

“The Things Which Thou Hast Seen”
Revelation 1:1-20

Introduction: Is the book of the Revelation an impossible volume of the Bible to understand? Many have asked this question, and their answer was to avoid reading the Revelation. Some feel that it is deep, mystical, and secretly coded so that no one can comprehend its contents. However, even the word Revelation (“the unveiling”) informs us that it is an open book (Revelation 22:10, II Peter 1:20-21) for the saints of God to read and be blessed by (Revelation 1:3). Therefore, we must conclude that to avoid this great revelation by not hearing, reading, and studying it would be to miss a tremendous blessing. Although we may not understand every detail of the Revelation, we must remember the words of M.R. De Haan when studying this manuscript. “One need not be able to identify every tree in the forest to appreciate the beauty of the forest as a whole.” Knowing this, let us take a brief overview of the Revelation as presented in 1:19.

1. The Things Which Thou Hast Seen Chapter 1
2. The Things Which Are Chapters 2-3
 - a. Ephesus 2:1-7
 - b. Smyrna 2:8-11
 - c. Pergamos 2:12-17
 - d. Thyatira 2:18-29
 - e. Sardis 3:1-6
 - f. Philadelphia 3:7-13
 - g. Laodiceans 3:14-22
3. The Things Which Shall Be Hereafter Chapters 4-22
 - a. The Throne (mentioned 16 times) Chapters 4-5
 - b. The Tribulation Chapters 6-19
 - (1) The First Part (Tribulation) Chapters 6-9
 - (2) The Middle Pause Chapters 10-14
 - (3) The Last Part (Great Tribulation) Chapters 15-19
Ending with the battle of Armageddon
 - c. The Millennial Reign Chapter 20
 - d. The Battle of Gog and Magog Chapter 20
 - e. The Great White Throne Judgment Chapter 20
 - f. The New Heaven and the New Earth Chapters 21-22

J. Vernon McGee also offers an interesting outline:

1. The Person of Jesus Christ—Christ in glory, chapter 1.
2. The Possession of Jesus Christ—the church in the world is His, chapters 2–3.
3. The Program of Jesus Christ—as seen in heaven, chapters 4–22.

“Notice also that there is a tie between Genesis and Revelation, the first and last books of the Bible. Genesis presents the beginning, and Revelation presents the end. Note the contrasts between the two books:

In Genesis the earth was created; *in Revelation*, the earth passes away.
In Genesis was Satan's first rebellion; *in Revelation* is Satan's last rebellion.
In Genesis the sun, moon, and stars were for earth's government; *in Revelation*, these same heavenly bodies are for earth's judgment.
In Genesis the sun was to govern the day; *in Revelation*, there is no need of the sun.
In Genesis darkness was called night; *in Revelation* there is "no night there"
In Genesis the waters were called seas; *in Revelation*, there is no more sea.
In Genesis was the entrance of sin; *in Revelation* is the exodus of sin.
In Genesis the curse was pronounced; *in Revelation*, the curse is removed.
In Genesis death entered; *in Revelation*, there is no more death.
In Genesis was the beginning of sorrow and suffering; *in Revelation* there will be no more sorrow and no more tears.
In Genesis was the marriage of the first Adam; *in Revelation* is the marriage of the Last Adam.
In Genesis we saw man's city, Babylon, being built; *in Revelation* we see man's city, Babylon, destroyed and God's city, the New Jerusalem, brought into view.
In Genesis Satan's doom was pronounced; *in Revelation* Satan's doom is executed."
(McGee)

Body: After having been dipped in boiling tar and left for dead, as tradition has it, John rose from his pain to worship the Lord as the sun peaked over the horizon. It was on the Lord's Day on a small rocky island located in the Mediterranean Sea where John was in the Spirit. He was exiled there for the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. However, no matter how much he was persecuted for the cause of Christ, John was determined to press on for the furtherance of the gospel. While John was worshipping the Lord, he heard a voice behind him that he had not heard in 60 years. When he turned to look, it was the resurrected Son of God in all of his glory! Having been overwhelmed by the majesty and glory of the Lord Jesus Christ, John immediately fell at his feet as a dead man. It was then that the Lord touched him and brought peace to his heart. Once John had recovered from the amazing manifestation of the glorified One, he was given the Revelation. It was a book not to be sealed, but to be sent unto the seven churches for all saints to enjoy. What were its contents? Let us look at this book and be blessed, as the pages of prophecy are unfolded. Notice what John saw:

