

## Revelation Class Week 1: Introduction and Chapter 1:1-8

### Purpose of The Book of Revelation:

1. Revealing \_\_\_\_\_ as Yahweh.
2. Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ of all things.
3. Jesus will make war against and judge both wicked \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jesus will \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ His loyal followers.
5. Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

### Genre and Structure

1. Revelation is written in the \_\_\_\_\_ Genre.

Jewish Apocalyptic writings such as 1 Enoch and 4 Ezra were a very common writing style, it is intended to communicate heavenly visions, ascents, and revelations. Jewish teachers often used riddles to teach (think of Jesus' parables for example). Jewish apocalyptic writers similarly used riddles, imagery, metaphor, and "enigmatic [difficult] predictions" to provoke deep thought and consideration.

2. Apocalypse can reference the end of the world but more literally means: \_\_\_\_\_.
3. John uses the \_\_\_\_\_ more than any other writer of any NT Biblical book.
4. Revelation is \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_, full of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Revelation is **not** best read as a \_\_\_\_\_ of things that have happened or are to come.

### John's Style:

1. John's use of the Old Testament doesn't mean he is copying from it rather he is showing us he saw the same things the former prophets spoke of to give us insight as to its interpretation.
2. John uses \_\_\_\_\_ intentionally to let us know he is referencing the Old Testament.
3. John doesn't live in the same time period we do; we cannot expect him to write directly to us or our culture.
4. Metaphor, symbolism, and allegory \_\_\_\_\_ mean what John is describing is not real.
5. The LXX or Septuagint is the \_\_\_\_\_ Translation of the \_\_\_\_\_ Testament. It was the primary Bible of the early church including the apostles and must be looked at when interpreting the New Testament.

### Revelation Chapter 1:1-8: Yahweh and the Zeus Polemic.

1. Him who is and was and is to come and is on the throne (V4) is \_\_\_\_\_ from Jesus Christ (V5).
2. The One on the throne proclaims He is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
3. In Revelation 1:17 Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. In Revelation 22:13 Jesus is the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Therefore John is communicating to us that: \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_, they are \_\_\_\_\_ but the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. "Is and was and is to come" is a \_\_\_\_\_ used to express the name of \_\_\_\_\_.

7. Yahweh means: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Polemic: a speech or piece of writing expressing a strong \_\_\_\_\_ about someone or something.
9. The one who “is and was and is to come” is also a polemic against \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The Greek said of Zeus: Zeus \_\_\_\_\_, Zeus \_\_\_\_\_, Zeus will \_\_\_\_\_.
11. By using “the one who is, and was, and is to come” to speak of the one on the Throne John is essentially “killing two birds with one stone” by revealing \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_ while simultaneously denouncing \_\_\_\_\_.
12. Worship of anyone or anything other than Yahweh/Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Revelation 1:4 Who are the Seven Spirits of before God’s throne?**

1. There are two best candidates for the seven spirits: \_\_\_\_\_ or \_\_\_\_\_
2. The number seven (the Jewish number for completeness) could be used to distinguish \_\_\_\_\_ from every other \_\_\_\_\_ John is seeing.
3. “Eyes ranging throughout the earth” is language used in the Bible to describe the \_\_\_\_\_ of some angels.
4. While good arguments can be made for both options the result is the same: John is announcing that: \_\_\_\_\_ is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **John is dipping into Zechariah for this imagery: Revelation 1:4; 3:1; 5:6. Zechariah 1, 3, 4, 6.**

#### **Option #1: Holy Spirit**

##### Zechariah 3 - The Stone with Seven Eyes.

- Zechariah 3:8-9 “8 Hear now, O Joshua [Yeshua] the high priest,...: behold, I will bring my servant the Branch. 9 For behold, *on the stone* that I have set before Joshua, on a single stone with seven eyes, I will engrave its inscription, declares the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of this land in a single day.”

The stone appears to be “the Branch,” Jesus, Yeshua. The stone with 7 eyes which John relates to the 7 spirits (Revelation 5:6) would then be the Lord Himself, which means the 7 spirits are the Holy Spirit.

