

The Book of The
Revelation
of St. John the Divine

The title of the Book of Revelation was translated from the Greek word, "***Apocalypses***". The word can be broken down into two Greek words, giving us a better understanding of the books' intent. "***Apo***", meaning removal or separation and "***Kalypsis***", meaning to cover, hide, or veil. Thus we have the removal of the hidden, an uncovering if you will.

The following script is a personal journal of my study of the book of Revelation. I desired to better understand this very interesting section of scripture. In my attempts to understand some of John symbolic truths, I tried to reference only accepted church publication and scripture; however, being a personal account of the book my own opinions are sometimes included. These opinions should be taken as such. Let us begin with the beginning.

Chapter 1

John introduces this book. He addresses it to the seven (7) churches in Euro-Asia, and bears testimony of Jesus Christ. He tells of an experience he had with a visitation of the Savior.

Verses 1-3: John, who has been identified as John the beloved, the disciple that Christ loved (*1 Nephi 14:18-27, Doctrine and Covenants 20:35; 77:1-5*), uses the first three verses to introduce his purpose for writing. He clarifies that this book contains a knowledge of things that will shortly come to pass. It also stands as a testimony of Jesus Christ. What else could we expect from an apostle of the Lord and second counselor in the Presidency of the church? He goes on to state that those who read the words of the book and follow the teachings it contains will be blessed.

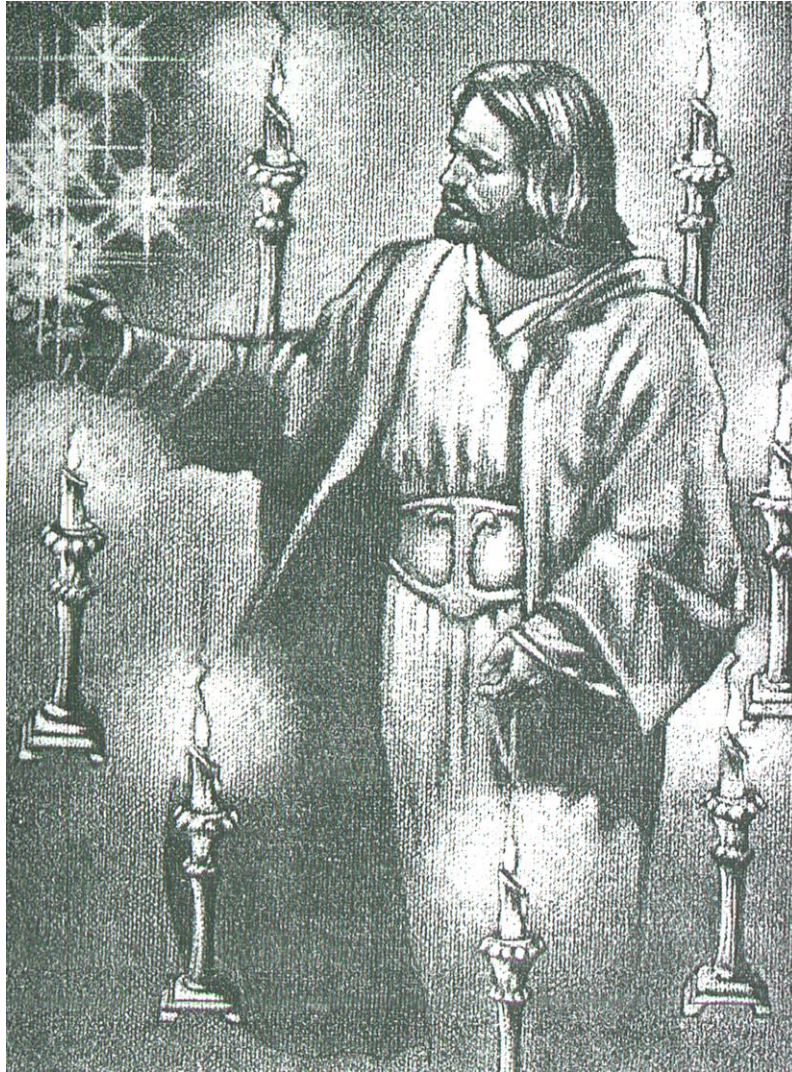
Verses 4-8: In verse four, John begins to address letters to the seven churches in Euro-Asia. Not only does he send his greetings to the saints in that area, but he sends the greetings of the Savior. He bears a testimony of the Savior that testifies that Christ loves us. He testifies that not only did he love us enough to wash away our sins through his own blood, but he has gone on and made it possible for us to become Kings and Priest (note the association with the Temple) unto the Most High. John closes his testimony by assuring the saints that Christ will return. He also notes how wonderful that day will be.

