

A Devotional Bible Study

The
Revelation
OF **Jesus Christ**

as taught by
CHERYL BRODERSEN

BACK
TO
BASICS

P.O. Box 8000, Costa Mesa, CA 92628 • 1.800.444.7664 • www.graciouswords.com

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

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Published by Back to Basics

a resource ministry of Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa

3800 South Fairview Road

Santa Ana, CA 92704

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First printing, 2011

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Special thanks to the Joyful Life proofing team.

Cover layout and design by Doug Long.

Editing and internal layout by Romy Godding.

Map courtesy of L. M. Haddad, In God We Trust, pg. 97, Cross Publications, Ltd., Savannah, GA ©Cross Publications 2011

ISBN: 978-1-59751-065-3

Printed in the United States of America

CONTENTS

1	<i>The Revelation of Jesus Christ</i>	<i>Revelation 1:1-3</i>	5
2	<i>Jesus as He Is</i>	<i>Revelation 1:4-20</i>	15
3	<i>I Know</i>	<i>Revelation 2:1-17</i>	27
4	<i>While You Were Sleeping</i>	<i>Revelation 2:18-3:6</i>	37
5	<i>The Reversal of Fortunes</i>	<i>Revelation 3:7-22</i>	51
6	<i>A Glimpse of Heaven</i>	<i>Revelation 4</i>	63
7	<i>He Has Prevailed</i>	<i>Revelation 5</i>	75
8	<i>Judge Not</i>	<i>Revelation 6-7</i>	87
9	<i>The Path of Prayer</i>	<i>Revelation 8-9</i>	99
10	<i>Are You Prepared?</i>	<i>Revelation 10-11</i>	111
11	<i>Overcoming Power</i>	<i>Revelation 12</i>	123
12	<i>The Patience of the Saints</i>	<i>Revelation 13</i>	135
13	<i>Last Call</i>	<i>Revelation 14</i>	147
14	<i>The Holy Judgment of God</i>	<i>Revelation 15-16</i>	157
15	<i>Who is Your Leader?</i>	<i>Revelation 17</i>	167
16	<i>Come Out of Her, My People</i>	<i>Revelation 18</i>	179
17	<i>Don't Lose Your Joy</i>	<i>Revelation 19</i>	189
18	<i>The End of Satan</i>	<i>Revelation 20</i>	201
19	<i>God's Glorious Plan</i>	<i>Revelation 21</i>	213
20	<i>Eternal Blessings</i>	<i>Revelation 22</i>	225



LESSON 1

THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Revelation 1:1-3

When you look around and see the rise in pollution, violence, political corruption, and moral laxity, does it make you wonder, *What is the world coming to?* The book of Revelation answers that question. With vivid imagery, glimpses of heaven, and profound symbolism, Revelation reveals God's plans for the world's future.

The book of Revelation promises great blessings for those who *read, hear, and keep those things which are written in it.* Through studying the book of Revelation, we will gain a greater understanding of the glory and majesty, power and wisdom of Jesus Christ. We will also be prepared and ready to prepare others for the events that will soon transpire.

BACKGROUND

WRITER:

- John the apostle, disciple of Jesus, author of the Gospel of John and the Epistles of John

DATE AND SETTING:

- Written in 96 AD from the Isle of Patmos (off the coast of Asia Minor: present-day Turkey).
- Written during the second imperial persecution of Christians, which was short but extremely severe; over 40,000 Christians were tortured and slain.

- The greatest danger was the corruption and apostasy coming from within the church.

KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING:

- Three-part outline (divinely revealed in Revelation 1:19)
 - *The things which you have seen*: chapter 1
 - *The things which are*: chapters 2 and 3
 - *The things which will take place after this*: chapters 4 through 22
- Content
 - The authority of the Lamb of God: Revelation 1–3
 - The worthiness of the Lamb of God: Revelation 4 and 5
 - The righteous judgment of the Lamb of God: Revelation 6–18
 - The coming of the Lamb of God: Revelation 19
 - The reign of the Lamb of God: Revelation 20
 - The kingdom of the Lamb of God: Revelation 21 and 22
- Symbolism
 - The number seven appears often in this book and signifies completeness and/or perfection
 - The use of imagery to describe events, judgments, locations, key characters, and the nature and personality of the spirit behind them

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Future events
- Glimpses of heaven
- Songs of men and angels

- Spiritual beings
- Cataclysmic judgments
- Culmination of history
- Victorious return of Jesus
- A new heaven and a new earth

FIRST DAY: John the apostle's character and calling

1. Read John 1:35–39 and briefly record John's first encounter with Jesus. (John the apostle was one of the two disciples of John the Baptist mentioned here. See John 21:24 for verification.)
 - a. How was Jesus presented to John?
 - (1) What is so significant about this title? See John 1:29.
 - b. How did John respond to Jesus? John 1:37–39
 - c. Recall your first encounter with Jesus.
2. According to Matthew 4:18–22 what was John doing when Jesus called him?

