

Chapter 1

Vision of the Glorified Christ and Commission to Write (1:9–20)

This portion give details of John's first revelatory encounter with Christ on the island of his exile. It has three parts:

1. The circumstances of his first commission to write (1:9–11).
2. The source of the commission (1:12–16).

3. A more detailed statement of what he was to write (1:17–20).

1.1 First commission to write (1:9–11)

Revelation 1:9

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

1. **I John**: Third time John refers to himself who received the commission to write.
2. **Your brother and companion**: Humility of John is seen here. Remember that the state of some of the churches like Laodicea was very pathetic. Nevertheless, John still calls them his brethren. He is also sharing with fellow believers in Christian suffering and patient endurance. Another word for sharing is fellowship. Sharing with Christ and his people is a very common theme in the NT

Ro 12:13. distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.

Ph 4:14. Nevertheless you have done well that you shared in my distress.

1Pet 4:13. but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy.

1Jh 1:3. that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

Ro 5:3. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance

Ro 8:35. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

Re 2:2. "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars;

Re 2:19. "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and as for your works, the last are more than the first.

Re 3:10. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.

3. **Tribulation:** General suffering associated with Christian life

John 16:33. These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."

Ac 14:22. strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, "We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God."

2 Ti 3:12. Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.

4. **Kingdom:** the millennial kingdom described more fully in Revelation 20. Anticipation of this kingdom and the deliverance that will come at the end is an integral part of present Christian experience

2 Th 1:5. which is manifest evidence of the righteous judgment of God, that you may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you also suffer.

Jas 2:5. Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him?

5. **Patience:** It is a quality that is constantly connected with Christian living

Ro 5:3. And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation produces perseverance.

Re 2:2. "I know your works, your labor, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil.

6. **Was on Patmos for the Word of God:** Patmos is an island of Asia Minor, near Miletus. Being a rocky and barren place, it was chosen as a criminal settlement by the Romans. Early Christian tradition says John was sent here during Domitian's reign over Rome (A.D. 81–96) and was forced to work in the mines. John was later permitted to return to Ephesus
7. **For the Word of God:** John was in the island, not as a criminal, but for the sake of Christian faith. John was sent to Patmos as a prisoner, an imprisonment by the Roman emperor because of his preaching of the gospel in Ephesus and the rest of Asia. John never blames the Roman emperor for imprisonment, instead, gives a spiritual reason.

Revelation 1:10

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

1. **In the Spirit:** Supernatural human state controlled by the Holy Spirit where God gives revelation. It is state in which the ordinary faculties of the flesh are suspended, and the inward senses opened. God brings a man's spirit into direct contact with the invisible spiritual world and with the things in God's own mind, yet in ways accommodated to finite human perception. Luke calls it "trance" because the spirit is taken temporarily from the ordinary range of contact to one that is wholly new and superior. This was not a revelation through a dream because. John never slept during the process. His spirit was wide awake, and its powers were exercised with exalted clarity

Ezk 2:2. Then the Spirit entered me when He spoke to me, and set me on my feet; and I heard Him who spoke to me.

Ezk 3:12. Then the Spirit lifted me up, and I heard behind me a great thunderous voice: "Blessed is the glory of the Lord from His place!"

Ezk 3:14. So the Spirit lifted me up and took me away, and I went in bitterness, in the heat of my spirit; but the hand of the Lord was strong upon me.

Act 10:9. The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour.

Act 11:5. "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me

Act 22:17. "Now it happened, when I returned to Jerusalem and was praying in the temple, that I was in a trance

Ro 8:9. But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

2. **Lord's Day:** It is the customary way of referring to Sunday by the end of the second century because it was the day of the week on which the Lord was raised from the dead. This practice of calling Sunday as the Lord's Day was probably started by John. Some think it is referring to the end time, but closer examination of the language and contemporary usage, it refers to Sunday. However, 'day of the Lord' is normally used to refer the end time

Mk 16:2. Very early in the morning, on the first day of the week, they came to the tomb when the sun had risen.

