

AN OVERVIEW OF REVELATION 1:1–20 ...

1. **PROLOGUE:** First things first, 1:1-3.

- The central idea (or overarching theme): The revelation of Jesus Christ.
- The stated purpose: Given by God for Jesus Christ to show his servants the things which are imminent.
- The means of transmission: John was commissioned by an angel to be a witness.
- The blessing: To the one who reads aloud, those who hear, those who keep.

2. **INTRODUCTION:** John speaks the grace and peace of our triune God to the seven churches in Asia, 1:4-5a.

3. **DOXOLOGY:** John rejoices in the work of Christ and in anticipation of his coming, 1:5b-8.

4. **SCENE/SETTING:** John begins to describe the scene before him, his vision and the loud voice behind him, 1:9-11.

5. **DESCRIPTION:** John turns to see the voice and describes the One speaking to him, 1:12-16.

6. **HOLY COMMISSIONING:** John's encounter with Jesus Christ glorified prepares him to witness, 1:17-19.

- **FEAR/Reverence:** John dropped at the feet of Christ like a dead man.
- **COURAGE/Assurance:** John was charged with holy boldness from his encounter with the Holy One of Israel.
- **SUBMISSION/Authority:** John is commissioned by the One who is the Sovereign Lord of the universe, who lives forever, who holds the keys to death and the place of death.

7. **EXPLANATION:** Our glorified Lord explains the mystery of the seven stars that John saw, 1:20.

“Don't Be Afraid!”

John's Holy Encounter with the Glory of God!

GOD TALKING HERE: THUS SAITH THE LORD GOD ALMIGHTY!

- (Isaiah 41:4 ESV) Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? **I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.**
- (Isaiah 44:6–8 ESV) 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. Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any.”**
- (Isaiah 48:12–13 ESV) Listen to me, O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! **I am he; I am the first, and I am the last.** My hand laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand spread out the heavens; when I call to them, they stand forth together.
- (Revelation 1:8 ESV) **“I am the Alpha and the Omega,”** says the Lord God, “who is and who was and who is to come, **the Almighty.**”
- (Revelation 1:17 ESV) When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, **“Fear not, I am the first and the last.”**
- (Revelation 2:8 ESV) And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: **“The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life.”**
- (Revelation 21:6 ESV) And he said to me, “It is done! **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.** To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment.”
- (Revelation 22:13 ESV) **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.**