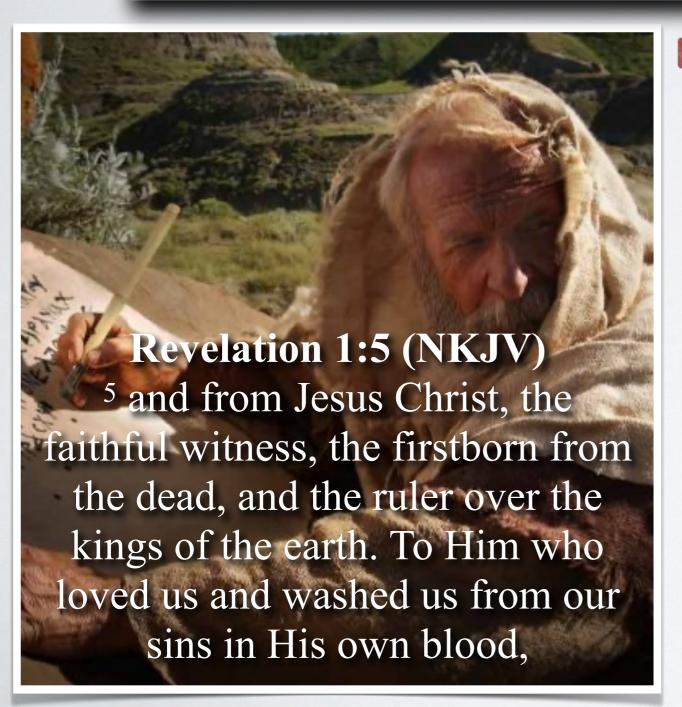


- Asia Roman province which today constitutes the western part of modern Turkey.
- 7 churches are specifically named, but stand for the church at large.
- Besides the seven churches named, there were at least three other churches in Asia: Troas (Acts 20:5), Hierapolis (Col. 4:13), and Colossae (Col. 1:2).