Act 20:7. Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul, ready to depart the next day, spoke to them and continued his message until midnight.

1 Co 11:20. Therefore when you come together in one place, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper.

1 Co 16:2. On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.

3. **Loud voice:** It indicate the solemnity or importance of what is to be revealed

Ex 19:16. Then it came to pass on the third day, in the morning, that there were thundering and lightnings, and a thick cloud on the mountain; and the sound of the trumpet was very loud, so that all the people who were in the camp trembled.

Rev 5:2. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice . . .

Rev 5:12. saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain . . .

Rev 6:10. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge . . .

Rev 7:2. Then I saw another angel . . . And he cried with a loud voice to the four angels . . .

Rev 8:13. And I looked ...saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe to the inhabitants of the earth ...

Rev 10:3. and cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars ...

Rev 11:12. And they heard a loud voice from heaven saying to them, "Come up here." ...

Rev 12:10. Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven ...

Rev 14:2. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder ...

Rev 14:15. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to Him who sat on the cloud ...

Rev 14:18. And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him ...

Rev 16:1. Then I heard a loud voice from the temple saying to the seven angels ...

Rev 16:17. Then the seventh angel ... and a loud voice came out of the temple of heaven ...

Rev 19:1. After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven ...

Rev 19:17. Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying ...

Rev 21:3. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying ...

4. **Trumpet:** It shows the authority and importance of the message. Paul uses the word sound of trumpet is something that give clear meaning. Also, trumpet is used in this book trumpet related to battlefield prompting action in a war

1 Co 14:8. For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare for battle?

Re 8:2. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God, and to them were given seven trumpets.

Re 8:6. So the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Re 9:14. saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates."

saying, “I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,” and, “What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.”

1. **What you see write:** The commission to write is given 12 times in this below and below are the 11 other verses. And, John has to write what the Lord is going to show him. It is an authoritative command of the Lord

Rev 1:19. Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

Rev 2:1. “To the angel of the church of Ephesus write . . .

Rev 2:8. “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write . . .

Rev 2:12. “And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write . . .

Rev 2:18. “And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write . . .

Rev 3:1. "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write . . .

Rev 3:7. "And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write . . .

Rev 3:14. "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write . . .

Rev 14:13. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " . . .

Rev 19:9. Then he said to me, "write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' " . . .

Rev 21:5. Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "write, for these words are true and faithful."

2. **Book/scroll biblion**: It is a roll made of papyrus, a plant grown in Egypt. It was less expensive than parchment which was made from animal skins

2 Ti 4:13. Bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas when you come—and the books **biblion**, especially the parchments.

3. **Seven churches which are in Asia:** These seven churches are located in the province of Asia. These cities were centers of seven districts, which made them well-suited to publicize the message further, once they received it. The order of the names of the seven cities indicates the route the messenger would follow in delivering the book. These cities were strategically located: some are populous, some rich, some influential. There are few other cities more prominent than these existed: Colosse, Hierapolis, and Troas. However, the churches in these cities are chosen for they serve as representative of all other churches then and now.

1.2 The source of the commission (1:12–16)

Revelation 1:12

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lamp stands,

1. **Turned to see the voice:** The voice which John heard came from the back and he turned back. Though voice cannot be seen, it is evident that John turned to see the source of this voice.
2. **Seven golden lamp stands:** The lamp stands are symbolic of churches. How do we know? John himself explain it verse 20. Seven indicate completeness and these seven churches are complete representation of all

the churches. Gold is precious and so is also church and lamp stand gives light so also the church should give light to the dark world

Ex 25:31-40. "You shall also make a lampstand of pure gold . . . 32 And six branches shall come out of its sides: three branches of the lampstand out of one side, and three branches of the lampstand out of the other side. 33 Three bowls shall be made like almond blossoms on one branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower, and three bowls made like almond blossoms on the other branch, with an ornamental knob and a flower—and so for the six branches that come out of the lampstand . . . 37 You shall make seven lamps for it, and they shall arrange its lamps so that they give light in front of it . . . 40 And see to it that you make them according to the pattern which was shown you on the mountain.

