

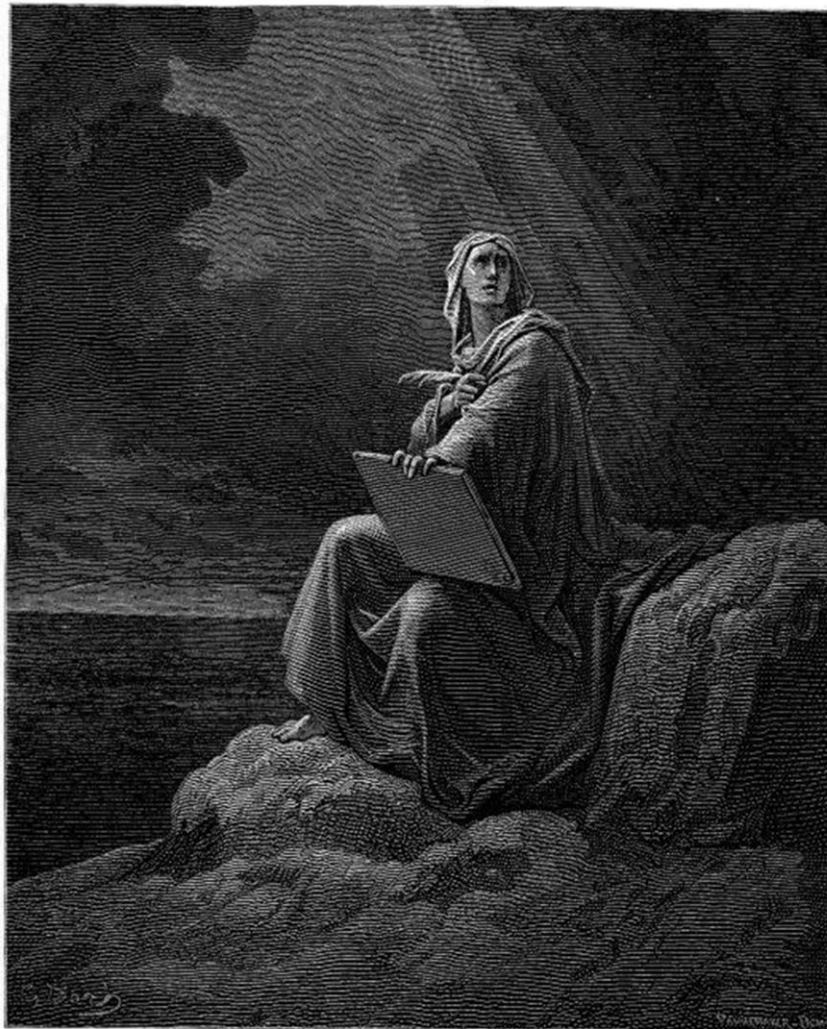
Chapter One

The Things Which You Have Seen

(Revelation 1:1-20)

The book of Revelation was written by John the apostle. Most scholars put the date of the book of Revelation around **(96AD)** during the reign of Domitian which is the more popular date as compared to **(68 AD)** during the reign of Nero. John already saw Jesus transfigured once along with Peter and James. Nothing could have prepared John for what he saw in Revelation.

"St. John at Patmos" by Gustave Doré



Rev 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.

Mark 9:2-3 (NKJV) ²Now after six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John, and led them up on a high mountain apart by themselves; and **He was transfigured before them.**³**His clothes became shining, exceedingly white, like snow, such as no launderer on earth can whiten them.**

I. The Prologue (Rev. 1:1-8)

Revelation 1:1-8(NKJV) ¹The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His **servants (doulos)** —things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, ²who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. ³Blessed *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. ⁴John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: 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, ⁵and 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, ⁶and has made us [€]kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. ⁷Behold, 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. ⁸“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.” **(Words in brackets are added by me)**

I. The Revelation of Jesus, the unveiling of who He is. (1:1a)

Revelation 1:1 (NKJV) ¹**The Revelation of Jesus Christ**, which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John,

The second coming of Jesus will be so different from His first coming when His glory was veiled. He came the first time to a crucifixion; He is coming again to a coronation. He came the first time in shame; He is coming again in splendor. He came the first time to a tree; He is coming again to a throne. He came the first time and stood before Pilate; He is coming again and Pilate will stand before Him to be judged. He came the first time as a servant; He is coming again as a sovereign.¹

Servant in verse 1 is the Greek word **doulos**, which means “bond slave” - these are those who willingly become the slaves of the Lord Jesus Christ. God has chosen to show us. The Holy Trinity never has to meet in an emergency session. God is in control, and His will most certainly will come to pass.