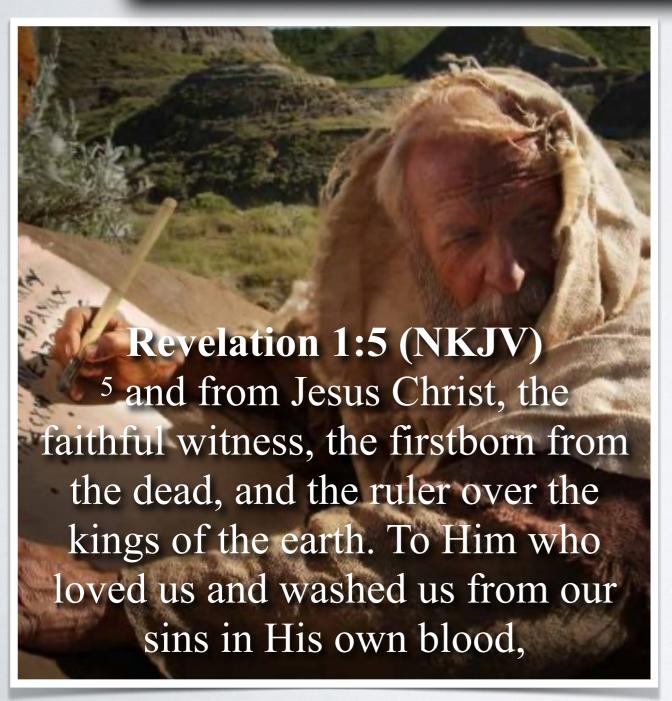




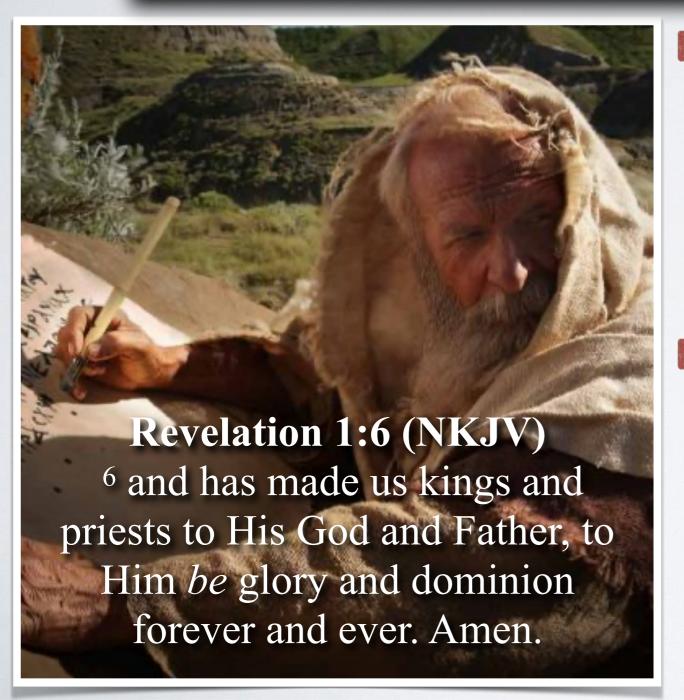
- "Grace to you and peace" a typical salutation & is found in most of the New Testament epistles (Titus. 2:11-14; Eph. 2:1-10; Phil. 4:7-9).
- "Him who is and who was and who is to come" The writer informs us that God, the Father, is eternal and is about to intrude onto the scene of human history.
- 7 is used to describe the perfection of **the Holy Spirit**, which recurs in 3:1; 4:5; 5:6.



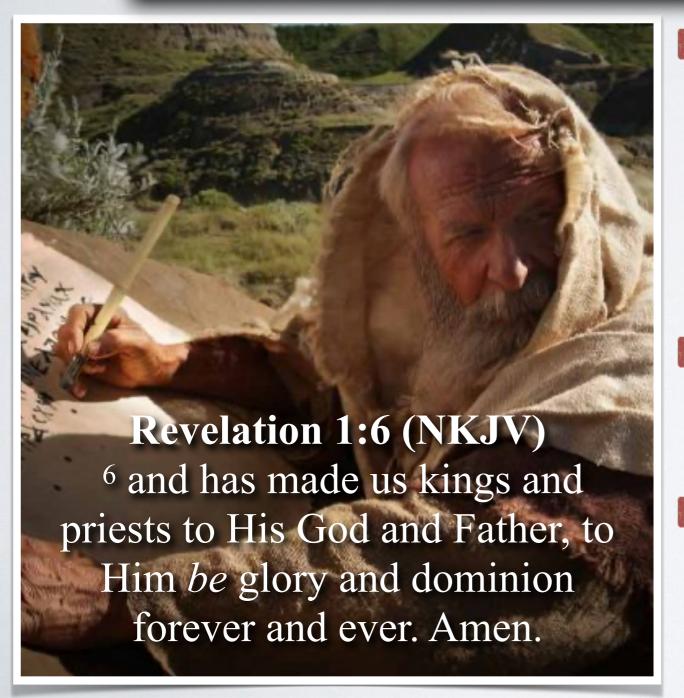
- "Jesus Christ, ..."
- "the faithful witness" who came from the Father (Jn 8:14), made the nature and character of the Father known to the world (Jn 1:18; 14:7), the one through whom God still speaks to man today (Heb. 1:1-3).
- "the firstborn from the dead" though crucified, was raised from the dead to never died again (Ps. 89:27; Col. 1:18; 1 Co. 15:20).