Zec 4:2. And he said to me, "What do you see?" So I said, "I am looking, and there is a lampstand of solid gold with a bowl on top of it, and on the stand seven lamps with seven pipes to the seven lamps.

Mt. 5:14. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

Phil 2:15. that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world

Rev 1:20. The mystery of ... the seven golden lamp-stands: ... the seven lamp-stands which you saw are the seven churches.

Revelation 1:13

and in the midst of the seven lamp stands One like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

1. **Midst of the lamp stand:** Christ empowers the church by His promised presence and active involvement with the church

Mt 18:20. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them."

Mt 28:20. teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.

Jh 14:18. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Jh 14:23. Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

Heb 13:5. Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.”

2. From here onwards, John describes ten phrases concerning Jesus. Each of these phrases are used in chapter 2 and 3 while addressing the seven churches. These are given below.
3. **[1/10] Son of Man:** Presence of Christ with the church is a comforts to her members. The Son of Man is the messianic title. Further, this title also qualifies him to judge the church

Dan 7:13. “I was watching in the night visions, And behold, One like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of heaven! He came to the Ancient of Days, And they brought Him near before Him.

Mark 13:26. Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

Acts 7:56. and said, "Look! I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!"

John 5:27. and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

Acts 17:31. because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead."

4. **[2/10] Clothed in robes reaching the feet:** Two ideas come from this: Priesthood and Royal authority. Such robes are worn by Priests and also Royal officials having great authority. Priests to show mercy of God to His people and Royalty indicates judgement of God against His enemies

Ex 28:4. And these are the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

Le 16:4. He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These are holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on.

1Ki 22:10. The king of Israel and Jehoshaphat the king of Judah, having put on their robes, sat each on his throne, at a threshing floor at the entrance of the gate of Samaria; and all the prophets prophesied before them.

Is 6:1. In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His robe filled the temple.

Da 10:5. I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!

Ezk 9:2. And suddenly six men came from the direction of the upper gate, which faces north, each with his battle-ax in his hand. One man among them was clothed with linen and had a writer's inkhorn at his side. They went in and stood beside the bronze altar.

5. **[3/10]** Girded about the chest with a golden band or Girded at the breast with a golden girdle: John is reminded about the the divine messenger of Daniel and also acted as a foreshadow of the judgement inflicted through angels of the last seven plagues

Dan 10:5. I lifted my eyes and looked, and behold, a certain man clothed in linen, whose waist was girded with gold of Uphaz!

Rev 15:6. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands.

Revelation 1:14

His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

1. **[4/10] Head and hair were white like wool:** Refers to Daniel where it is attributed to Father and here to Christ. This is consistent in NT where several attributed of the Father is ascribed to the Son pointing to his deity. It shows the eternity of Christ and assures eternal life to church

Dan 7:9. "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment was white as snow, And the hair of His head was like pure wool. His throne was a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

2. **[5/10] Eyes like flame of fire** or as lamps of fire or as torches of fire. It shows the fierceness of Christ against his enemies resulting in their judgement. It also convey the penetrating vision and the associated supernatural intelligence of Christ in what is seen. A demonstration of it is seen in chapter 2 and 3 where he penetrates into the actions, words, and motives of the members of the church. Same with dealing with the unbelieving world

Dan 10:6. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

Rev 2:18. "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

Rev 19:12. His eyes were like a flame of fire, and on His head were many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except Himself.

Mk 3:5. And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored as whole as the other.

Mk 10:21. Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me."

Lk 22:61. And the Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had said to him, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."

His feet were like fine brass, as if refined in furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters;

1. **[6/10]** Feet like bronze, as if refined in furnace or His feet were like gleaming bronze as when it is aglow in a furnace: Feet is symbolic of movement and here it refers to Christ's active movement in the church and also in this world. Refined in furnace or glowing of the metal is an indication of the purity and glory of God. In short, Christ is moving in the midst of the church to impart purity by rendering of judgment when there is a shortcoming.