- I. The Presentation of the Revelation vs. 1-2- "*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him...*"
 - A. The Source of the Revelation v. 1- "*The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him...*"
 1. Keep in mind that this is not the "Revelation of St. John the Divine". "John was a saint as all believers are saints. He was not a divine!" (Ironside)
 2. "The traditional view is that the date of the book is A.D. 96." (Gaebelein)
 3. "Irenaeus, the friend of Polycarp, who knew John, stated that 'the Revelation was seen at Patmos at the end of Domitian's reign.' Domitian reigned from A.D. 81 to 96. Clement of Alexandria left the

testimony that John returned from his exile on the death of the emperor, who was Domitian, in the year 96.” (Gaebelein)

4. “According to this statement, our Lord—as the Son of man—received a revelation from God.” (Gaebelein)

B. The Signification of the Revelation v. 1- “...to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass...”

1. “That the book should be shunned by many because of its mysterious character is no wonder. It is one of the ‘devices’ of Satan to get people to neglect a Book that foretells his casting as ‘Prince of the Powers of the Air,’ and the ‘God of This Age,’ out of the Heavens; of his imprisonment in the ‘Bottomless Pit’ for 1,000 years; and his final casting into the Lake of Fire.” (Larkin)
2. “While Satan hates all Scripture in general, he hates the books of Genesis and Revelation in particular. Therefore he attacks the authenticity of Genesis, and seeks to have Revelation neglected.” (Larkin)

C. The Sending of the Revelation v. 1- “...and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John”

1. From the Angel- “he sent and signified it by his angel” 22:8, 16
 - a. It was Sent- “he sent”
 - (1) “This angel was ‘sent’ (commissioned with all the rights, power, and authority of God).” (Simpson)
 - (2) “The same word is in John 1:6—‘There was a man sent from God’.” (Simpson)
 - b. It was Signified- “and signified”
 - (1) “He is said to have ‘signified it’—that is, He made it known by signs or symbols. It is important to bear this in mind. Revelation is a book of symbols.” (Ironsides)
 - (2) “The word signified is important; it means ‘to show by a sign’. This is the same word used in the Gospel of John for the miracles of Jesus Christ, for His miracles were events that carried a deeper spiritual message than simply the display of power.” (Wiersbe)
 - (3) According to Warren Wiersbe, John used symbolism for three reasons:
 - (a) “For one thing, this kind of “spiritual code” is understood only by those who know Christ personally.” (Wiersbe)
 - (b) “But an even greater reason is that symbolism is not weakened by time.” (Wiersbe)
 - (c) “There is a third reason why John used symbolism: symbols not only convey information, but also impart values and arouse emotions. John could have written, ‘A dictator will rule the world,’ but instead he described a beast. The symbol says much

more than the mere title of 'dictator'."
(Wiersbe)

(4) "Nearly 300 references to the Old Testament are found in Revelation! This means that we must anchor our interpretations to what God has already revealed, lest we misinterpret this important prophetic book."
(Wiersbe)

(5) "It is calculated that there are over five hundred references or allusions to the Old Testament in Revelation and that, of its 404 verses, 278 contain references to the Old Testament. In other words, over half of this book depends upon your understanding of the Old Testament." (McGee)

2. To the Apostle- "*unto his servant John*" 1:4, 1:9, 22:8

a. "There is also unquestionable historical evidence that the author is the apostle John, the beloved disciple, the son of Zebedee." (Gaebelein)

b. "The author of the Gospel of John and the Epistles is also the author of the book of Revelation." (Gaebelein)

