

What did a priest do in the Old Testament? Read Hebrews 8:3 (1511).

How are we priests? What do we offer to God? Read Romans 12:1 (1423).

#### Revelation 1:7-8.

We see another name used for God in verse 8. The Lord God is the “\_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.” What does that mean?

#### Revelation 1:9-20.

Where was John? Why was he on Patmos?

When you think of Jesus, what does He look like? When John saw Jesus, what did Jesus look like? Which is true?

What happened to John when he saw Jesus?

Why did John not have to fear? What does Jesus have? Also, how is Jesus’ name like God the Father’s name?

#### ***To Think About...***

Think about the names we saw for God the Father and for Jesus. Is there anything God doesn’t know or can’t do? Does that scare you, or give you peace? Why?

# The Book of Revelation God’s Picture of History and Heaven

*Lesson 1, Chapter 1:1-20*

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#### ***Why study the book of Revelation?***

We study this book because it is God’s word. Through all the Bible, God talks to us and shows us His love and His plan to save us. Many people misunderstand the message of Revelation and they make people afraid. We want to study this book to see what God will teach us.

#### ***Who wrote Revelation?***

Rev. 1:2-3 says John wrote this book. The church has almost always said this is John the Apostle, the same man who wrote the Gospel of John and the three other letters in the New Testament, 1, 2 & 3 John.

#### ***Why did John write the book?***

When John wrote the book (around 95 A.D.), Christians were getting persecuted. John wrote the book to encourage them that God is in control. They didn’t need to be afraid. While we study, we should always look to see how God is still in control.

Some people think John wrote this book to talk about the future. Read John 5:39. Who does the whole Bible talk about? Read Revelation 1:1. Who is the book of Revelation about?

## ***Different Views about Revelation***

There are many ways of interpreting Revelation. We can't fully explain each way, but these questions will help you understand the differences.

1. What about numbers and strange images, like a dragon and 1,000 years?
  - A. Interpret literal meaning. A dragon means a dragon. 1,000 years means 1,000 years.
  - B. Some things are symbols. A dragon means the devil. 1,000 years means until that time is finished.
2. When does Revelation happen?
  - A. Finished happening in the past.
  - B. Happening in the past, now and in future.
  - C. Only happens at end of world, in the future.
3. How does John tell the story in Revelation?
  - A. One long story.
  - B. He repeats one story several times.

Different churches answer those questions differently. So they interpret Revelation different ways. We believe some things in Revelation are literal and some are symbols. We believe (1) B, (2) B, (3) B.

Now we will begin studying the book itself.

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### ***To Begin...***

Suppose you lived in the Midwest all your life and you never saw a mountain or a picture of a mountain.

Can I easily describe a mountain for you? Why or why not? How is that like John writing this book?

### Revelation 1:1-3.

Jesus told someone about future events. Who?

How soon will those things happen?

### Revelation 1:4-6.

John wrote this letter to whom?

In verse 4, what is God the Father's name? Look at Exodus 3:14-15 (68). How is God's name in Revelation like God's name in the Old Testament?

Who is/are the "Seven Spirits?"

How does John describe Jesus (vs. 5-6)?

1. The \_\_\_\_\_.
2. The \_\_\_\_\_ One.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ to come back to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ over the kings of the earth.
5. The One who \_\_\_\_\_ us.
6. The One who \_\_\_\_\_ us from our sins.
7. The One who made us a \_\_\_\_\_,  
\_\_\_\_\_ for God His Father.