

BACK TO THE FUTURE

REVELATION 1:4-20

Revelation means to “uncover” or “unveil”

- **Author:** John the Beloved
- **Date for writing:** 95-96 AD
 - **Place:** Island of Patmos

I. The Salutation (1:4-8)

- This book is from the **HOLY TRINITY** to the Church.
- This book is written to seven churches in Asia Minor (chapters 2 & 3).
- “Firstborn from dead” means Jesus is now sovereign over death! (Hope for humanity)
 - Kings & Priest are two critical roles in O.T.

II. The Most Certain Event (1:7-8)

(Five Truths about His second coming:)

1. It's Surety: "Behold, He is Coming!"
2. It's Glory: "with clouds" (Acts 1:9-11)
3. It's Scope: "every eye will see Him..."
4. It's Response: "Rejoicing by those Saved; weeping by those Lost."
5. It's Certainty: The Almighty Guarantee!

III. The Setting of the Vision (1:9-11)

- A.** John says that he is exiled for three things as a Christian:
- Because of following Jesus
 - Because of the love for God's Word
 - Because of the testimony of Jesus
- B.** The trumpet is used to get ones attention for worship or for battle (Num. 10:1-3,9).
- C.** The seven churches represent every known spiritual deficiency that can affect the Christian church.

IV. The Cause of the Vision (1:12-16, 20)

A. The lamp stand represented Israel in the OT & the Church in the NT.

“The Church stands in continuity with ancient Israel as the true fulfillment of Judaism.”

B. Jesus is the Son of Man. This title is the same one used in Daniel, and is Jesus’ favorite self-title.

C. As John describes Jesus, we see that He fulfills the role as Prophet, Priest, and King.

V. The Effects of the Vision (1:17-19)

A. Fear: John fell over like a dead man!

(See Joshua 5:14, Matt. 17:6, Acts 9:4)

B. Assurance: “Don’t be afraid” was to reassure John and Christians that we need not fear because of Who we serve is Greater than anything!

C. This book is divided into three sections: **Past** (1:12-16), **Present** (ch. 2-3), and **Future** (ch. 4-22)