



The Revelation of Jesus Christ

SECTION ONE – PREAMBLE: JOHN'S VISION
OF THE SON OF MAN

CHAPTER ONE

Preamble: John's Vision of the Son of Man (Revelation 1:1-20)

REVELATION 1:1-20



Definition

pre·am·ble

noun

1. a preliminary or preparatory statement; an introduction.

"what she said was by way of a preamble"

•LAW

the introductory part of a statute or deed, stating its purpose, aims, and justification.

Preamble to the Constitution of the United States

“We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”



*Let us worship
and Bow down
Let us Kneel
before the
Lord our Maker.
Psalm 95:6*

The Purpose of the [Covenant] Preamble

1. Proclaim the Lordship of the Great King
2. Declaring His transcendence and immanence
3. Making it clear from the outset that his will is to be obeyed by the vassals, his servants

(Vengeance¹ – pp. 49, ¶ 2; Treaty² – pp. 27ff)

Prologue (1:1-3)

Verses	Purpose	Answer
1a	Identity of the Prophecy	The Revelation of Jesus Christ
1b	Identify the Purpose	which God gave Him to show His servants things which must shortly take place
1c	Identify the Prophet	He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John

The First Blessing

1. Who are the **primary recipients** of the book of Revelation?
2. Why are those who read, hear and keep the words of this prophecy?

“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.”

(Revelation 1:3 NKJV)

The Seven Blessings

1. (Rev 1:3 NKJV) Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.
2. (Rev 14:13 NKJV) Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."
3. (Rev 16:15 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed *is* he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame."
4. (Rev 19:9 NKJV) Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God."
5. (Rev 20:6 NKJV) Blessed and holy *is* he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.
6. (Rev 22:7 NKJV) "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."
7. (Rev 22:14 NKJV) Blessed *are* those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city.

Greetings to the Seven Churches (1:4-8)

Verses	Purpose	Answer
4a	Identify the Prophet	John
4b	Identify the Vassal (and more broadly the Lord's church)	To the seven churches who are in Asia
4c-6	Identify the Suzerain	The Godhead
7-8	Identify the coming event	Behold He is coming with the clouds

Identity of the Suzerain

1. God the Father
2. The Holy Spirit
3. The Lord Jesus Christ

“... Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.” (1:4–6 NKJV)

Identity of the Coming Event

1. Who is coming?
2. Who will see?

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. **"I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End,"** says the Lord, **"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."**

(1:7–8 NKJV)

Clouds an Image of Judgment

Reference	Quotation
Exodus 13:21-22	The LORD went before them in a pillar of cloud by day
Exodus 14:19-20, 24	And the pillar of cloud went from before them and moved
Exodus 19:9, 16-19	Behold, I come to you in the thick cloud
Psa 18:8-14	His canopy around Him was dark waters and thick clouds
Psa 104:3	Who makes the clouds His chariot
Isaiah 19:1	the burden against Egypt, the LORD rides on a swift cloud
Nahum 1:3	And the clouds are the dust of His feet
Daniel 7:9-10; 13-14	READ and note the description of Christ



“Coming with the Clouds”

(Dan 7:13 NKJV) “... behold, *One* like the Son of Man, Coming with the clouds of

(Mat 24:30 NKJV) ...they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

(Mat 26:64 NKJV) Jesus said to him,...you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

(Mar 13:26 NKJV) Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory.

(Mar 14:62 NKJV) Jesus said, "I am. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven."

(Rev 1:7 NKJV) Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen.

Identity of the Coming Event

1. Who is coming?
2. Who will see?
3. Who will mourn because of Him?
4. Even so, Amen.
5. Who is the Alpha and the Omega?
6. Who is speaking?

“Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. **"I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End,"** says the Lord, **"who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."**

(1:7–8 NKJV)

The Occasion of the Vision (1:9)

1. The Prophet and Scribe

- a. John, your brother and
- b. A companion in
 - a. the tribulation and
 - b. kingdom and
 - c. patience of Jesus Christ

2. The Location

- a. The island that is called Patmos
- b. For the word of God and
- c. For the testimony of Jesus Christ

I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

(Rev 1:9 NKJV)

John's Vision of the Son of Man (1:9-20)

John Hears the Lord Jesus

(10) I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, (11) saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."
(1:10-11 NKJV)

John's Vision of the Son of Man (1:9-20)

John *Hears* the Lord Jesus

John *Sees* the Lord Jesus

Note: This is a subtle pattern recurring within Revelation.

- John hears something
- John turns and sees something

1. "I turned to see, and I saw... vs. 12
2. In the midst of the seven lampstands, One like the Son of Man, - vs. 13
3. He had in His right hand seven stars – vs. 16
4. Out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword – vs. 16
5. Countenance was like the sun shining in its strength – vs. 16
6. "I am the First and the Last.. – vs. 17
7. "I am He who lives and was dead and behold I am alive evermore, and I have the keys to Hades and of Death – vs. vs. 18

John's Vision of the Son of Man (1:9-20)

John *Hears* the Lord Jesus

John *Sees* the Lord Jesus

1. “Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.” –vs. 19



The First Mystery Explained

“The mystery of the seven stars which are in the right hand of the seven golden lampstands are the seven churches.” - vs. 20

Note: This is the first symbolism in Revelation and the first explicit explanation.

Bibliography

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2. Kline, Meredith G. *Treaty of the Great King: The Covenant Structure of Deuteronomy: Studies and Commentary*, Eugene, OR, 1963
3. Chilton, David. *The Days of Vengeance: An exposition of the book of Revelation*, Horn Lake, MI: Dominion Press*, 2006

* Dominion Press books are available free of charge at www.freebooks.com/