

## *Personal Bible Study*

# Lesson 1: Revelation 1:1–8

1. We could read the first four words of Revelation as a title for the book or as a description of what is contained in it. The Greek word translated “revelation” is *apokalyptō*. Take a look at some other places a form of this word is used in the New Testament. What is revealed and by whom?
  - Matthew 11:27:
  - Matthew 16:16–17:
  - 2 Corinthians 12:1–3:
  - Galatians 1:12, 15–16:
2. How does this help clarify what the word “apocalypse” means in Revelation 1:1?
3. Revelation 1:1 describes the chain of communication by which the content of the book of Revelation came to be written. Trace the delivery of the revelation from source to recipients.
4. How is this chain of communication and the content of the communication re-affirmed at the end of the book in Revelation 22:6, 8, and 16?

5. Revelation 1:3 says, “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear.” What does this indicate about how the first audience will experience the content of Revelation?
  
6. Revelation 1:3 also says that those who are blessed are those who “hear and who keep what is written in it.” What do you think that means, and what does it tell you about the content of this letter?
  
7. We’re going to discover that the number seven is used a significant number of times in the book of Revelation (over fifty times) and has significant symbolic meaning. Beginning with the seven days of creation, the number seven is identified throughout Scripture with something being “finished” or “complete.” In verse 4, John addresses the letter of Revelation to “the seven churches that are in Asia.” We know that there were more than seven churches in Asia. So what might John be seeking to communicate by addressing this letter to seven churches?
  
8. This book is a revelation from Jesus, but it also is a revelation of Jesus. What do you find in verses 5–7 about who Jesus is, what he has done, and what he will do?

Who he is:

What he has done:

What he will do:

9. Which one or two of these aspects of who Jesus is, what he has done and what he will do is particularly meaningful to you and why?

10. Two times in this passage (v. 4, 8) God is called or calls himself, “him who is and who was and who is to come.” This phrase will appear two more times in Revelation. How do you think it helps those who hear the message of Revelation to hear it as coming from “he who is and who was and who is to come”?

11. We’re going to discover throughout Revelation that John, who was thoroughly steeped in the writings of the Old Testament, often draws upon Old Testament texts without quoting them exactly. In what phrases from Revelation 1:1-8 do you see allusions to the following Old Testament texts?

Old Testament Referent	Revelation Allusion
Exodus 3:14: “God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’”	1:4: “him who is and who was and who is to come”
Isaiah 11:2 “And the Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.”	1:4:
Psalm 89:27, 36–37 “And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth. ...His offspring shall endure forever, his throne as long as the sun before me. Like the moon it shall be established forever, a faithful witness in the skies.”	1:5:

<p>Exodus 19:6  “...and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.”</p>	<p>1:6:</p>
<p>Daniel 7:13  “I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.”</p>	<p>1:7:</p>
<p>Zechariah 12:10  “...when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.”</p>	<p>1:7:</p>
<p>Isaiah 41:4  “Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.”</p>	<p>1:8:</p>