

“LETTERS FROM JESUS” [Rightly Dividing the Word of Truth]

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January 18, 2026

INTRO: We’re going to begin a new series on the seven letters to the churches in Revelation 2-3. A sub theme will be *“rightly dividing the word of truth”* (2Tim. 2:15). First, we will take 2-3 weeks to work our way through Revelation chapter 1.

I. THE TITLE OF THE BOOK

“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, ...” (Rev. 1:1a)

A. The book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ.

1. The Gospels:

- a. From Jesus’ birth to His ascension.
- b. Covers the 33 ½ years of Jesus in human form.
- c. Jesus as Son of Man.
- d. Jesus as He was.

2. Revelation (Rev. 17:14; 19:10):

- a. From Jesus’ ascension throughout eternity.
- b. Jesus as the Conquering King of kings and Lord of lords.
- c. Jesus as He is now and will be forever.

B. **“Revelation”** – Greek: *“apokalypsis”* – a revealing.

II. THE TRANSMISSION OF THE BOOK (Rev. 1:1-2)

A. From God the Father to Jesus Christ.

B. From Jesus Christ to an angel.

C. From the angel to John.

D. From John to the 7 churches (Rev. 1:4).

III. THE GENRE [type of literature] OF THE BOOK

A. We should interpret books consistent with their type of literature.

B. Revelation’s message is largely given through symbolism (Rev. 1:1b).

C. We’re not to interpret symbolic language literally, but we’re to interpret the meaning of the symbols literally.

EXAMPLES OF SCRIPTURES THAT ARE SYMBOLIC RATHER THAN LITERAL: John 16:26, 29; Num. 13:27; Ps. 23:1-2, 5; 91:1, 4 (Matt. 23:37); Ps. 91:13; Ps. 129:3

IV. THE THEME OF THE BOOK

*“The Revelation of Jesus Christ, ... to show His servants--things which must **shortly** take place ... for the time is **near.**”* (Rev. 1:1, 3b; see also Rev. 22:6, 10)

A. The book of Revelation is a revelation of Jesus Christ.

B. The book of Revelation was written to show his servants things which shortly take place!

CONCLUSION: As we read the book of Revelation, let’s pursue a revelation of Jesus Christ – as He is today and throughout eternity – the Conquering King of kings and Lord of lords!