Psa 12:6. The words of the Lord are pure words, Like silver tried in a furnace of earth, Purified seven times.

Ezk 1:7. Their legs were straight, and the soles of their feet were like the soles of calves' feet. They sparkled like the color of burnished bronze.

Ezk 1:13. As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, like the appearance of torches going back and forth among the living creatures. The fire was bright, and out of the fire went lightning.

Ezk 1:27. Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around.

Dan 10:6. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

Dan 12:10. Many shall be purified, made white, and refined, but the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand, but the wise shall understand.

Zec 13:9. I will bring the one-third through the fire, Will refine them as silver is refined, And test them as gold is tested. They will call on My name, And I will answer them. I will say, 'This is My people'; And each one will say, 'The Lord is my God.' "

Rev 2:18. "And to the angel of the church in Thyatira write,
'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass:

Rev 3:18. I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see

2. **[7/10] Voice like sound of many waters:** This suggest a powerful force and hence Christ speaks authoritatively to write the message especially to the seven churches.

Psa 94:3. Lord, how long will the wicked, How long will the wicked triumph?

Isa 17:13. The nations will rush like the rushing of many waters; But God will rebuke them and they will flee far away, And be chased like the chaff of the mountains before the wind, Like a rolling thing before the whirlwind.

Ezk 43:2. And behold, the glory of the God of Israel came from the way of the east. His voice was like the sound of many waters; and the earth shone with His glory.

Dan 10:6. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like torches of fire, his arms and feet like burnished bronze in color, and the sound of his words like the voice of a multitude.

Rev 14:2. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

Rev 19:6. And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns!

Revelation 1:16

He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance was like the sun shining its strength.

1. **[8/10]** He had in His right hand seven stars or holding in His right hand seven stars: This indicates Christ's absolute authority and complete control over the churches as well as their messengers (or representatives or elders).

Eph 4:15. but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—

Eph 5:23. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Col 1:18. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.

Rev 2:1. "To the angel of the church of Ephesus write,
'These things says He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands:

Rev 3:1. "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write,
'These things says He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead.

2. **[9/10] Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword:** Christ protects the church from enemies of the church. Jesus is portrayed as a warrior defeating his enemies in battle and the pronouncement of his sentence of judgment upon them by his sharp sword.

Isa 11:4. But with righteousness He shall judge the poor, And decide with equity for the meek of the earth; He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, And with the breath of His lips He shall slay the wicked.

Isa 49:2. And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword; In the shadow of His hand He has hidden Me, And made Me a polished shaft; In His quiver He has hidden Me.”

Eph 6:17. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God;

2The 2:8. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord will consume with the breath of His mouth and destroy with the brightness of His coming.

Heb 4:12. For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart

Rev 2:16. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of My mouth.

Rev 19:15. Now out of His mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it He should strike the nations. And He Himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He Himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty Go

3. **[10/10]** His countenance was like the sun shining its strength or His appearance was as the sun shines in its strength: It is a portion from the song of Deborah and Barak from the book of Judges referring to those who love the Lord. Same is spoken of the righteous. John also may be remembering of his transfiguration experience. The last feature forms the climax of his initial vision with its allusion to the overwhelming nature of the glory of the ascended Christ.

Jud 5:31. But I want to remind you, though you once knew this, that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed those who did not believe.

Mat 13:43. Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!

Mat 17:12. But I say to you that Elijah has come already, and they did not know him but did to him whatever they wished. Likewise the Son of Man is also about to suffer at their hands."

2Cor 4:6. For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

This first vision of John, then, included an indication of Jesus':

1. Messianic office with its associated functions
2. Judgment of the unrighteous and comfort of the suffering righteous,
3. High rank that fits Him as an agent of imposing divine wrath,
4. His activity in imposing that wrath, His preexistence with God the Father,
5. His penetrating intelligence to perform righteous judgment,
6. His movement among the churches to enforce standards of moral purity,
7. His identification with the Father in the power of His utterance,
8. His authority over the seven messengers and the churches they represent,
9. His power to overcome His enemies and pronounce judgment upon them, and
10. His return to earth to implement judgment upon mankind.