D. The Sight of the Revelation v. 2- "*Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.*"

1. Concerning the Words of the Scripture- "*Who bare record of the word of God...*"

2. Concerning the Words of the Saviour- "*...and of the testimony of Jesus Christ...*"

3. Concerning the Witness of the Sighting- "*...and of all things that he saw.*"

II. The Promise of the Revelation v. 3- "*Blessed is he that readeth...*"

A. Blessings for the Eye- "*Blessed is he that readeth...*"

B. Blessings for the Ear- "*...and they that hear the words of this prophecy...*" II Peter 1:20-21

C. Blessings for the Eager- "*...and keep those things which are written therein...*" Revelation 22:7, James 1:22

D. Blessings for the Expecting- "*...for the time is at hand.*"

1. We see, in verse one, the things that must shortly come to pass will come to pass because the time is at hand. Revelation 22:7, 10, 12, 20, James 5:7-8

2. From this verse we note the seven Beatitudes of the Revelation:

a. Blessed are the Reading 1:3

b. Blessed are the Resting 14:13

c. Blessed are the Regarding 16:15

d. Blessed are the Receiving 19:9

e. Blessed are the Resurrecting 20:6

f. Blessed are the Remembering 22:7

g. Blessed are the Rehearsing 22:14

- III. The Penman of the Revelation vs. 4- *“John to the seven churches...”*
- A. The Messenger- *“John”*
- B. The Message- *“...to the seven churches which are in Asia...”*
1. A Message about the Sanctuary- *“...to the seven churches which are in Asia...”*
 - a. “There is a Personal Application- These seven churches actually existed.
 - b. There is a Practical Application- The message applies to all churches of every age.
 - c. There is a Prophetic Application- Each church represents a period in the history of the church from its formation until the rapture.” (Simpson)
 2. A Message about the Support- *“...Grace be unto you, and peace...”*
 - a. “It is with a similar purpose that the Holy Spirit begins this war-filled book with the word peace!” (Phillips)
 - b. “Moreover, grace and peace win through at last.” (Phillips)
 3. A Message from the Saviour- *“...from him which is, and which was, and which is to come...”*
 - a. “The present and the future are very much alive to God as well.” (Phillips)
 - b. “He reads the past, He rides the present, and He rules the future.” (Phillips)
 4. A Message from the Spirits- *“...and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne” Isaiah 11:2*
 - a. Now we see the Trinity in heaven.
 - b. “There you have the one Spirit in the sevenfold plenitude of His power.” (Ironside)
 - c. “Until now, He has been the executor of God’s purposes in grace; He is now to be the executor of God’s purposes in government.” (Phillips)
- IV. The Person of the Revelation vs. 5-8- *“And from Jesus Christ, who is...”*
- A. The Acknowledgement of the Saviour v. 5- *“...Jesus Christ, who is...”*
1. His Reliability- *“And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness...” John 18:37, Revelation 19:11*
 - a. “He came to earth to be a witness to a dark and degenerate world, and His witness was both unprecedented and unpopular.” (Phillips)
 - b. According to John Phillips, He witnessed:
 - (1) the name of God
 - (2) the nature of sin
 - (3) the need for righteousness
 - (4) the nearness of judgment
 - (5) the news of salvation- the woman at the well, Nicodemus, the rich young ruler, Zaccheus

2. His Resurrection- *"...and the first begotten of the dead..."*
 - a. "First-begotten does not mean 'the first one raised from the dead,' but 'the highest of those raised from the dead'." (Wiersbe) Acts 26:23, I Corinthians 15:17, 20
 - b. "Firstborn is a title of honor." (Wiersbe) Romans 8:29, Colossians 1:15, 18
 - c. "Not the first one ever raised from the dead but the first one raised with an incorruptible body that never will die again. Others were 'revived', Jesus was 'resurrected'. Christ was resurrected not only first in point of time but also in rank." (Simpson)
3. His Reign- *"...and the prince of the kings of the earth..."* Psalm 72:11, Zechariah 14:9
 - a. According to Warren Wiersbe, "Finally, Jesus Christ is seen in His threefold office as:
 - (1) Prophet (God's Word)- *"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness..."*
 - (2) Priest (God's Lamb)- *"...and the first begotten of the dead..."*
 - (3) King (God's Lion)- *"...and the prince of the kings of the earth..."*
 - b. "A prince is a person of royalty in line for the throne. When he becomes King, he is no longer a prince. Don't make Him King now because we're not yet in the kingdom." (Simpson)
 - c. "When He becomes King, there will be no more princes. Why? There can be no successor because He is the 'only begotten Son of God' and there will be no need for a successor because He never will die nor ever be defeated!" (Simpson)
4. His Redemption- *"...Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood"*
 - a. His Love- *"...him that loved us..."*
 - b. His Loosing- *"...and washed us from our sins in his own blood"*
 - (1) "The word 'washed' means to be 'freed' or 'loosed' from sin." (Simpson)
 - (2) Washed us is in the aorist tense which means "once and for all". (Simpson)

