

Greeting: 1:4-8



Author: John

Audience: Seven Churches in Asia Minor; by addressing seven churches, John is saying the letter is written to the church as a whole throughout the centuries

Benediction (v.4-5a)

The people needed grace and peace to help them through their troubling times, but that can only come from God.

Verses 4-5a contain a reference to the Trinity:

- * God the Father: “him who is and who was and who is to come”**
- * The Holy Spirit: “the seven spirits who are before his throne”; the number seven symbolizes perfection and completion, so this could read “the Holy Spirit who is complete or perfect”**
- * Jesus Christ: “the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth”; refers to the three offices of Christ—prophet, priest, and king**

Praise (v.5b-8)

John praises God for...

- * What He has done: He loved us, freed us from our sin, and made us a kingdom of priests (see Exodus 19:6)**
- * What He will do: He will come again in judgment (see Daniel 7:13 and Zechariah 12:10)**
- * Who He is: He is the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty; refers to His eternality, sovereignty, and power**

“He who is and who was and who is to come is present with us now by His Spirit and will be fully and ultimately present with us when He comes. Because He is the Almighty, we can rest knowing that He has the power to provide the blessing promised in this book, to accomplish the elimination of evil and suffering portrayed in this book, and to prepare us as a bride to present to the Son as pictured in this book.”

Nancy Guthrie

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Benediction (v.4-5a)

The people needed _____ and _____ to help them through their troubling times, but that can only come from God.

Verses 4-5a contain a reference to the _____:

- * God the Father: “him who is and who was and who is to come”

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- * Jesus Christ: “the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of kings on earth”; refers to the three offices of Christ, which are _____, _____, _____

Praise (v.5b-8)

John praises God for...

- * **What He _____: He loved us, freed us from our sin, and made us a kingdom of priests (see Exodus 19:6)**

- * **What He _____: He will come again in judgment (see Daniel 7:13 and Zechariah 12:10)**

- * **Who He _____: He is the Alpha and the Omega, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty; refers to His _____, _____, and _____**

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Nancy Guthrie

Vision of Christ: 1:9-20



Introduction (v.9-11)

John wants his audience to know that he can relate to what they are going through. He is their brother and partner in...

- * **The tribulation:** John suffered much as he followed Christ. Because of his suffering, he was able to encourage those who were suffering.
- * **The kingdom:** All believers become citizens of God's kingdom. Although Satan is trying to set up a counterfeit kingdom of his own, one that is at war with God's kingdom, we know that God has already won the war through Christ's death on the cross.
- * **The patient endurance:** This refers to patience (our inner attitude about suffering) and perseverance (our actions during suffering).

John received the vision while "in the Spirit on the Lord's day." Most likely, he was in a trance-like state induced by the Holy Spirit in order to convey information. He heard a voice telling him to write what he sees and send it to seven specific churches.

Setting (v.12-13a)

When John turns to see who is speaking, he sees seven golden lampstands (see Zechariah 4:2-6). Each lampstand represents one of the seven churches, and together they represent the universal Church. The lamp on each lampstand represents the Holy Spirit, who gives power to the church so they can conquer or overcome.

John sees among the lampstands "one like a son of man" (see Daniel 7:13), or Jesus Christ Himself. That He is walking among the lampstands shows that Christ is present among His churches. He hasn't abandoned them to their trials.

The vision John shares of Christ does not literally describe His physical appearance. It's symbolic, and describes who He is and what He does.

John's vision focuses on the majestic glory of Jesus rather than His humanity. John shows us an entirely different image of Christ than what we're familiar with from the Gospels.

Vision of Christ: 1:9-20



Introduction (v.9-11)

John wants his audience to know that he can _____ to what they are going through.

He is their brother and partner in...

* The _____: John suffered much as he followed Christ. Because of his suffering, he was able to encourage those who were suffering.

* The _____: All believers become citizens of God's kingdom. Although Satan is trying to set up a counterfeit kingdom of his own, one that is at war with God's kingdom, we know that God has already won the war through Christ's death on the cross.

* The _____ endurance: This refers to patience (our _____ attitude about suffering) and perseverance (our _____ during suffering).

John received the vision while "in the Spirit on the Lord's day." Most likely, he was in a trance-like state induced by the _____ in order to convey information. He heard a voice telling him to write what he sees and send it to seven specific churches.

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John sees among the lampstands “one like a son of man” (see Daniel 7:13), or _____. That He is walking among the lampstands shows that He is _____ among His churches. He hasn’t abandoned them to their trials.

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John’s vision focuses on the _____ of Jesus rather than His humanity. John shows us an entirely different image of Christ than what we’re familiar with from the _____.