¹ Adrian Rodgers, *Unveiling The End Times In Our Time*, (B&H Publishing Group, 2004) Pg.3

II. Divine source. (1:1b)

Revelation 1:1 (NKJV) ¹ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, **which God gave Him to show His servants--things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified it by His angel to His servant John,**

John 15:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

Amos 3:7 (NKJV) ⁷ Surely the Lord GOD does nothing, Unless He reveals His secret to His servants the prophets.

III. John's an eyewitness to what he is writing. (1:2)

Revelation 1:2 (NKJV) ² **who bore witness** to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw.

IV. There are blessings to those who read, hear and take to heart the things that he is writing. (1:3)

A. Revelation 1:3 (NKJV) ³ **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.

B. Revelation 14:13 (NKJV) ¹³ 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."

C. Revelation 16:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ "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."

D. Revelation 19:9 (NKJV) ⁹ 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."

E. Revelation 20:6 (NKJV) ⁶ **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.

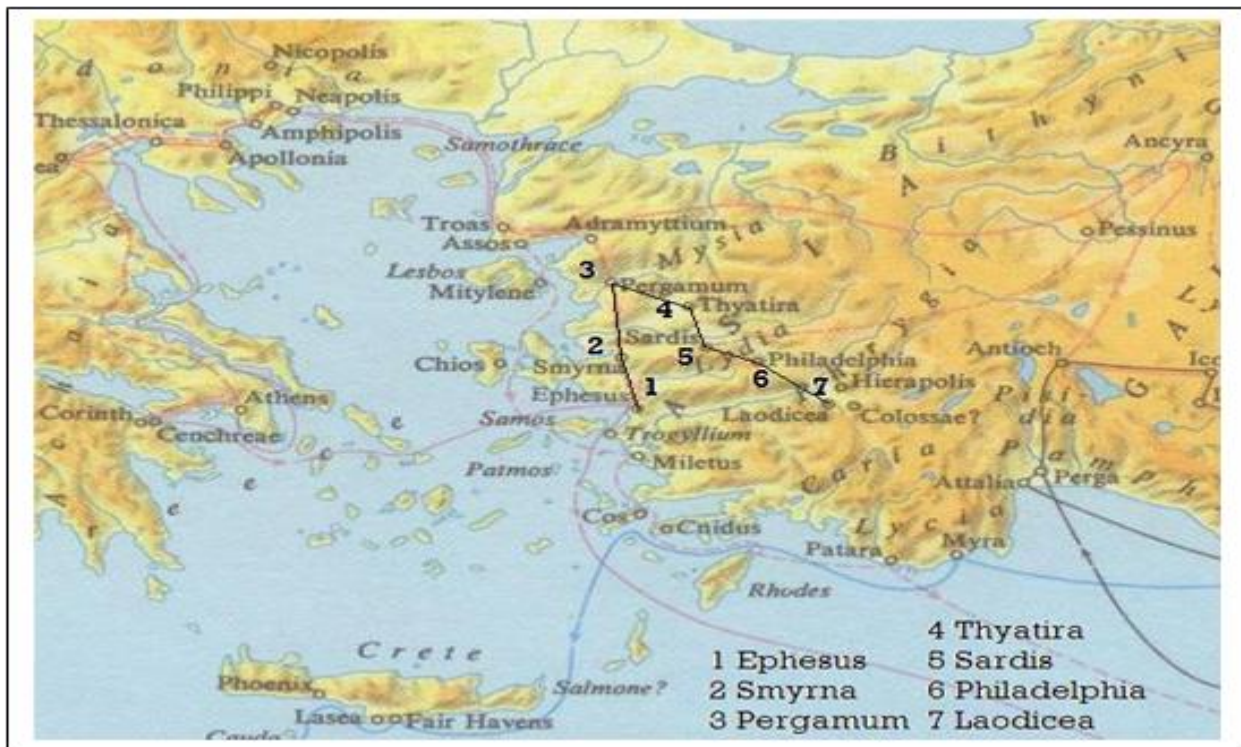
F. Revelation 22:7 (NKJV) ⁷ "Behold, I am coming quickly! **Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.**"

G. Revelation 22:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴ 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.

V. Seven local churches. (1:4)

Revelation 1:4 (NKJV) ⁴ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: 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,

A. Found in Asia Minor (Known as Turkey today, see map below)



VI. Greetings from: The Trinity. (1:4b-5)

Revelation 1:4-5 (NKJV) ⁴ John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: 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, ⁵ 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,

A. Who is, Who was, and Who is to come. The great "I AM", The Father, the eternally existent. (1:4b)

B. The "seven spirits." (1:4c)

1) Some manuscripts use the word sevenfold Spirit.