B. The Ability of the Saviour v. 6- *"And hath made us..."*

1. The Position of the Saints- *"And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father..."* I Peter 2:9, Revelation 5:9-10
2. The Praise of the Saints- *"...to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."*
 - a. "glory" is Upward- He Reigns
 - b. "dominion" is Downward- He Rules
 - c. "for ever" is Outward- He Reaches
 - d. "Amen" is Inward- He Rewards

- C. The Advent of the Saviour v. 7- *“Behold, he cometh with clouds...”*
1. The Material of His Return- *“Behold, he cometh with clouds...”*
Matthew 26:64, Mark 13:26, 14:62, Revelation 14:14, 16
 2. The Manifestation of His Return- *“...and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him...”* Matthew 24:30
 3. The Misery of His Return- *“...and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.”* Zechariah 12:10
- D. The Authority of the Saviour v. 8- *“...the Almighty.”*
1. Because of His Eternal Existence- *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord...”*
 - a. “Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet; so, God is at the beginning of all things and also at their end.” (Wiersbe)
 - b. “He is the eternal God, unlimited by time.” (Wiersbe)
 2. Because of His Everlasting Existence- *“...which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.”*
- V. The Purpose of the Revelation vs. 9-11- *“...What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches...”*
- A. To Reveal a Common Battle v. 9- *“...your brother, and companion in tribulation...”*
1. It was a Shared Battle- *“I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ...”*
 - a. It is evident that throughout the ages God’s children will suffer persecution. John 16:33, Acts 14:22
 - b. “John speaks of being in tribulation. There were at least four reasons why Rome persecuted Christians:
 - (1) For political purposes. The Christian took no part in the pantheon (worship of many gods). In fact, Christians were regarded as atheists, for they worshiped no visible God.
 - (2) For economic purposes. No money or sacrifices were forthcoming from believers to Roman idols.
 - (3) For ‘moral’ purposes. Christians were often looked upon as cannibals, for did they not secretly ‘eat the flesh and drink the blood’ of their religious founder?
 - (4) For scapegoat purposes. Nero attempted to blame various state problems upon the Christians living in Rome.” (Willmington)
 2. It was a Separated Battle- *“...was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.”*
 - a. Divine Providence- “John was on this isle for ‘preaching’ the Word and for ‘penning’ the Word.” (Simpson)
 - (1) Paul and Silas- Their prison turned into a pulpit

- (2) Three Hebrew Children- Their roasting turned into a revival
 - (3) Daniel and the Den of Lions- What was to eat him for breakfast became his bed (Simpson)
 - b. “John wrote Revelation about A.D. 95, during the reign of the Roman emperor Titus Flavius Domitian. The emperor had demanded that he be worshiped as ‘Lord and God,’ and the refusal of the Christians to obey his edict led to severe persecution.” (Wiersbe)
 - c. “Tradition says that it was Domitian who sent John to the Isle of Patmos, a Roman penal colony off the coast of Asia Minor. This being the location of John’s exile, perhaps it is not surprising that the word *sea* is found twenty-six times in his book.” (Wiersbe)
- B. To Reveal a Comforter’s Blessing v. 10- *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day...”*
- 1. The Way of His Worship- *“I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day...”*
Matthew 28:1, Mark 16:2, 9, Luke 24:1, John 20:1, 19, Acts 20:7, I Corinthians 16:2
 - a. According to Simpson, you ought to be in the Spirit, Scriptures, and the Sanctuary (not in bed, on the beach, on the boat, or on the golf course) on the Lord’s Day.
 - b. “And I would say that the Day of the Lord and the Lord’s Day are two different things also, and that the Lord’s Day refers to what we call Sunday.” (McGee)
 - c. “We recognize that anti-fat and fat auntie are two different things...” (McGee)
 - d. “Every Christian has two locations. John was in the isle, and he was in the Spirit.” (Phillips)
 - e. “He had a human environment and a heavenly environment.” (Phillips) (Illustration: The two story shop- work on the bottom but live in the top)
 - f. Colossians 1:2- *“To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse...”*
 - 2. The Words during His Worship- *“...and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet”*
- C. To Reveal a Completed Book v. 11- *“...What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia...”*
- 1. The Signature of the Book- *“Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last...”*
 - 2. The Saints of the Book- *“...and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea.”*
 - a. “Asia encompassed a great deal of what we generally call Asia Minor or modern Turkey.” (McGee)

