

A Study of the General Epistles

(NT Survey Lesson 215--Revelation 1)

Introduction: In the first chapter of Revelation Jesus appears in his resurrected glory among the lampstands. After the introductory superscription and salutation John reveals the commission given to him by Christ to write down the things he saw and send them to the seven churches of Asia.

Lesson aim: To understand the statements concerning Christ that set the stage for the revelation Christ would give in the remainder of the book.

Introduction & Prologue to the book, 1:1-8

1. Whose "revelation" is this book? What does it reveal? How did God choose to reveal it?
2. How does John describe his message in v. 2? Did he reveal it all?
3. What "blessing" is pronounced? Why?
4. How is God described in v. 4 & 8? What do these descriptions tell us about God?
5. In what three ways is Jesus described? What do each of these descriptions tell us about him?
6. What is Jesus said to have done for the church? How is the church described?
7. As the church faced the great persecutions described in this book, in what fact did they need to place their faith (v. 7)?
8. When God seemed to be silent and unresponsive to their persecutions, what did the church need to remember about Him (v. 8)?

Jesus in his heavenly glory appears to John--1:9-20

1. How does John describe himself?
2. What were the circumstances under which John received this revelation?
3. Describe Jesus' appearance.
4. What did Jesus say about himself? Why was it important for the Christians to whom John writes to know this?
5. How is Christ pictured relative to the lampstands? What do the stars in Jesus' hand and the lampstands symbolize?