2) They are before His throne

C. Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, king of kings he is the ruler. (1:5a)

VII. Glory and power belong to Christ. (1:6c)

Revelation 1:6 (NKJV) ⁶ and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

A. He loves us (1:5b)

B. Freed us from our sins by His blood (1:5b)

C. Made us a kingdom (1:6a)

1 Peter 2:9 (NKJV) ⁹But you *are* a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; (Ref.)

D. Made us priests (1:6b)

E. To serve His God and Father (1:6b)

VIII. He is coming with the clouds. (1:7-8).

Revelation 1:7-8 (NKJV) ⁷ 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. ⁸ "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."

A. Every eye will see him. (1:7)

B. Those, which pierced him.

Zechariah 12:10(NKJV) ^{10c} And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only *son*, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

“The last time the Roman soldiers saw Jesus, they drove large spikes through his feet and hands. The last time the soldiers saw Jesus, He was hanging in shame, stripped naked before their eyes. The last time they saw Jesus, His hair was matted with crimson blood. The last time they saw him his eyes were filled with tears of love. The last time they saw Him they put a spear in His side. Humanity has a date with Jesus, and that humanity will wail when they see Him.”²

C. All the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. (1:7)

1) The above is talking about the Second Coming (*Zechariah 12:9-14*) not the **“Rapture.”**

First Thessalonians 4:16-18 (NKJV) ¹⁶For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸Therefore comfort one another with these words. **(This is speaking of the Rapture)** See also *1 Cor. 15:51-55*

Zec 14:4 (NKJV) ⁴ And in that day His feet will stand on the Mount of Olives, Which faces Jerusalem on the east. And the Mount of Olives shall be split in two, From east to west, *Making* a very large valley; Half of the mountain shall move toward the north And half of it toward the south. **(Second coming-Appearance)**

Matt 24:29-31 (NKJV) ²⁹“Immediately **after the tribulation of those days** the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. ³⁰Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. ³¹And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together **His elect** from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. **(Second Coming-Appearance)**

A. Remember Jesus left from the Mount of Olives.

Acts 1:10-11(NKJV) ¹⁰And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel,¹¹ who also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This *same* Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, **will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven.”**

² Adrian Rodgers, *Unveiling The End Times In Our Time*, (B&H Publishing Group, 2004) Pg.43

IX. The Father speaks. (1:8)

- A. He says He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.
- B. Who is, who was, and who is to come.

II. The Vision (1:9-18)

Revelation 1:9-18 (NKJV) ⁹ 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. 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." ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. ¹⁴ His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; ¹⁵ His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength. ¹⁷ And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I *am* He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death.

I. The reason for his imprisonment on the Island of Patmos. (1:9)

- A. He's our brother and companion.
- B. In the suffering, the kingdom, and patient endurance.
- C. Because of the word of God and testimony of Jesus Christ.

II. On the Lord's Day. (1:10)

- A. Many believe this is the first day of the week.
- B. Was in the Spirit.
- C. Heard a loud voice like a trumpet.

“Other scholars believe that the phrase “the Lord’s day” should be translated as the “day of the Lord.” Being “in the Spirit” can mean some unique endowment by which the Holy Spirit projected the mind of John forward into the future, as declared by the Old Testament prophets when they prophesied about the Day of the Lord. Isaiah 2:10-22, for example, is treated as a complete summary of Revelation 4 thru 19. John may have been carried forward in time by the Spirit to that awesome day, with its judgments, and was made to describe in detail what Daniel and other prophets had foreseen in general.

It may be that the solution can be found in harmonizing both views. While John was meditating on the Sabbath, the Spirit enabled him to look down the corridor of time and unfold the coming “day of the Lord.””³

III. Told him to write what you see. (1:11)

Revelation 1:11 (NKJV) 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."

A. Send it to the seven churches

- 1) Ephesus
- 2) Smyrna
- 3) Pergamum
- 4) Thyatira
- 5) Sardis
- 6) Philadelphia
- 7) Laodicea

IV. He turned around to see the voice that was speaking to him. (1:12)

Revelation 1:12 (NKJV) ¹² Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands,

A. He saw seven golden lampstands. (Identified in vs. 20 as the seven churches)

³ Herbert Lockyer, Revelation Drama of The Ages, (Whitaker House) Pg.53

V. He saw someone like the son of man. (1:13)

Revelation 1:13 (NKJV) ¹³ and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

A. Among the golden lampstands.

Matthew 28:20(NKJV) ²⁰teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.”[£]Amen.

