

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

by
William D. Barrick

The Bereans Adult Bible Fellowship
Placerita Baptist Church
2011

Mission Statement

This study of the Book of Revelation gives special attention to the testimony it provides concerning our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. “The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy” (Rev 19:10; cp. 1:2), leading us to worship and serve Him in everything.

I. What you have seen (Rev 1).

A. Introduction (1:1–3)

1. This is the Revelation of *Jesus Christ* (1:1a).
2. The purpose: “to show to His bond-servants, the things which must soon take place” (1:1b).
3. This revelation was communicated to John by an angel (1:1c).
4. John testifies “to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ” (1:2).
5. Believers receive a blessing for reading, hearing, and heeding (= obeying) this book (1:3).
6. This is not a book of history, but a book of prophecy (1:3).

B. John’s Salutation to the Seven Churches of Asia (1:4–8)

1. Identification of the recipients (1:4a).
2. The first “Amen”: Grace and peace from all three Persons of the Godhead (1:4b–6).
 - a. God the Father (1:4b).
 - b. God the Spirit (1:4c)—cp. Zechariah 4:1–10.
 - c. God the Son (1:5–6).
 - Jesus Christ
 - the faithful witness—cp. Psalm 89:37
 - the firstborn of the dead—cp. Psalm 89:27; Colossians 1:18
 - the ruler of the kings of the earth—cp. Psalm 89:27
 - who loves us
 - who released us from our sins by His blood
 - who made us a kingdom of priests to His God and Father
 - to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever

Barrick, **The Testimony of Jesus in the Book of Revelation**

3. The second “Amen”: Announcement of Christ’s return (1:7).
 - a. Daniel 7:13–14
 - Christ is the coming One—Psalm 96:13; Zechariah 2:10; Malachi 3:1; Matthew 24:37—see Revelation 2:5, 16; 3:11; 16:15; 22:7, 12, 20
 - b. Zechariah 12:10–14

4. The “I am” (1:8)
 - a. “the Alpha and the Omega”
 - b. “the Lord God”
 - c. “who is and who was and who is to come” (cp. 1:4)
 - d. “the Almighty”

C. John’s Commission by Means of the Vision on Patmos (1:9–20)

1. The Revelation of the Person of Jesus Christ (1:9–18).
 - a. The testimony of Jesus as the cause for John to be exiled on Patmos (1:9).
 - “your brother”—fellow believer
 - “fellow partaker . . . in Jesus”—fellowship/sharing
 - ✓ “in the tribulation”—Philippians 4:14
 - ✓ “kingdom”—Acts 14:22
 - ✓ “perseverance”—2 Timothy 2:12; Hebrews 10:32–33
 - b. John sees the vision of Jesus on “the Lord’s day” (1:10) = Sunday.
 - Not the same phrase as “the day of the LORD.”
 - Same terminology occurs in Christian writings from Asia Minor shortly after John wrote Revelation (*Didache* 14:1; Ignatius *Letter to the Magnesians* 9:1; Melito of Sardis).
 - Cp. “the Lord’s supper” (1 Corinthians 11:20).
 - c. Jesus commands John to write what he sees in a book for the seven churches (1:11).
 - Cities on a postal circuit (clockwise from Ephesus), each between 30 and 45 miles apart.
 - These represented Asia Minor’s most populous and influential west-central region.
 - See map on next page.



http://www.bible-history.com/maps/7_churches_asia.html

(Freely Distributed by Bible History Online)

Barrick, **The Testimony of Jesus in the Book of Revelation**

- d. John's vision (1:12–18):
- 7 golden lampstands (v. 12).
 - One like a son of man (Dan 7:13) in the middle of the lampstands (vv. 13–16):
 - ✓ Robe reach to His feet (13b)—Exodus 28:31, but Ezekiel 9:2
 - ✓ Golden sash across His chest (13c)—Exodus 28:39, but Daniel 10:5
 - ✓ Head and hair like white wool or snow (14a)—Daniel 7:9
 - ✓ Eyes like a flame of fire (14b)—Daniel 10:6; Revelation 19:12
 - ✓ Feet like burnished bronze (15a)—Ezekiel 1:7
 - ✓ Voice like the sound of many waters (15b)—Ezekiel 1:24; 43:2
 - ✓ 7 stars in His right hand (16a)
 - ✓ Sharp two-edged sword out of His mouth (16b)—Isaiah 49:2; Hebrews 4:12–13; Revelation 19:15
 - ✓ Face shining like the sun (16c)—Matthew 17:2
 - Jesus touches the prostrate apostle (cp. Dan 10:7–9) and speaks to him (vv. 17–18):
 - ✓ “Do not be afraid”—Matthew 17:6–7 (cp. Dan 10:10)
 - ✓ The “I am”
 - “the first and the last”—Isaiah 41:4; 44:6; 48:12
 - “the living One”—Daniel 12:7; Luke 24:5; cp. Deuteronomy 5:26
 - “I was dead”
 - “I am alive forevermore”
 - “I have the keys of death and Hades”—John 5:28; Hosea 13:14; Revelation 9:1; 20:1; cp. Isaiah 22:22
2. The Revelation of the Writing of the Book (1:19).
3. The Revelation of the Mystery of the Stars and Lampstands (1:20).
- a. 7 stars = “the angels of the seven churches”
- The angels are spirit beings:
 - ✓ Angels are mentioned 71 times in the Book of Revelation (cp. 1:1 as first mention).
 - ✓ The church at Ephesus had a plurality of elders (Acts 20:17, 28).
 - The angels are human messengers:
 - ✓ These angels/messengers sin and must repent (Revelation 2:4–5, 14, 20; 3:1–3, 15, 17, 19) along with their churches—these letters are addressed to each angel/messenger.
 - ✓ See the use of *angelos* for human messengers in Luke 7:24; 9:52 and James 2:25.
 - ✓ A single ruling elder (cp. 1 Tim 5:17) might fit the description, but the early pattern of leadership in the church seems to have been a plurality of elders (Acts 20:17, 28).
 - ✓ Representatives of the churches in the New Testament included men like Epaphroditus (Phil 2:25, *apostolos*; 4:18) and Epaphras (Col 4:12–13). See, also, 2 Corinthians 8:23 (*apostolos*).
- b. 7 lampstands = “the seven churches”