1.3 The commission restated and amplified (1:17–20)

1. Reaction of John (17)
2. Reassurance by Jesus (18-19)
3. Recommissioning (20)

Revelation 1:17

And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, “Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last.

1. **Fell at his feet:** It show the state of mind of John. He was afraid and fall prostrate. Similar response can also be seen by other who received the visions.

Ezk 3:23. So I arose and went out into the plain, and behold, the glory of the LORD stood there ...and I fell on my face.

Ezk 44:4. ...I looked, and behold, the glory of the LORD filled the house of the LORD; and I fell on my face.

Dan 8:17. So he [Gabriel] came near where I stood, and when he came I was afraid and fell on my face; but he said to me, "Understand, son of man, that the vision refers to the time of the end."

Dan 10:9. Yet I heard the sound of his words; and while I heard the sound of his words I was in a deep sleep on my face, with my face to the ground.

Mat 17:6. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid.

2. **As dead:** He was in a state where he looked like lifeless.
3. **Laid His right hand on me:** To bring comfort and assurance to John who was terribly afraid. This reminds of the transfiguration experience and similar experience of Daniel.

Mat 17:6-7. And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their faces and were greatly afraid. 7 But Jesus came and touched them and said, "Arise, and do not be afraid."

Dan 10:10-18. Suddenly, a hand touched me, which made me tremble on my knees and on the palms of my hands ... 12 Then he said to me, "Do not fear, Daniel ... 18 Then again, the one having the likeness of a man touched me and strengthened me.

4. **Saying to me, "Do not be afraid:** Brings comfort to a person in affliction.

Isa 44:2. Thus says the LORD who made you And formed you from the womb, who will help you:
'Fear not, O Jacob My servant . . .

Mat 14:27. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Luk 1:13,30. But the angel said to him, "Do not be afraid, Zacharias . . . Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.

Act 27:24. saying, 'Do not be afraid, Paul; you must be brought before Caesar; and indeed God has granted you all those who sail with you.'

5. **[1/3] I am the First and the Last:** I am is the divine title of the God of the OT which is also attributed to Jesus. John now assured that he is with Jesus, who is the God of Israel. This is a great comfort to John.

Exo 3:14. And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And He said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.' "

Isa 41:4. Who has performed and done it, Calling the generations from the beginning? 'I, the Lord, am the first; And with the last I am He.' "

Isa 43:10. "You are My witnesses," says the Lord, "And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.

Isa 44:6. "Thus says the Lord, the King of Israel, And his Redeemer, the Lord of hosts: 'I am the First and I am the Last; Besides Me there is no God.

Isa 48:12. "Listen to Me, O Jacob, And Israel, My called: I am He, I am the First, I am also the Last.

Joh 8:58. Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

Mat 14:27. But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Mark 6:50. for they all saw Him and were troubled. But immediately He talked with them and said to them, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid."

Joh 6:20. But He said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid."

Revelation 1:18

I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

1. **I am He who lives** or The living one: This is a usual description of God in both OT and NT. This phrase conveys that God has life in His essential nature. This contrasts Him to the dead or inanimate gods of the gentiles. Jesus has abiding life and is independent of the creation.

Jos 3:10. And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you ...

Psa 42:2. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God ...

Mat 16:16. Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

Heb 3:12. Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God;

2. **Was Dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore:** Three contrasts can be seen here:

- (a) Jesus was dead, but now He is alive.
- (b) The death of Jesus was temporary, but now He lives for evermore.
- (c) John fell at his feet **as** dead, but the death of Jesus was real.

3. **Living forever:** This is a description of the God the Father in the OT and NT. In this verse, it is attributed to Jesus, pointing to his deity.

Dan 4:34. ...I [Nebuchadnezzar] blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever ...

Dan 12:7. Then I heard the man ...swore by Him who lives forever ...

