

a Gr. apokalupsis, to unveil or uncover. It implies the lifting up of a curtain so all can see alike what is uncovered. When used of writing it means to reveal or make clear (Eph. 3:3; Gal. 1:12); when used of a person it denotes visible presence (v 1; 2 Th. 1:7; 1 Pet. 1:7, 13). Here it refers to both the book and the person of Christ. See *Revelation*, p. 332 and 363.

b Not a revelation altogether concerning Christ, but one from Him. Christ is not the main subject of the book. See note f, below.

c God gave it to Christ, emphasizing His limitations during His incarnation (Isa. 50:4; Mt. 28:18; Mk. 13:32; Lk. 2:40, 52).

d The purpose was to show, not hide from His servants, events from John's day into all eternity (Rev. 21–22).

e 111 times in the N.T.; 14 in Rev.

f 45 times, emphasizing the subject matter of the book, which is things or events:

- 1 Events of the whole church age (Rev. 1–3)
- 2 Events in heaven (Rev. 4–5)
- 3 Events of the future tribulation of Daniel's 70th week (Rev. 6–19)
- 4 Events of the Millennium (Rev. 20)
- 5 Events of the eternal new heavens and the new earth (Rev. 21–22)

g Gr. tachos, swiftness; speed; quickly. Trans. shortly (v 1; 22:6; Acts 25:4; Rom. 16:20); quickly (Acts 12:7; 22:18; Rev. 2:5); and speedily (Lk. 18:8). The idea is that this series of events must begin quickly.

h Gr. semaino, to show or point out; announce; to make a note of. That it does not mean that all things are in symbols is clear from its use elsewhere (v 1; Jn. 12:33; 18:32; 21:19; Acts 11:28; 25:27). It simply means to make a clear record.

i The book was transmitted from God to Christ, to the angel, to John, to the churches, to us (v 1, 11).

j 3 Classes Blessed (v 3):

- 1 Those who read the Revelation
- 2 Those who hear it
- 3 Those who keep things written therein

k 7 times in Rev. indicating the prophetic aspect of the book (v 3; 11:6; 19:10; 22:7, 10, 18, 19).

7 Rules Regarding Prophecy:

- 1 Understand prophecy as history written beforehand
- 2 Give the same meaning to words of prophecy as you do the words of history
- 3 Do not seek for hidden meanings
- 4 Do not think prophecy must be fulfilled before it can be understood
- 5 Do not interpret God's own interpretation of any thing in prophecy
- 6 Take all prophecy literally unless it is

239

CHAPTER 1

Introductory remarks (1:1-11).

1. Title, origin, subject, object, transmission and author

■ 1 The ^aRevelation ^bof Jesus Christ, which God ^cgave unto him, ^dto shew unto his ^eservants ^fthings which must ^gshortly come to pass; and he sent and ^hsignified *it* by his angel ⁱunto his servant John:

2. Threefold authenticity (22:16)

2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

3 The beatitude (CP. 14:13; 16:15; 19:9; 20:6; 22:7, 14) and nature of prophecy (Cp. 22:7, 10, 18, 19)

▲ 3 ^jBlessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this ^kprophecy, and ^lkeep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

4. Sevenfold salutation to the churches and threefold exaltation of Jesus Christ

4 John to the ^mseven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, ⁿfrom him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the ^oseven Spirits which are before his throne;

clear that it cannot have a literal meaning. Then get the literal truth conveyed by the figurative language

7 Let the Bible be its own interpreter

l 7 times in Rev. (v 3; 2:26; 3:8, 10; 12:17; 14:12; 22:9).

m They were located in Asia Minor (v 11).

n From the Divine Trinity (v 4-5). See **89 Proofs of a Divine Trinity**, p. 489.

o See note on Rev. 5:6.

p See **10 Facts About Jesus Christ**, p. 543.

q 1st N.T. prophecy in Rev. (1:6-7, unfulfilled). Next, 2:5.

r All eyes in the immediate vicinity of Jerusalem where He lands (Zech. 14:1-5). People in distant parts of the earth will not see Him until later (Isa. 2:2-4; 66:19-21; Zech. 8:23).

s The descendants of those who pierced Him—the Jews (Zech. 12:10).

t The armies of the nations that will be surrounding Jerusalem when Christ comes (Zech. 14:1-5; Mt. 24:29-31).

u The first and last letters of the Gr. alphabet. Used 4 times in Rev. (1:8, 11; 21:6; 22:13. Cp. 1:17; 2:8. Used of Christ in all these places except in 21:6). He is also called the Almighty (v 8), which is else-

5 And from ^pJesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,

★ 6 ^qAnd hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him *be* glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

5. Chief theme of Revelation (11:15-18; 19:11-21; 22:20)

▲ 7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and ^revery eye shall see him, and ^sthey *also* which pierced him: ^tand all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

6. Eternity of Jesus Christ (1:8, 11, 17; 2:8; 21:6; 22:13; Mic. 5:1-2; Jn. 1:1-2)

8 I am ^uAlpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

7. The prophet—John (1:1, 4)

9 I John, who also am your brother, and ^vcompanion in ^wtribulation, and in the ^akingdom and ^bpatience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called ^cPatmos, ^dfor the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

10 I was ^ein the Spirit on ^fthe Lord's day,

where used of the Father (4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:15; 21:22).

v Partaker, as in note o, Phil. 1:7.

w Used 5 times in Rev.: 4 times of persecution of Christians in John's day (1:9; 2:9, 10, 22), and one time of the future great tribulation (7:14). See note h, 2 Cor. 1:4.

*a The kingdom of or from the heavens that Christ will establish on earth at the second advent (1:6, 9; 5:10; 11:15; 12:10; 20:4-6; 22:5). See notes j and e, Mt. 4:17; 19:24.

*b 7 times in Rev. of the endurance of Christians in sufferings (1:9; 2:2-3, 19; 3:10; 13:10; 14:12).

*c A volcanic, treeless, rocky island about 6x10 miles, 30 miles S. W. of Samos. It was made a place of exile by the Romans for the lowest of criminals.

*d 2 Reasons for Banishment (v 2, 9):

- 1 For preaching the Word of God
- 2 For testifying of Jesus Christ

*e A term used of being wholly in union with the Holy Spirit and yielded to Him (note n, Lk. 22:3).

*f See *The Lord's Day*, p. 531, also p. 333, *Sunday the Christian Sabbath*.