##### Zechariah 4 The Seven Lampstands With Eyes Who Range The Earth

- Zechariah 4:2 “And he said to me, “What do you see?” I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it.”
- Zechariah 4:6 “Then he said to me, “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.
- Zechariah 4:10 “For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. “These seven are the eyes of the Lord, which range through the whole earth.””
- Revelation 5:6 “Lamb standing, with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”

In Revelation 1:20, Jesus is seen in the midst of lampstands, lampstands just like Zechariah 4. We are told these lampstands are the 7 churches Jesus is speaking to. What makes the church the church? The Holy Spirit inside of us. *We are the temple where the Holy Spirit lives.*

#### **Option #2: (Arch)angels**

- Revelation 5:6 “with seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth.”

- Zechariah 1:10: "These are they whom Yahweh has sent to patrol the earth"

- Zechariah 4:10 "These seven are the eyes of Yahweh, which range through the whole earth"

See also: Zechariah 6 which has heavenly chariots going out in the earth, Job 1-2 which has the satan "going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it." and Daniel 4 which calls the heavenly host "watchers." So you have eyes who range through the earth, angels who "watch." It carries a lot of similarity in language.

What about Revelation 3:1?

- Revelation 3:1: "And to the angel of the church in Sardis write: 'The words of him who has the seven spirits of God and the seven stars.'

- Revelation 1:20 "20 As for the mystery of the seven stars that 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 are the seven churches."

Does the "and" between the seven spirits of God "and" the seven stars mean they are "the seven spirits of God which is distinct from the seven stars" or "the seven spirits of God who are the seven stars?"

### **Josh's Opinion:**

It is my opinion that the seven spirits are the Holy Spirit, but I think the closeness of language is important for heavenly beings. They, after all, carry out God's will in the heavens and on earth. They do the things their Creator does. Just like we are supposed to as temples of the Holy Spirit.

### **Lesson:**

In the end, regardless of who is in view with the seven spirits, the message is the same: Yahweh has the seven spirits in Revelation 1:4 and Jesus has the seven spirits in Revelation 3:1 and 5:6, therefore Jesus is Yahweh.

## **Revelation 1:7 - Jesus The Cloud Rider Who Was Pierced**

### **Revelation 1:7 ESV**

<sup>7</sup> Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him, and all tribes of the earth will wail on account of him. Even so. Amen.

### **Daniel 7:13 ESV**

<sup>13</sup> "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the clouds of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him.

### **Zechariah 12:10 ESV**

<sup>10</sup> "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, *when they look on me, on him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn.*

1. Yahweh alone is the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Bible: Deuteronomy 33:26, Psalm 68:32-33, Psalm 104:1-4, and Isaiah 19:1 except for one passage: \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Yahweh as cloud-rider was a \_\_\_\_\_ against \_\_\_\_\_.

3. \_\_\_\_\_ is the god of the \_\_\_\_\_ religion

4. The Godhead \_\_\_\_\_ a Christian invention.

5. The foundational verse for the Godhead idea in Judaism was \_\_\_\_\_

6. With Jesus as cloud-rider reveals to us that Jesus is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Answers Key:**

**Purpose:** 1) Yahweh. 2) fulfillment. 3) humans; spirit beings. 4) protect; avenge. 5) returning.

**Genre/Structure:** 1) Jewish Apocalyptic. 2). revelation/revealing. 3) Old Testament. 4) cyclical; linear; metaphor; symbols. 5) historical timeline.

**John's Style:** 2) solecisms/grammatical errors; Old Testament. 4) does not. 5) Greek; Old Testament.

**Chapter 1:1-8:** 1) distinct/separate. 2) Alpha and Omega. 3) First and Last. 4) Jesus; Alpha and Omega; First and Last. 5) Jesus is Yahweh; separate but the same. 6) solecism, Yahweh. 7) HE IS. 8) critical attack. 9) Zeus. 10) Zeus was, Zeus is, Zeus will be. 11) Jesus as Yahweh; the Greek gods. 12) idolatry.

**7 Spirits:** 1) Holy Spirit; 7 Archangels. 2) Holy Spirit; spirit-being. 3) function. 4) Jesus is Yahweh.

**Cloud-Rider:** 1) cloud-rider; Daniel 7:13. 2) polemic; Baal. 3) Baal; Canaanite. 4) is not. 5) Daniel 7:13. 6) Yahweh.