

Book of Revelation Class
Chapter 1 summary from the *Apocalypse Revealed*

The contents of the whole chapter: That this Revelation is from the Lord alone, and that it is received by those who will be in His New Church, which is the New Jerusalem, and acknowledge the Lord as the God of heaven and earth; the Lord is also described as to the Word.

The contents of each verse:

Verse 1. "The Revelation of Jesus Christ" signifies predictions from the Lord concerning Himself and His Church, what the latter will be in its end, and what it will be afterwards. "Which God gave unto Him to show unto His servants," signifies for those who are in faith from charity. "Things which must shortly come to pass," signifies that they will certainly be, lest the Church perish. "And He signified, sending by His angel, to His servant John," signifies the things which are revealed by the Lord through heaven to those who are in the good of life from charity and its faith.

Verse 2. "Who testified the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ," signifies, who from the heart and thus in the light receive Divine truth from the Word, and acknowledge the Lord's Human to be Divine. "Whatsoever he saw," signifies their enlightenment in all the things which are in this Revelation.

Verse 3. "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of the prophecy, and keep the things written therein," signifies the communion of those with the angels of heaven, who live according to the Doctrine of the New Jerusalem. "For the time is near," signifies that the state of the Church is such that it can no longer continue so as to have conjunction with the Lord.

Verse 4. "John to the seven churches," signifies to all who are in the Christian world, where the Word is, and by it the Lord is known, and who draw near to the Church. "Which are in Asia," signifies to those who are in the light of truth from the Word. "Grace be unto you, and peace," signifies the Divine salutation. "From Him who is, and who was, and who is to come," signifies from the Lord, who is eternal and infinite, and Jehovah. "And from the seven spirits who are before His throne," signifies from the whole heaven, where the Lord is in His Divine truth.

Verse 5. "From Jesus Christ," signifies the Divine Human. "The faithful witness," signifies that He is the Divine truth itself. "The first-born from the dead," signifies that He is also the Divine good itself. "And the Prince of the earth," signifies from whom is all truth from good in the church. "That loveth us, and washeth us from our sins," signifies who from love and mercy reforms and regenerates men by His Divine truths from the Word.

Verse 6. "And He maketh us kings and priests," signifies who gives to those who are born of Him, that is, regenerated, to be in wisdom from Divine truths and in love from Divine goods. "Unto God and His Father," signifies and thus images of His Divine wisdom and His Divine love. "To Him be glory and might into the ages of ages," signifies who alone has Divine majesty and Divine omnipotence to eternity. "Amen," signifies the Divine confirmation from truth, thus from Himself.

Verse 7. "And He cometh with the clouds of heaven," signifies that the Lord will reveal Himself in the literal sense of the Word, and will open its spiritual sense, at the end of the church. "And every eye shall see Him," signifies that all will acknowledge Him, who, from affection, are in the understanding of Divine truth. "And they who pierced Him," signifies that they also will see, who are in falsities in the church. "And all the tribes of the earth shall wail," signifies that this will be when there are no longer any goods and truths in the church. "Even so, Amen," signifies the Divine confirmation that thus it will be.

Verse 8. "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End," signifies Who is the Self-existing and the Only from firsts to ultimates, from Whom all things are; thus who is Love Itself and the Only Love, Wisdom Itself and the Only Wisdom, and Life Itself and the Only Life in Himself, and thus the Creator Himself and the only Creator, Savior, and Enlightener from Himself, and thence the All in all of heaven and the church. "Saith the Lord, who is, and who was, and who is to come," signifies who is eternal and infinite, and Jehovah. "The Almighty," signifies who is, lives, and has power, from Himself, and who governs all things from firsts by ultimates.

Verse 9. "I, John, who am your brother and companion," signifies those who are in the good of charity and thence in the truths of faith. "In affliction, and in the kingdom, and the patient expectation of Jesus Christ," signifies who in the church are infested by evils and falsities, but these are to be removed by the Lord, when He comes. "I was in the island called Patmos," signifies a state and place in which he could be enlightened. "For the Word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ," signifies in order that the Divine truth from the Word may be received from the heart and thus in the light, and that the Lord's Human may be acknowledged to be Divine.

Verse 10. "I became in the Spirit on the Lord's day," signifies a spiritual state at that time from Divine influx. "And I heard behind me a great voice as of a trumpet," signifies the manifest perception of Divine truth revealed from heaven.

Verse 11. "Saying, I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," signifies who is the Self-existing and the Only from firsts to ultimates, from whom all things are; and more as above. "What thou seest write in a book" signifies that they might be revealed to posterity. "And send unto the churches that are in Asia," signifies for those in the Christian world who are in the light of truth from the Word. "Unto Ephesus and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia and unto Laodicea," signifies in particular according to the state of each one's reception.

Verse 12. "And I turned to see the voice which was speaking with me," signifies the inversion of the state of those who are in the good of life as to the perception of truth in the Word, when they turn themselves to the Lord. "And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands," signifies the New Church which will be in enlightenment from the Lord out of the Word.

Verse 13. "And in the midst of the seven lampstands One like unto the Son of Man," signifies the Lord as to the Word, from whom is that church. "Clothed with a garment down to the foot," signifies the proceeding Divine, which is the Divine truth. "And girded at the paps with a golden girdle," signifies the proceeding and at the same time conjoining Divine, which is the Divine good.

Verse 14. "And His head and hairs were white as wool, like snow," signifies the Divine love of the Divine wisdom in firsts and in ultimates. "And His eyes as a flame of fire," signifies the Divine wisdom of the Divine love.

Verse 15. "And His feet like unto fine brass, as if glowing in a furnace," signifies the Divine good natural. "And His voice as the voice of many waters," signifies the Divine truth natural.

Verse 16. "And having in His right hand seven stars," signifies all the knowledges of good and truth in the Word from Him. "And out of His mouth a sharp two-edged sword going forth," signifies the dispersion of falsities by the Lord through the Word and through doctrine therefrom. "And His face was as the sun shining in power," signifies the Divine love and the Divine wisdom, which are Himself, and proceed from Him.

Verse 17. "And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead," signifies the failing of his own life from such presence of the Lord. "And He laid His right hand upon me," signifies life then inspired from Him. "Saying unto me, Fear not," signifies resuscitation, and adoration then from the deepest humiliation. "I am the First and the Last," signifies that He is Eternal and Infinite, and thus the Only God.

Verse 18. "And am He that is living," signifies who alone is life, and from whom alone life is. "And was dead," signifies that He was neglected in the church, and His Divine Human not acknowledged. "And behold, I am alive for ages of ages," signifies that He is life eternal. "Amen," signifies the Divine confirmation that it is the truth. "And I have the keys of Hell and of death," signifies that He alone can save.

Verse 19. "Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter," signifies in order that all the things which are now revealed may be for posterity.

Verse 20. "The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden lampstands," signifies arcana in the visions concerning the New Heaven and the New Church. "The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches," signifies the New Church in the heavens, which is the New Heaven. "And the seven lampstands which thou sawest are the seven churches," signifies the New Church on earth, which is the New Jerusalem descending from the Lord out of the New Heaven.