

Dr. Harry Leafe  
Expositional Notes  
Revelation 1:1-20

- 1A. THE INTRODUCTION (4-6).
  - 1B. John is the human instrument.
  - 2B. To the seven churches.
    - 1C. They were not the only ones: Colossae (Col. 1:2); Hierapolis (Col. 4:13); Troas (Acts 20:6-7).
    - 2C. They were representative or typical churches. They were chosen for certain characteristics -- which will be representative of local churches during the Dispensation of Grace -- until the Church is removed at the rapture.
  - 3B. "Grace to you and peace." (4b-5a).

*Grace* speaks of God's attitude toward believers and the sphere in which we stand.  
*Peace* speaks of our standing before and our relationship with God. (cf. Rom. 5:1-2).

    - 1C. From Him -- the Father (Note the "I AM" concept).
    - 2C. From the Seven Spirits -- the Holy Spirit. An unusual manner of reference, but most likely has His varied ministry in mind (cf. Isa. 11:2).
    - 3C. From Jesus Christ.
      - 1D. The faithful witness -- prophet: the source of the revelation to be given (Rev. 1:1).
      - 2D. The First-born from the dead -- priest: Heb. 10:10; Rom. 1:4.
      - 3D. The ruler over the kings of the earth -- king: Psm. 2; Lk. 1:31-33; Psm. 110.
  - 4B. "To Him be glory and dominion forever and ever" (5b-6).
    - 1C. Who loved us and washed us. cf. Rom. 5:8; Heb. 10:22.
    - 2C. Has made us kings and priests. cf. 1 Peter 2:9-10; Rev. 5:9-10.
- 2A. THE PRONOUNCEMENT (7-8).
  - 1B. "Behold, He is coming" (7).
    - 1C. With clouds -- cf. 1 Thess. 4:17-18 (rapture); Matt. 24:29-31 (2nd. advent).
  - 2B. "I am the Alpha and Omega" -- cf. Rev. 22:13 & 16.
- 3A. THE PHYSICAL CIRCUMSTANCES (9).

Rev 1:9  
John identifies himself with his audience.
- 4A. THE SPIRITUAL CIRCUMSTANCES (10-11).

Rev 1:10

"I was [in the Spirit] on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet."

If the context is one of revelation, the phrase "In Spirit" refers to a state of spiritual exaltation associated with prophetic revelation in which normal understanding is surpassed.

OTHER EXAMPLES IN REVELATION:

Rev 4:2

"Immediately I was [in the Spirit]; and behold (implied: "I saw"), a throne set in heaven, and One sat on the throne."

Rev 17:3

"So he carried me away [in the Spirit] into the wilderness. And I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast which was full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns."

Rev 21:10

"And he carried me away [in the Spirit] to a great and high mountain, and showed me the great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,"

"...a loud voice, as of a trumpet." The voice is identified in verse 11 and 17 as that of "the First and the Last." Rev 22:13 and 16, identify the "First and Last" as Jesus Christ.

Rev 1:11

"What you see, write in a book and . . ." cf. 22:8.

5A. THE POSITION OF THE LORD (12-13).

Rev 1:12

"...seven golden lampstands." Verse 20 identifies these as the seven churches of verse 11.

Rev 1:13

"like [the Son of Man]." This is the chief way that the Lord Jesus Christ referred to Himself.

EXAMPLES:

John 1:51

"And He said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon [the Son of man]."

John 3:13

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, [the Son of Man] who is in heaven."

John 3:14

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must [the Son of Man] be lifted up,"

John 5:27

"and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is [the Son of Man]."

John 6:27

"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which [the Son of Man] will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him."

John 6:53

"Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of [the Son of Man] and drink His blood, you have no life in you."

John 6:62

"What then if you should see [the Son of Man] ascend where He was before?"

John 8:28

"Then Jesus said to them, "When you lift up [the Son of Man], then you will know that I am He, and that I do nothing of Myself; but as My Father taught Me, I speak these things."

John 12:23

"But Jesus answered them, saying, "The hour has come that [the Son of Man] should be glorified."

John 12:34

"The people answered Him, "We have heard from the law that the Christ remains forever; and how can You say, '[The Son of Man] must be lifted up'? Who is this [Son of Man]?"

John 13:31

"So, when he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now [the Son of Man] is glorified, and God is glorified in Him."

6A. THE PICTURE OF THE LORD (14-16).

Rev 1:14

His head: purity of holiness.

His eyes: cf. 1 Cor. 3:13.

Rev 1:15

His feet: cf. Heb. 4:15, an experienced judge.

OTHER EXAMPLES:

1 Cor. 15:3

"For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ [died for our sins] according to the Scriptures,"

Gal 1:4

"who gave Himself [for our sins], that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father,"

Heb 1:3

"who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself [purged our sins], sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,"

His voice: that of authority.

Rev 1:16

His right hand: the place of honor.

His mouth: the Word of God is the basis for all judgment. cf. Heb. 4:12.

His countenance: the overall glory of Christ.

#### 7A. CONSEQUENCES OF THE VISION (17-20).

Rev 1:17-18

A word of comfort:

Keys: control over, authority over.

Hades: the place that holds the immaterial part of unsaved man after death.

Death: the condition of the material part of man.

Rev 1:19-20

A word of command:

Things which you have seen: the glorified Christ (1).

The things which are: the seven churches (2-3).

The things which will take place after this [i.e., these things]: (4-22).

The seven stars: the pastors (messengers) of the seven churches.