

# The First Key



## “The Things you have Seen”

Chapter one



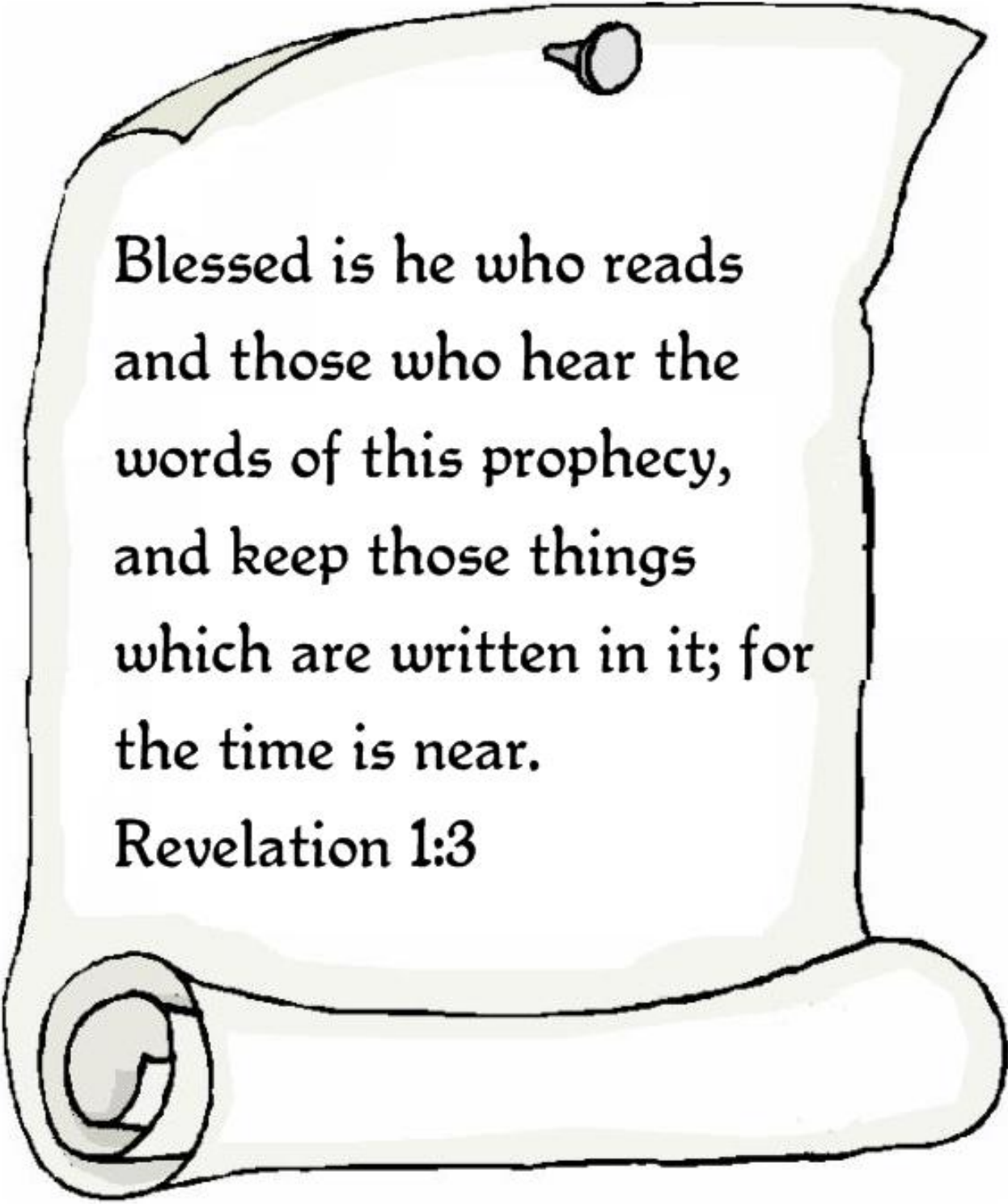
# Chapter 1



Revelation 1:1-3 (NASB), <sup>1</sup>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place; and He sent and communicated *it* by His angel to His bond-servant John, <sup>2</sup>who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, *even* to all that he saw. <sup>3</sup>Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy, and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.

**H**ere in the opening words of his letter John proclaims that the book is the “Revelation of Jesus Christ” and no one else. Chapters 2-3 is Jesus dealing with the seven churches, and through them He indirectly speaks His message to the churches for the next two-thousand plus years of the church age.

