May the name of our LORD JESUS CHRIST be praised forever. Welcome to today's study of the Book of Revelation as we begin with Chapter One.

Let us read:

> *"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, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw."*
> — Revelation 1:1–2 (NKJV)

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1. The Revelation Belongs to Jesus Christ

First, we see John writing, saying *"The Revelation of Jesus Christ."* This means what he received was not his own revelation, but the revelation of Jesus Himself.

John was the apostle who had a uniquely close relationship with the Lord. Scripture shows him as the disciple whom Jesus loved,

often leaning on Jesus’ bosom.

> *“Now there was leaning on Jesus’ bosom one of His disciples, whom Jesus loved.”*
> — John 13:23 (NKJV)

> *“Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following.”*
> — John 21:20 (NKJV)

During the Last Supper, when Jesus announced that one disciple would betray Him, Peter motioned to John to ask Jesus who it was. This shows how close John was to Christ.

Because of this intimate fellowship, John received the grace of divine revelation concerning future events and the last days.

This mirrors the prophet Daniel, who was also greatly beloved by God:

> *“O Daniel, man greatly beloved…”*
> — Daniel 10:11 (NKJV)

Theological insight:
Deep revelation is often entrusted to those who walk closely with God in obedience and intimacy. Likewise, believers who please the Lord grow in spiritual understanding (John 15:15).

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2. The Blessing of Revelation

Verse 3 declares:

> *“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”*
> — Revelation 1:3 (NKJV)

Three conditions of blessing appear here:

1. Reading the prophecy
2. Hearing (spiritual understanding, not merely physical hearing)
3. Keeping or living according to it

Spiritual hearing refers to inner revelation given by the Holy Spirit:

> *“He who has ears to hear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”*
> — Revelation 2:7 (NIV)

Not everyone understands Revelation easily because spiritual truth is revealed by the Spirit of God.

> *“The natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God... they are spiritually discerned.”*
> — 1 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV)

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3. Greeting to the Seven Churches

John continues:

> *“Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come... and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth.”*
> — Revelation 1:4–5 (NKJV)

This greeting reveals important theological truths:

a) The Eternal Nature of God

“Who is, and who was, and who is to come” reveals God’s eternal existence — without beginning or end.

> *“From everlasting to everlasting, You are God.”*
> — Psalm 90:2 (NKJV)

b) The Seven Spirits of God

The “seven spirits” do not mean God has seven different spirits. Rather, they symbolize the perfect fullness and operation of the Holy Spirit, especially toward the seven churches.

Compare with:

> *“The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him... the Spirit of wisdom and understanding... counsel and might... knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”*
> — Isaiah 11:2 (NKJV)

Seven represents completeness or perfection in biblical symbolism.

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4. Christ’s Redemptive Work

> *“To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.”*

> — Revelation 1:5 (NKJV)

God entered human history to redeem humanity.

> *“God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself.”*
> — 2 Corinthians 5:19 (NKJV)

> *“God was manifested in the flesh.”*
> — 1 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

Jesus is therefore the visible manifestation of God’s saving work.

Through Him believers become:

> *“a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father.”*
> — Revelation 1:6 (NIV)

5. The Second Coming of Christ

> *“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him.”*
> — Revelation 1:7 (NKJV)

This refers to Christ’s visible return in glory.

Jesus Himself taught:

> *“They will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”*
> — Matthew 24:30 (NKJV)

This is distinct from the catching away of the church and describes His public return to judge the world.

See also:

- Jude 1:14
- Revelation 19:11–21

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6. John on the Island of Patmos

> *“I, John… was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*
> — Revelation 1:9 (NKJV)

Patmos was a place of exile for prisoners. John suffered because of his faith.

Christian identity includes perseverance through suffering:

> *“Through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God.”*
> — Acts 14:22 (NKJV)

Often, deeper revelation comes during trials.

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7. The Vision of the Son of Man

John saw:

> *“One like the Son of Man… clothed with a garment down to the feet.”*
> — Revelation 1:13 (NKJV)

Every detail of this vision carries symbolic meaning.

White Hair — The Judge

> *“His head and hair were white like wool.” (Rev 1:14)*

Symbolizes purity, wisdom, and righteous judgment.

Eyes Like Fire

Represents Christ’s perfect knowledge and judgment.

> *“Nothing in all creation is hidden from God’s sight.”*
> — Hebrews 4:13 (NIV)

Feet Like Bronze

Symbolize judgment against sin and evil.

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8. The Sword from His Mouth — The Word of God

> *“Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword.”*
> — Revelation 1:16 (NKJV)

This sword represents God’s Word.

> *“For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword.”*
> — Hebrews 4:12 (NKJV)

The Word judges both believers and unbelievers.

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9. John Falls Before Christ

> *“When I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead.”*
> — Revelation 1:17 (NKJV)

The glory of Christ produces reverent fear.

Jesus reassures him:

> *“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore… and I have the keys of Hades and of Death.”*
> — Revelation 1:17–18 (NKJV)

These titles reveal Jesus as:

1. The Eternal One

2. The Risen Lord
3. The One with authority over death and the grave

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10. The Seven Stars and Seven Lampstands

> *“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands... are the seven churches.”*
> — Revelation 1:20 (NKJV)

Christ stands among His churches, showing His continual presence and authority within them.

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11. Foundation of the Book of Revelation

Just as Nebuchadnezzar’s statue in Daniel revealed future kingdoms (Daniel 2), this first chapter establishes the foundation for understanding the entire Book of Revelation.

The description of Christ’s character and authority becomes the key for interpreting the messages to the churches and the events

that follow.

Conclusion

Revelation Chapter 1 introduces us not merely to prophecy, but to the glorified Jesus Christ — Judge, King, Redeemer, and Lord of the Church.

Those who read, hear, and obey its message are called blessed.

May you be richly blessed.

If you want, I can next help you with:
 A more academic theological version (for teaching or publication)
 A sermon-style English version
 Revelation Chapter 2 translation in the same format
 Formatting it as a printable Bible study booklet.

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