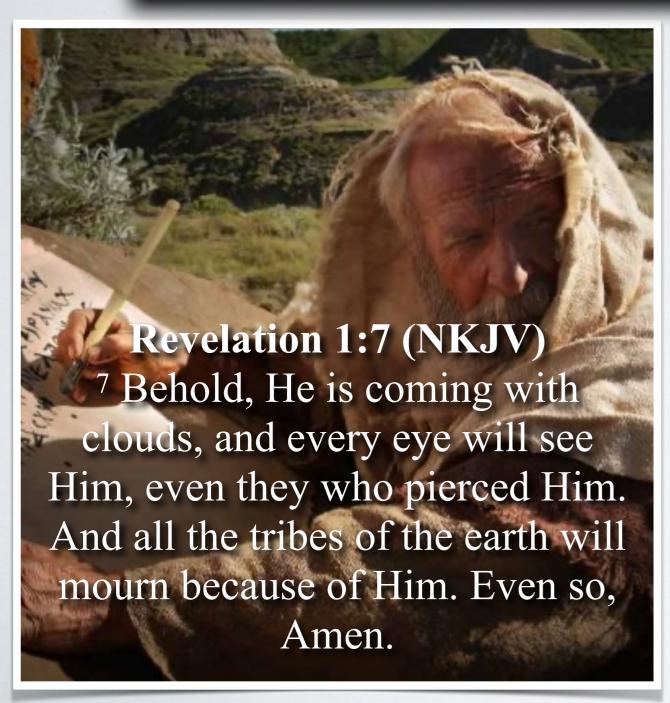
- "Jesus Christ, ..."
 - "the ruler over the kings of the earth" Jesus Christ is not only a king who is also God, he is indeed the "ruler" of the kings of the earth (Eph. 1:20-23).
 - "who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood" The depth of love can be measured by the greatness of the gift (John 13:34) He gave His blood "for the remission of sins (Mat. 26:28; Acts 2:38; etc.)



- "and has made us kings" (i.e., citizens of his kingdom, NIV, NASV) those who have had their sins washed away by his blood are presently in his kingdom (1:9; Col. 1:13-14; Rev. 5:9-10).
 - "and priests to His God and Father" All Christians are members of a "holy priesthood" and has direct access in prayer to the Father through the one mediator, Christ (Heb. 7:24-27; 1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

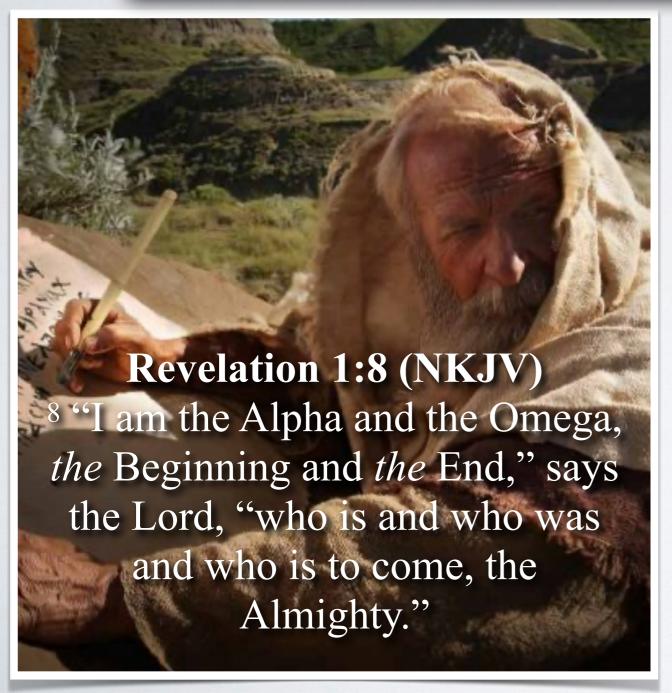


- "to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever." When he ascended on high, (Acts 1:11), he was given "dominion, glory, and a kingdom" (Dan. 7:13-14; Eph. 1:20-23),
- He was raised to sit on David's throne, as Lord and Christ (Acts 2:30, 36; Rev. 17:14).
- He will continue to rule until the end of the present age when He delivers up the kingdom to God the Father (1 Cor. 15:23-28).



- "Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him" Just as the angels promised the apostles (Acts 1:11).
- His return will be one which every eye shall see, and it will be with the "shout . . . and with the trump of God" (1 Thess. 4:16).
- Those who were responsible for his death, and all who reject him shall be punished with everlasting destruction (2 Thess. 1:7-9).
- All will bow (Phil. 2:10-11).