- a. What did John do? Matthew 4:22
 - b. What were you doing when you heard Jesus call you?
3. Summarize what John testified about Jesus in the following verses:
- a. John 1:14
 - b. John 21:24–25
 - c. 1 John 1:1-3

(1) Why was John a reputable witness of the revelation of Jesus?

(2) What can you testify about Jesus?

SECOND DAY: John's witness to the miracles of Jesus

1. Briefly describe what John witnessed:
 - a. Matthew 8:23–27

 - b. Matthew 14:15–21

 - c. Matthew 17:1–9

 - d. Mark 5:35–43

 - e. Luke 6:17–19

2. Which of these wonders impresses you the most and share why?

3. How would these events and miracles have illuminated John's understanding of Jesus?
 - a. How has your understanding of Jesus been enlightened?

FOURTH DAY: Read Revelation 1:1–2

1. The word *Revelation* means a disclosure or an unveiling. With this in mind, Who is unveiled in this revelation? Revelation 1:1a
 - a. Use John 5:39 to identify the central figure of the Bible.

2. According to Revelation 1:1b to whom does God want this revelation shown?
 - a. Link your answer with John 15:15. What do you see?

 - b. How are you qualified to receive the revelation of Jesus Christ?

3. Note the progression of *the Revelation of Jesus Christ* from Revelation 1:1:
 - a. Who is the source of the revelation?

 - b. Who is the revelation about?

 - c. How was it *sent*?

- d. To whom was it *sent*?
 - e. Who is it for?
4. Notice the imperative John used in Revelation 1:1b, *Things which — — — — shortly take place*. What does this imply about the things which will take place?
- a. How close are these events?
 - b. According to Romans 13:11–14, how are we to live in light of these coming events?
5. From Revelation 1:2 record and define the three things John *bore witness to*:
- a.
 - b.
 - c.
6. John's testimony was authoritative because of these *things*. How will you use these same things to bring God's authority into your life?

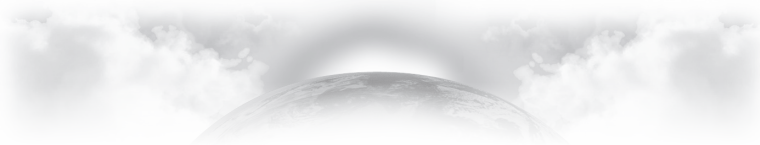
FIFTH DAY: Read Revelation 1:3

1. Contained in Revelation 1:3 is the promise of a blessing. Who is promised this blessing?
 - a. Link this blessing with Jesus' warning in Matthew 7:24–27. What do you see?

 - b. What blessing do you expect to receive from studying Revelation?

2. Why is it important to *keep those things which are written*? Revelation 1:3b

3. Take a moment right now to ask God to help you hear His Word and keep it that you might receive the blessing He has for you.



LESSON 2
JESUS AS HE IS
Revelation 1:4-20

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. What blessing do you anticipate as you study Revelation?
Revelation 1:3

2. Too often as believers we magnify our problems and belittle the power of Jesus. Because we do not recognize Jesus in His glory, we are easily overwhelmed by daily trials. Instead of entrusting our greatest concerns to Jesus, we carry those issues and become oppressed under their weight. Before John could be shown the cataclysmic events that would transpire on the earth, he needed a clear picture of Jesus. John needed to see Jesus as He was, is, and will be so that he would not be moved by fear. In the same way, we as believers need a clear picture of the glory, power, and compassion of Jesus so that we will not be shaken in our faith by the things that transpire on earth. Mark the divisions below by choosing a phrase or thought that ministers to you about the glory of Jesus:
 - a. Revelation 1:4–6

- b. Revelation 1:7–8

 - c. Revelation 1:9–16

 - d. Revelation 1:17–20
3. Before you begin your lesson, take a moment to pray and ask God to open your understanding that you might behold the glory of Jesus.

