Introduction to Revelation Part 1:

Lessons from the Seven Churches of the First Century

**Summary:** John's visions reveal that Jesus has overcome evil by His death and resurrection and will return one day triumphantly as King of all creation permanently removing all evil

**Purpose:** Revelation was written to seven churches as both encouragement and challenge. To show His servants in every age, what must take place between the first and second coming of Christ

**John the Apostle:** Wrote Revelation in times of great tribulation**.** Nero and Domitian

**Method of communication noted in Revelation:** Prophecies through visions, with symbolic images, and numbers that echo prophecies in OT. A cosmic pageant interpreted by celestial speakers all with the same message.

**Revelation**: Greek word – *apokalypsis,* an unveiling or disclosing of a reality that previously not perceived from God through Christ communicated by John not the way the world uses “apocalypse”

**Verse 1:** 3 Key Words: “Show” (to make known) to His servants what must take place between the first and second coming of Christ. Events will come “shortly” – at any time; “signified” or revealed

**Verse 2-3:** 3 Key Words: Trust God for understanding when you “read” / study this book. Prophecy proclaimed aloud for us to “hear”, expectation to “keep” or obey the Word with urgency not because of the impending day in history but rather it is urgent that we obey.

**Verse 4:** Seven Spirits picture of the “perfect Holy Spirit”

**Verse 5:** 3 Key Words: His sacrifice, resurrection, and reign. A new leader will assume King David’s role.

**Verse 6**: Jesus sacrifice has given to all believers the privileges promised by God to Moses. Exodus 19:5-6 NKJV

**Verse 7-8:** “He is coming with clouds” - judgment to be actual, personal, and visible to all. All tribes will mourn. God seals the prophesy with his authority and name first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. Almighty = His power is absolute.

**Verse 9-10:** Companion in the tribulation or persecution present sense**.** John was in the Spirit received a supernatural revelation. Trumpet sounded was an announcement of significance.

**Verse 11-12:** Golden lampstands represent the 7 churches each as a light in a dark world.

**Verse 13-15**: Clothing symbolized priestly authority. White hair/flaming eyes – eternity, wisdom, omniscience. Fine brass – Immutability and omnipotence. “Many waters” meaning authority.

**Verse 16-17:** Right hand seven stars likely guardian angels (pastors) assigned to the churches. Two-edged sword is His word. Countenance suggesting indescribable glory and majesty, holiness.

**Verse 18:** Christ is in charge over the realm of life and death. The power of Satan released after man’s original sin has now been curbed. Matt 16:17-18 Keys lock and unlock doors, Jesus is giving disciples the authority to open the doors to heaven and invite others to enter. Likewise, those who continued to harden their hearts and reject the gospel of God’s saving grace were locked out of the Kingdom