In chapter 1:3 Jesus declares a blessing to those who hear and heeds the words of this prophecy. What could this blessing be? The key to it can be found in the statement “heed the words of this prophecy.” The entire book is the calling of the lost and the sinners to repentance. To heed the words of the prophecy is to repent of your sins. As you read through the book there is a constant reminder of the fate of the righteous and of the unrighteous? The blessing of the book is in the knowing that good does ultimately win out over evil.



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

# The Promise of a Blessing

## The 7 Blessings of Revelation



ere in the opening verses of the Book the Lord gives us the first of seven blessings contained in the Book. Throughout this prophecy we are encouraged to **READ** the word and to **KEEP** the commandments and to **DO** the commandments that we may receive the future blessing of being called into the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

1. Revelation 1:3 “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.”
2. Revelation 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.' "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”
3. Revelation 16:15 “Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walks naked and they see his shame.”
4. Revelation 19:9 “Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!' “And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God.”
5. Revelation 20:6 “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”
6. Revelation 22:7 “... blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.”
7. Revelation 22:14 “Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.”



## It's all about Jesus Christ



Revelation 1:5-6, "... and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen."

In verses five and six John calls Jesus the "faithful witness" and the "first begotten of the dead." This is in agreement with Acts 26 which says:

Acts 26:23, "... that the Christ would suffer, that He would be the first to rise from the dead, and would proclaim light to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles."

In Scripture the term "first (or only) begotten" refers to Christ's incarnation, when He came in the flesh. The term "firstborn (or begotten) of the dead" refers to His resurrection. So here in Rev.1:5, John is referring to Jesus Christ, the first to rise from dead into immortality.

John also mentions in verse 5 that Jesus Christ is the "ruler over the kings of the earth." This is a future reference to the millennial reign of Christ from Jerusalem as King of Kings and Lord of Lords and a fulfillment of Isa.9:6, Ps. 2:6; 72:8

Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."

Psalms 2:6, "Yet I have set My King On My holy hill of Zion."

Psalms 72:8, "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea, And from the River to the ends of the earth."

Continuing John's reference to future events, he then describes in chapter 1:7 Christ's second coming, as it is to be in the clouds, and "every eye shall see Him." He particularly mentions a specific group: "... they also which pierced Him." John singles out the Jews as the group which pierced Him. They shall see Him and, like the rest of the world, "wail because of Him."

This is the same event mentioned in Jude 14, in that Jude references the patriarch Enoch saying "Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints." Enoch makes the distinction that the Lord comes back **WITH** His saints and not for His saints.

## John's Vision

**J**ohn, the pastor of the church at Ephesus, is exiled to the Island of Patmos for his testimony and for preaching the word of God (v.9). He declares himself a brother and companion in tribulation. He was speaking of the tribulation all Christians had in common due to persecution coming from Rome and that exiled him to Patmos.

John says he was in the Spirit (Praying\*) on the Lord's Day when he heard a great voice from behind him like a trumpet (v.10). The voice identified itself as the **Alpha and Omega, the first and the last**. John is told to write down what he sees and send it to the seven churches in Asia. As John turns to see who it is, he sees the "Son of Man" (Jesus) standing in the mist of **seven golden candlesticks** (lampstands) holding **seven stars** in His right hand.



Seeing this sight, John falls on his face as if he were dead. Christ then reaches down and touches John with his right hand and tells him to fear not. Christ uses this moment to share with John that He has the keys of hell (Hades and the underworld) and death (the grave), proof that He had truly conquered Satan and overcome death.

The fact that Christ chose a lampstand to represent the church (v.20) means that the church is a light holder and that believers are the light of the world (Mt.5:14). It is the church that lifts up the light to a sin-darkened world. The **seven stars** Christ holds in His right hand represent the seven pastors (or as Christ called them "Angels"-v.20) of the seven churches.

The message here is that the ministers of Christ derive their power and office from Him, and that He holds them in His hand. If they are false to Him, no one

can ever deliver them from His power. If they are true and loyal, no one can touch or molest, or do them harm.



\* For reference this is the second time in scripture that a message was so important that the messenger interrupted a prayer to deliver it.

Daniel 9:21 (NASB), “While I was still speaking in prayer, then the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision previously, came to me in *my* extreme weariness about the time of the evening offering.”

Revelation 1:10 (NASB), I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and I heard behind me a loud voice like *the sound* of a trumpet,