

1: Jesus revealed to his servants. Revelation 1:1-20.

If you are a servant of Jesus Christ, that is, Mashiach, God gives you this book to reveal to you Jesus and His coming Kingdom. You have a critical role in God's coming Kingdom future, for you are called to bear witness with your words and life of Jesus Mashiach, testifying all that the Lord reveals to you (1:1-2).

Jesus reveals himself as the true Mashiach—first to his servants of the church-age, then to Israel, and then to all the nations, to establish the Kingdom of God on earth. And, your testimony reveals Jesus Mashiach until the day when all see Him with their own eyes. For, “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” (1:7).

Those who love this world's darkness and hate God and his Kingdom of light will mourn the coming rule of Jesus Mashiach. For, Jesus Mashiach's redemption replaces the darkness of death with the light of eternal life.

But, this redemption that brings heavenly life to this dark earth is costly. So, in his “faithful witness,” Jesus shed his “blood” on the cross to be raised as the “firstborn of the dead,” establishing his kingdom of resurrected life and winning the right to be “the ruler of the kings on earth” (1:5). Notice the mystery of the kingdom in his sacrifice. Robed in a heavenly salvation, Jesus humbly sacrificed his life on earth to win an eternal redemption.

So, too, the servants of Jesus Mashiach must give themselves fully as witnesses, literally, martyrs, to testify of Jesus, enduring earthly tribulation for the sake of his “kingdom” (1:9). But, they too will join him in his resurrected glory. As the Firstborn of the resurrection from the dead, Jesus now is perfect in glorious power with “eyes of fire” (1:14) and visage like “the sun” (1:16). This glorious Mashiach walks among his servants to support his servants as they advance his kingdom, one day to join him in his resurrected glory as the “clouds” of heavenly armies accompanying him to displace the darkness to bring the Kingdom of light (1:7; 19:14).

Thus, as Jesus Mashiach is revealed to His Servants, we see that:

- **(1) Kingdom Faith** enables Saints to testify of Jesus amidst earthly tribulation;
- **(2) Kingdom Family** reveals Jesus as Mashiach to advance Kingdom:
- **(3) Kingdom Future** embodied in Resurrected Mashiach:

1.1. Jesus Revealed as Mashiach to His Servants: 1:1-3

- Revelation (v.1). (apokalypsis)
- Jesus (v.1)
- Christ (Gk.)/ Mashiach (Heb.) (v.1)
 - Kinsman-Redeemer:
 - Lamb:
 - The Son of God
 - The Son of Man/ David
- Witness (martureo) / Testimony (marturian) (v.2). Witness (martus)
- Blessed (v.3)
- Words of this prophecy (v.3)

1.2. Jesus Revealed as Resurrected Redeemer to His Kingdom of Priests: 1:4-8

- Grace and Peace (v.4)
- Him who is and who was and who is to come (v.4). Yahweh: “I am”
- Firstborn of the dead (v.5)
- Ruler of kings on earth (v.5)
- Freed us from our sins by his blood (v.5)
- Made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father (v.6) and “kings and priests to our God” (Rev. 5:10)
- Coming with the clouds (1:6)
- Alpha and the Omega (1:8): “Lord God,” “who is and who was and who is to come,” the Almighty.

1.3. Jesus Revealed as the Living One from First to Last to His Brothers: 1:9-20.

- Tribulation, kingdom, and patient endurance in Jesus (1:9): (thlipsis)—internal pressure; no options.
- Voice like a trumpet (1:11)
- Seven Churches (1:11)
- Golden sash (1:13)
- Hairs of his head... white like wool (1:14)
- Eyes like a flame of fire (1:14)
- Feet...like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace (1:15).
- Voice... like a roar of many waters (1:15)
- Mouth... a sharp two-edged sword (1:16)
- Face... like the sun shining in full strength (1:16).