*I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold,
I am alive forevermore. Amen*

REVELATION 1:18A

SECOND DAY: Read Revelation 1:4–6

- 1. The number *seven* is used throughout Revelation to denote completeness. In Revelation 1:4 what two things are pictured in *sevens*?
 - a. How do you think the concept of completeness applies to these particular *sevens*?

2. What two significant words of greeting did John use to address his readers? Revelation 1:4b
 - a. Comment on the importance of these words coming to you from the Lord.

3. How is the eternal aspect of God represented in Revelation 1:4c?
 - a. Why is the eternal aspect of God essential for believers to realize?

4. List and define the three titles given to Jesus in Revelation 1:5a:
 - a.

 - b.

 - c.
 - (1) What does each description reveal about Jesus?

 - (2) Which of these descriptions ministers to you the most?

5. According to Revelation 1:5b, what has Jesus done for us?
 - a. What was His motivation?
 - b. How essential is the blood of Jesus? See Ephesians 2:13, Hebrews 10:19, and 1 John 1:7.

6. What did Jesus make us? Revelation 1:6
 - a. Link this reality with Exodus 19:5–6 and 1 Peter 2:9. What do you see?
 - b. What honor does Jesus deserve because of His loving and transforming work on our behalf? Revelation 1:6b
 - c. How do you desire to honor Jesus for what He has done for you?

THIRD DAY: Read Revelation 1:7-8

1. What is the attention-grabbing word at the beginning of Revelation 1:7?
 - a. According to Revelation 1:7 what will *every eye* see?
 - b. Summarize what the following Scriptures say about Christ's return:
 - (1) Zechariah 12:10

 - (2) Matthew 24:30

 - (3) Acts 1:9–11
2. John's response to this amazing truth was to say, *Even so, Amen* (Revelation 1:7b). *Amen* means *so be it*. What is your response to this amazing truth?
3. What is Jesus' self-description in Revelation 1:8?

- a. Liken this to the following descriptions of God. Share your discoveries:

(1) Deuteronomy 33:27

(2) Isaiah 9:6–7

(3) Isaiah 57:15

4. How are you encouraged by the eternal character of Jesus?

FOURTH DAY: Read Revelation 1:9–16

1. How did John identify himself in Revelation 1:9a?

- a. How does this self-description illustrate John's humility?

2. From verses 1:9b–10a briefly recount John's circumstances.

- a. Why was John put on this *island*? Revelation 1:9c

- b. What suddenly interrupted John's reverie? Revelation 1:10b
- c. What did the *Voice* proclaim? Revelation 1:11a
- d. What did the *Voice* instruct John to do? Revelation 1:11b
- e. How did John respond to the *Voice that spoke* to him? Revelation 1:12a

(1) Link John's response to John 10:2–5. What do you see?

(2) How do you desire to respond to the Lord's voice?

- 3. Using Revelation 1:12b–16 describe Who and what John saw:
 - a. Revelation 1:12b–13
 - b. Revelation 1:14

c. Revelation 1:15

d. Revelation 1:16

(1) What aspect of this description impresses you the most?

(2) How will a clear vision of Jesus help you in your present circumstances?

FIFTH DAY: Read Revelation 1:17–20

1. According to Revelation 1:17 what did John do when he saw Jesus?

a. Take a moment to comment on the reaction of two other godly men who received a glimpse of God:

(1) Isaiah 6:1–5

(2) Daniel 10:5–10

- b. What do you think is an appropriate response to seeing Jesus?

- c. Imagine how overwhelming this scene must have been for John. How did Jesus comfort John during this time? Revelation 1:17b

(1) Compare this to John's experience with Jesus in Matthew 17:5–7. What do you see?

2. What did Jesus declare about Himself in Revelation 1:18?

a. This declaration is punctuated by the words *behold* and *Amen*. What does this express about His power?

b. Expand your appreciation of His power by commenting on:

(1) John 11:25–26

(2) Hebrews 2:14–15

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. This week we saw a vision of the glory and power of Jesus Christ. We also looked at how John responded to such a vision of majesty. What is your response to the power and authority of Jesus Christ?
 - a. What area in your life needs to be submitted to the authority of Jesus?
 - b. How might you practically submit this area to Him?
2. What aspect of this week's lesson ministered to you the most? Share why.
3. Who is the predominant figure in Revelation 1?
 - a. How will this affect the way you view the rest of this book?

To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

REVELATION 1:5B