- b. "I have a notion that John was well known in these seven churches. We know that he had been pastor of the church at Ephesus, and apparently he had oversight of all the churches in that area." (McGee)

VI. The Portrait of the Revelation vs. 12-16- "*And I turned to see...And being turned, I saw...*"

A. Of the Candlesticks v. 12- "*And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks*" Matthew 5:14-16, Philippians 2:15

1. "So John saw in this first vision not one candlestick with seven branches, but seven distinct lampstands in the form of a circle." (Ironside)
2. "...we see that Jesus looks upon the churches as not the light, but simply the 'light holder'." (Larkin)

B. Of the Clothing v. 13- "*And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*"

1. His Garment- "*...clothed with a garment down to the foot...*"
2. His Girdle- "*...and girt about the paps with a golden girdle.*"
 - a. "In Revelation the girdle represents a high-priestly service." (Ironside)
 - b. Our blessed Lord is now serving us at God's right hand. (McGee)
 - (1) His Intercession Romans 8:34, Hebrews 7:25
 - (2) His Intervention I John 2:1, 1:9
 - (3) His Inspection Revelation 1:14
 - c. "The description of Him is more that of a judge. The High Priest was girded around the waist, signifying service, but a girdle or sash over the shoulder and around the breasts is an insignia of the Magisterial Office." (Larkin) John 5:22, Revelation 15:6-7, Acts 17:31, Hebrews 9:27

C. Of the Crown v. 14- "*His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow...*"

1. "The white hair symbolizes His eternity, 'the Ancient of Days'." (Wiersbe) Daniel 7:9, 13, 22
2. Proverbs 16:31- "*The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.*"

D. Of the Cornea v. 14- "*...and his eyes were as a flame of fire*" Revelation 19:12, Hebrews 4:13, II Chronicles 16:9, Job 34:21, Jeremiah 17:10

1. "Fire burns and bores its way into the heart of the toughest timber and can even melt the strongest steel. His eyes are as a flame of fire, and they flash with holy anger as He sees the wreck and ruin that sin has made of earth." (Phillips)
2. "When He was here before, His kind but searching glance could scan the very wounds that shame would hide. John sees His eyes now

burning like fire as He sweeps the globe with His glance, seeing all.”
(Phillips)

E. Of the Condemnation v. 15- “*And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace...*” Zechariah 14:4, I Corinthians 15:25

1. “His feet of burning brass also suggest judgment, since the brazen altar was the place where the fire consumed the sin offering.” (Wiersbe)
2. “Once the serpent’s fangs fastened on those feet, but now like red-hot bronze they will trample on the serpent’s head and crush him and all his works forever.” (Phillips)
3. “In that day those feet that trod the Via Dolorosa of suffering will be like unto incandescent brass that shall tread and crush Antichrist and Satan...” (Larkin) Revelation 19:15

F. Of the Conversation v. 15- “*...and his voice as the sound of many waters.*”

1. “Imagine arguing with Niagara Falls! Imagine standing at the foot of the falls with some 12 million cubic feet of water roaring down each minute and trying to argue with a thunderous voice like that!” (Phillips)
2. “A mighty waterfall pours out its thundering sound with a deafening roar, unmoved alike by the apathy, the animosity, or the admiration of those that hear.” (Phillips)