John 14:18-23 (NKJV) ¹⁸I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. ¹⁹“A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. ²¹He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.” ²²Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?” ²³Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him.

B. Dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet. **(Priestly Position)**

C. Golden sash around his chest.

Exodus 28:4(NKJV) ⁴And these *are* the garments which they shall make: a breastplate, an [£]ephod, a robe, a skillfully woven tunic, a turban, and a sash. So they shall make holy garments for Aaron your brother and his sons, that he may minister to Me as priest.

Leviticus 16:4-5(NKJV) ⁴He shall put the holy linen tunic and the linen trousers on his body; he shall be girded with a linen sash, and with the linen turban he shall be attired. These *are* holy garments. Therefore he shall wash his body in water, and put them on. ⁵And he shall take from the congregation of the children of Israel two kids of the goats as a sin offering, and one ram as a burnt offering.

VI. His appearance. (1:14)

Revelation 1:14 (NKJV) ¹⁴His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire;

A. Hair like wool, as white as snow. (His deity affirmed, **Daniel 7:9** also shows His right to rule and judge)

Daniel 7:9 (NKJV) ⁹ "I watched till thrones were put in place, And the Ancient of Days was seated; His garment *was* white as snow, And the hair of His head *was* like pure wool. His throne *was* a fiery flame, Its wheels a burning fire;

B. His eyes were like blazing fire.

Matthew 10:26(NKJV) ²⁶ Therefore do not fear them. For there is nothing covered that will not be revealed, and hidden that will not be known.

Hebrews 4:13(NKJV) ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things *are* naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we *must give* account.

VII. His authority. (1:15-16)

Revelation 1:15-16 (NKJV) ¹⁵ His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; ¹⁶ He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.

A. His feet were like bronze. **(1:15a)**

1) Symbolizes his authority, authority to chastise.

1 Peter 4:17 (NKJV) ¹⁷ For the time *has come* for judgment to begin at the house of God; and if *it begins* with us first, what will *be* the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God?

B. His voice sounded like the rushing waters. **(1:15b)**

1) This also speaks of his authority. When he speaks the church has to listen.

Psalms 29:3-5 (NKJV) ³ The voice of the LORD *is* over the waters; The God of glory thunders; The LORD *is* over many waters. ⁴ The voice of the LORD *is* powerful; The voice of the LORD *is* full of majesty. ⁵ The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars, Yes, the LORD splinters the cedars of Lebanon.

Psalms 29:7-9 (NKJV) ⁷ The voice of the LORD divides the flames of fire. ⁸ The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness; The LORD shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. ⁹ The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth, And strips the forests bare; And in His temple everyone says, "Glory!"

C. In His hand he held seven stars. **(1:16a)**

1) Identified in vs. 20 as the **leaders** of the seven churches.

a) Christ is the head of the church

b) Not only for protection but also control.

Titus 1:5-9 (NKJV) ⁵ For this reason I left you in Crete, that you should set in order the things that are lacking, and appoint elders in every city as I commanded you-- ⁶ if a man is blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of dissipation or insubordination. ⁷ For a bishop must be blameless, as a steward of God, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not given to wine, not violent, **not greedy for money,** ⁸ but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober-minded, just, holy, self-controlled, ⁹ holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict.

D. Out of his mouth came a two edged sword. (1:16b)

1) The sword of justice for the protection of his church and destruction of His enemies.

Hebrews 4:12-13 (NKJV) ¹² For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. ¹³ And there is no creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.

E. His face was like the sun. (1:16c)

VIII. His presence. (1:17-18)

A. John couldn't take it all in. (1:17)

1) He fell down as dead

B. Christ strengthens him by placing his right hand on him with a touch of assurance. (1:17b-18)

1) Do not be afraid. (1:17c)

2) I am the First and the Last. (1:17d)

3) I am the Living One (1:18a)

4) I was dead but I am alive forever and ever (1:18b)

5) I have the keys of death and Hades (1:18c)

III. The Commission (1:19-20)

Revelation 1:19-20 (NKJV) ¹⁹ Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.

I. Tells John to write. (1:19-20)

A. The things which you have seen. (1:10-20)

1) Revelation of Christ

B. The things which are. (2:1-3:22)

2) The messages to the seven churches

C. The things which will take place after this. (4:1-22:21)

3) Future events that will unfold.