

THE REVELATION

To Him Who Loves Us

Revelation 1: 4-8

Verses 4-8 give as John's general introduction to the Revelation, and to the seven churches in particular. This paragraph is remarkable in many ways for the things it reveals about God. It is especially remarkable in what it reveals about Jesus Christ. John has a very great reverence for and focus upon Christology—we will learn a great deal about Jesus, the Eternal I AM, the Alpha and the Omega in the Revelation.

I. The Focus: the Seven churches

A. The location of these churches

The old kingdom of Pergamum in what is today Western Asia Minor
John is using provincial Roman regions

B. The focus of the address of Revelation

The congregations lie relatively close to the heart of the empire and are under fire for their faith from both Jews and the smoldering persecution that rises and falls from Rome

II. The Triune God

A. The Father: the One who IS and who WAS, and who IS to come (the Eternal One)

Identified with both the Father and the Son demonstrating co-equality

21:6 Then He said to me, "It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.

22:12-13 Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward *is* with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.

B. The Holy Spirit: the "seven spirits" who are before the Throne

BEFORE: before, presence, sight

ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν: the Word was (*Gk.imperfect~was always being*) face to face with the Father

NOTE: Some say the seven spirits refer to the seven angels watching the churches, the archangels before the throne (Jewish)

C. The Son: to Him Who loves us(!)

1. and released as from our sins by His blood

I Peter 1:18-19 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, *the blood* of Christ.

2. [and] made us to be a kingdom of priests to our God and Father

I Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ

III. The Doxology

A. To Him be the glory and the dominion for ever and ever. Amen

B. Behold, He is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him

even those who pierced Him; and all the tribes of the earth will mourn over Him.

So it is to be. AMEN

Zech 12:10-12 I will pour out on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Spirit of grace and of supplication, so that they will look on Me whom they have pierced; and they will mourn for Him, as one mourns for an only son, and they will weep bitterly over Him like the bitter weeping over a firstborn. In that day there will be great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the plain of Megiddo. The land will mourn,

C. I am the Alpha and Omega, says the Lord God," Who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty

(See II.A. above)