Verses 9-10: At this point John tells the seven churches that he understands their trials, he calls himself a "*Brother and Companion in Tribulation*". Who could argue? After all he was writing from a prison on the isle of Patmos, where he was banished for life because of his conviction in Christ. It is no doubt that his banishment was part of the Roman persecution of the Christians. It must have been quite comforting for the saints not only to hear from John, but to then hear what he had to say next. He went on to say that one Sabbath day under his banishment he received a revelation, and that revelation was the purpose of his writing. What a testimony, that despite the attempts of man to hinder the work of God, His work will not be hindered. John goes on to describe his experience. He says that a loud voice came to him. He compares the voice to a trumpet, which I find quite fitting since the sounds of trumps symbolize the introduction of Royalty.

Verse 11: The voice introduces itself as "*Alpha and Omega*", the first and the last. In 3 Nephi, chapter 9, verse 18, Christ uses the same phrase in identifying himself to the Nephites. "*Alpha*" is the first letter in the Greek alphabet and "*Omega*" is the last. The phrase is used in reference to Christ's eternal nature. After Christ's introduction, He commanded John to write down all the things he was to hear and see. He was then commanded to send the writings to the seven (7) churches in Euro-Asia. The book of Revelation is actually a copy of the letter sent to the churches. The churches were specifically located in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrne, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.



Verses 12-16: It becomes evident that though John heard the Saviors' voice, his eyes had not yet seen Him. It is recorded that he turns around to see the person behind the voice. John recounts what must have been a sight beyond description with a very symbolic accounting. He says he saw seven (7) golden candle sticks and in the center of the candles he saw Christ clothed in a full white robe with a golden girdle.



The robe is symbol of wholeness, with the addition of white indicating perfect wholeness. The girdle is a symbol of strength and the color gold indicates royalty. John went on to describe the Lord's appearance. He said His hair was white and His eyes were flaming. The white hair symbolizes purity and both eyes and flames symbolize power. He said that in Christ's right hand were seven stars. In verse

20, the Lord himself clarifies the meaning behind the candlesticks and the stars. He said the Candlesticks represent the seven (7) churches and the stars represent the leader, or servant of each church. It is interesting that the Lord likens the leaders with servants. John said the Lords' tongue was as a two-edged sword and his countenance shone as the sun. The symbol of the tongue being as a two-edged sword is often used in the Doctrine and Covenants. The tongue symbolizes the word of the Lord, with the sword representing the strength and power that lie in his word. The symbolism used to describe the Lords' countenance was the brightest thing John knew, the sun. The sun is often used to describe greatness, glory, and power. All of which could be used to describe the Lords' countenance.

Verses 17-18: After this marvelous experience, John recorded that he fainted only to be raised by the right hand of the Lord. The Lord identified himself again, and testifies of the power He possesses.

Verses 19-20: John is again commanded to write down all that he has and will be shown. The Lord gives John the meaning behind the candlesticks and stars as previously stated.

I believe the first chapter points out some very important parallels. First, the Lord watches over the church and did watch over the church in Johns' time. He stands in the midst of it as was symbolized by his standing in the midst of the seven (7) candlesticks. He also guides the church leaders. They are in a sense in His hands, as the stars being in the right hand of the Lord. I am sure that the Lord wanted to convey that message to a very troubled church. We can also feel safe knowing that the same is true today.