G. Of the Contents v. 16- “*And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword...*”

1. He had the Stars- “*And he had in his right hand seven stars...*”
 - a. “From the fact that Jesus speaks of ‘stars’ and ‘lampstands’ it is clear that we are living in the night of this dispensation, for ‘stars’ and ‘lampstands’ belong to the night.” (Larkin)
 - b. It is a blessing to know that, even though we are in the darkest of times, our Lord is holding His pastors in His right hand (symbolizing the hand of authority). As we look at the hand, we see what made it all possible, His piercing.
2. He had the Sword- “*...and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword...*” Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17, Revelation 19:15

H. Of the Countenance v. 16- “*...and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.*” Matthew 17:2, Acts 9:3-4, 26:13, Revelation 21:23, Malachi 4:2

1. “The sun is a familiar image of God in the Old Testament, reminding us not only of blessing, but of judgment.” (Wiersbe)
2. “The sun can burn as well as bless!” (Wiersbe)
3. “When Jesus lived on earth, He was the most approachable of men. But no longer! We cannot look upon the sun shining in its strength; still less can we approach it.” (Phillips)
4. “One pound of heat can raise twenty million tons of rock by twenty-five hundred degrees centigrade and turn it into incandescent lava. The sun is losing weight by radiation at the rate of 4,200,000 tons a second! You cannot approach a power like that.” (Phillips)
5. Simpson describes the sun as having three rays:

- a. Heat rays you can feel, but you cannot see—God the Holy Spirit
- b. Light rays you can see but you cannot feel—God the Son
- c. Actinic rays you can neither feel or see—God the Father

VII. The Power of the Revelation vs. 17-18- *“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead...”*

A. The Power of Jesus’ Presence v. 17- *“And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead...”* Daniel 10:7-10

- 1. “No believer should study prophecy merely to satisfy his curiosity. When Daniel and John received God’s revelations of the future, both fell down as dead men.” (Wiersbe)
- 2. “We need to approach this book as wonderers and worshipers, not as academic students.” (Wiersbe)

B. The Power of Jesus’ Peace v. 17- *“...And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last”* Isaiah 41:4, 44:6, 48:12-13

C. The Power of Jesus’ Perpetuity v. 18- *“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen...”*

- 1. “Jesus assures John that ‘I am alive!’” (Willmington)
- 2. “The real symbol of Christianity is not the cross, but the empty tomb.” (Willmington)

D. The Power of Jesus’ Possession v. 18- *“...and have the keys of hell and of death.”*

- 1. “You should not be afraid to go to any place to which I hold the key.” (Simpson)
- 2. Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven Matthew 16:19
- 3. Key of Knowledge Luke 11:52
- 4. Key of David Revelation 3:7
- 5. Key of the Bottomless Pit Revelation 9:1, 20:1
- 6. Keys of hell and of death Revelation 1:18 (Willmington)

VIII. The Plan of the Revelation v. 19- *“Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter”*

A. The Past View of the Revelation- *“Write the things which thou hast seen...”*

B. The Present View of the Revelation- *“...and the things which are...”*

C. The Prophetic View of the Revelation- *“...and the things which shall be hereafter”*

IX. The Paraphrase of the Revelation v. 20- *“...The seven stars are...the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are...”*

A. Concerning the Mystery- *“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks.”*

- 1. Of the Stars- *“The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand...”*
- 2. Of the Sticks- *“...and the seven golden candlesticks.”*

- B. Concerning the Meaning- *“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”*
1. Of the Stars- *“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches...” Daniel 12:3*
 2. Of the Sticks- *“...and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.”*

Conclusion: What a tremendous sight John saw while he was exiled to the isle of Patmos. It is through this vision that the saints of God can see the panorama of the prophetic events, which are to unfold. Although we may not understand the full interpretation of every revelation in the Revelation, may we read, hear, and keep the sayings within the book without altering or changing one word. When we do this, the blessings of God will be poured out upon the studious saint.