Rev 4:9. Whenever the living creatures give glory and honor and thanks to Him who sits on the throne, who lives forever and ever.

Rev 4:10. the twenty-four elders fall down before Him who sits on the throne and worship Him who lives forever and ever ...

4. **[2/3] I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore:** this points to two contrasting aspects: (i) the ever-abiding life possessed by Jesus independent of the world and (ii) to His humiliation even to the point of undergoing physical death
5. **[3/3] I have the keys of Hades and of Death:** Key is symbolic of authority. As seen earlier, He is the eternal one (1:17b) and has life in Himself (1:18a), He has power to give life. It can be death permanently or to release from it.

John 5:26–28. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, 27 and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man.

6. **Three self-descriptions of Jesus**

- (a) I am the First and the Last
- (b) I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore
- (c) I have the keys of Hades and of Death

Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

1. **Note:** John's Patmos experience:

- (a) an appearance of Christ (Rev. 1:12–16),
- (b) a reminder of His conquest of death (Rev. 1:17–18), and
- (c) a commission to write (1:19–20)

Rev 1:12-20 is similar to:

- (a) Jesus appeared to the disciple (Mt 28:16f)
- (b) reminded of His authority (Mt 28:18) and
- (c) gave commission (Mt. 28:19-20).

2. **Write:** Note that this is a restatement of the commission to write (Rev 1:11)

3. Book division based on V19

- (a) the things which you have seen, and
- (b) the things which are, and
- (c) the things which will take place after this

Three fold division of this book marked by

Rev 1:9. I, John ... was on the island that is called Patmos ... 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day ...

Rev 1:20. ... The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp-stands which you saw are the seven churches.

Rev 4:1. After these things I looked, and behold, a door standing open in heaven ...

1	Rev 1:9 - 1:19	Past	Vision of Christ
2-3	Rev 1:20 - 3:22	Present	State of the church
4-22	Rev 4:1 - 22:6	Future	Revelation about future

The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lamp stands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lamp stands which you saw are the seven churches.

1. **Mystery**: the inner meaning of a symbolical vision. Hidden to man but now divinely revealed. The opposite of 'mystery' is 'Revelation'. The notion that this book is mysterious is purely ignorance.

Dan 2:47. The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a reveler of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."

Rev 17:7. But the angel said to me, "Why did you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast . . .

2. **Angels aggello**: Four views on the identity of angels:
 - (a) They are holy angels as involved in other revelations Da 10:13, 20, 21, 12:1 and stars symbolize angels Job 38:7, Is 14:12f. **Problem**: Unlikely that God gave revelation to John, John to angels and then angel to the church

- (b) Personified spirit of the church. Rev 7:1, 9:11, 14:18, 16:5. The message goes to the whole church. **Problem:** Lamp stand is objective and hence angel may not be symbolic. Double symbolism is unlikely (star to angle to church)
- (c) Highest authority of the church Nu 24:17, Is 14:12, Da 12:3, Jude 13. **Problem:** NT teaches plurality in leadership
- (d) Human messenger representing the church. Epaphroditus, Epaphras, messengers/delegate. **Problem:** Least problematic.

Phil 2:25. Yet I considered it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, fellow worker, and fellow soldier, but your messenger and the one who ministered to my need

Phil 4:18. ...having received from Epaphroditus the things sent from you, a sweet-smelling aroma ...

Col 4:12. Epaphras, who is one of you, a bondservant of Christ, greets you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that you may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God.

Mat 11:10. For this is he of whom it is written: 'Behold, I send My messenger **aggello** before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You.'

Luke 7:24. When the messengers **aggello** of John had departed ...

2 Cor 8:23. If anyone inquires about Titus, he is my partner and fellow worker concerning you. Or if our brethren are inquired about, they are messengers of the churches, the glory of Christ.

Luke 9:52. and sent messengers **aggello** before His face. And as they went, they entered a village of the Samaritans, to prepare for Him.

Jas 2:25. Likewise, was not Rahab the harlot also justified by works when she received the messengers **aggello** and sent them out another way?

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