GREETING - Revelation 1:4-8

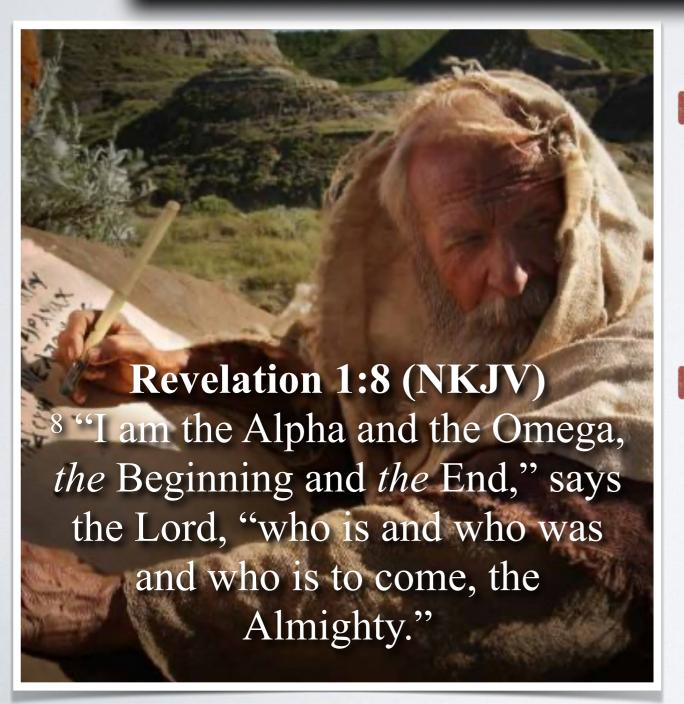


"I am the Alpha and the Omega"

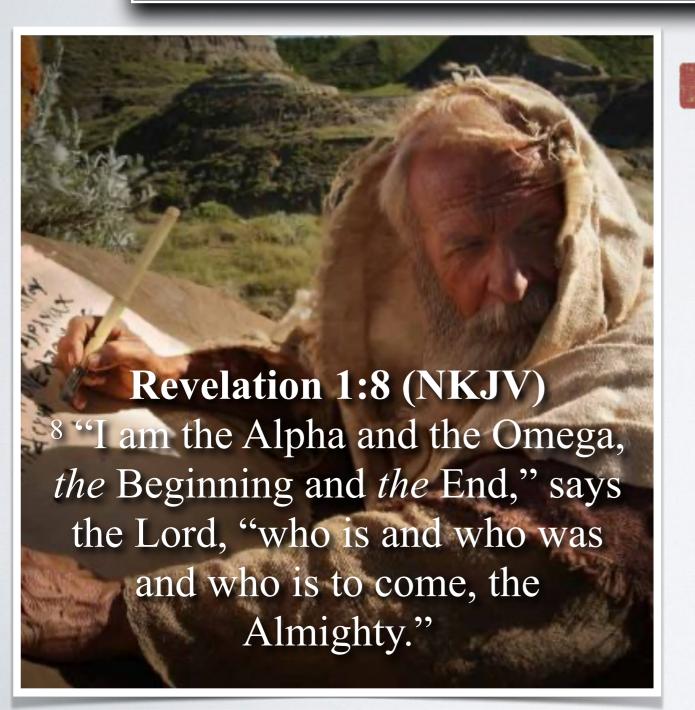
— The first letter of the Greek alphabet is Alpha, and Omega is the last; or as we might say, "God

is from A to Z,"

- "who is and who was and who is to come" He is eternal. He always has been and always shall be. He infinitely embraces all and transcends all.
- "the Almighty." Clearly, these words fitly identify the Father as speaker, (1:4; 4:8; 11:17).



- Jesus Christ is the one who shows John the vision in v. 1, and he is unquestionably the speaker in v. 17 where he is called "the first and the last."
- Jesus Christ shares the attributes of deity and is elsewhere described as the "Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last." (Rev. 21:6; 22:13)



- All three persons of Godhood are included in this salutation (Mat. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14).
 - God the Father (v. 4)
 - The Holy Spirit (v. 4)
 - Jesus Christ (5-7)

"The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place."

Revelation 1:1

Charts by Don McClain

Preached February 13, 2022
West 65th Street church of Christ - P.O. Box 190062 - Little Rock AR
72219 - Phone — 501-568-1062 — Email - donmcclain@sbcglobal.net
Prepared using Keynote
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REVELATION

Daniel 2:31–35 (NKJV)

³¹ "You, O king, were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendor was excellent, stood before you; and its form was awesome. 32 This image's head was of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, ³³ its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. ³⁴ You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. 35 Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.