

The Book of Revelation

Week Two: Revelation chapter 1

- We discussed the portions of the letter that connected with the history we shared in lesson one
- We discussed in detail the vision of Jesus Christ that John sees in this passage. Most notable points are as follows:
 - We have **never** seen Jesus this powerful before.
 - His visage is full of light, fire, strong as metal, holds the stars in his hands, and his very words are swords. The point is driven home symbol after symbol, this is the *son of God*.
 - Wearing your sash up high on your chest in the ancient world, instead of at your waist (where you can gird up the rest of your garment) means that *you have finished your work*. The shirt is untucked, the comfy clothes are on, *you are done*.
 - White hair means age, experience, and a completed run. This is Jesus the Senior Citizen (so to speak). Again an image of completion.
 - Seven is the Biblical number for a “complete set” or “the whole thing”
 - In the seven stars and seven lampstands you see a complete set of churches, of angels of the churches, and arguably of the cosmos itself.
 - He holds the keys of Death and Hell in his hands.
 - He has entered the realm of the dead and the damned, conquered its master, and gained the ability to *leave* the ultimate prison.
- As you read this, each symbol should resonate with POWER, over and over. The point is made, he is first and he is last, he IS.
- We discussed how important it was to understand that Christ *has already won*, that the God that the Christians in the first century serve, is the one *who wins*.
- Interesting scriptures to look up to enhance your read:
 - Take a look at the one time that Christ has appeared in a form somewhat like this one. It's called the *Transfiguration* and was revealed only to Peter, James, and John
 - Matthew 17:1-13
 - Mark 9:2-13
 - Luke 9:28-36
 - 2 Peter 1:16-18