



REVELATION

*A Survival Manual
for the End of the Age*

Pastor Michael Cranford

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Schedule

September 14 Introduction: Cultural Markers, Rev 1

September 21 Rev 1

September 28 Rev 2-3

October 5 Rev 4

October 12 OFF (Baptism)

October 19 OFF (Pastor Michael at a conference)

October 26 Rev 5

November 2 Rev 6

November 9 OFF

November 16 OFF

November 23 OFF

November 30 Rev 7

December 7 Rev 8



Revelation: Opening (Author and Date)

The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because **the time is near.** (Rev 1:1-3)



“Near” means imminent.

Wail, for the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. (Isa 13:6)

For the day is near, the day of the Lord is near—a day of clouds, a time of doom for the nations. (Ezek 30:3)

Alas for that day! For the day of the Lord is near; it will come like destruction from the Almighty. (Joel 1:15)

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. (I Thes 5:1-3)

Purpose: To lift up Jesus Christ and proclaim His return

John,

To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. (Rev 1:4-6)



Spirit in Seven Dimensions

A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse;
from his roots a Branch will bear fruit.

The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him—
the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and of might,
the Spirit of the knowledge and fear of the Lord—
and he will delight in the fear of the Lord. (Isa 11:1-3)



Spirit in Seven Dimensions

Then the angel who talked with me returned and woke me up, like someone awakened from sleep. He asked me, “What do you see?”

I answered, “I see a solid gold lampstand with a bowl at the top and seven lamps on it, with seven channels to the lamps. . . .

So 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 Almighty. . . .

“Who dares despise the day of small things, since the seven eyes of the Lord that range throughout the earth will rejoice when they see the chosen capstone in the hand of Zerubbabel?” (Zech 4:1-2, 6, 10)



Purpose: To lift up Jesus Christ and proclaim His return

“Look, he is coming with the clouds,”
and “every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him”;
and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”

So shall it be! Amen.

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” (Rev 1:7-8)



Son of man

“In my vision at night I looked, and there before me was one like a son of man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He approached the Ancient of Days and was led into his presence. He was given authority, glory and sovereign power; all nations and peoples of every language worshiped him. His dominion is an everlasting dominion that will not pass away, and his kingdom is one that will never be destroyed.” (Dan 7:13-14)

“Then will appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven. And then all the peoples of the earth will mourn when they see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven, with power and great glory. And he will send his angels with a loud trumpet call, and they will gather his elect from the four winds, from one end of the heavens to the other.” (Matt 24:30-31)



Revelation: Audience. Write what you see...

I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea." (Rev 1:9-11)



Revelation: One like a son of man

I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. (Rev 1:12-16)



Daniel 10

⁴ On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river, the Tigris, ⁵ I looked up and there before me was a man dressed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. ⁶ His body was like topaz, his face like lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and his voice like the sound of a multitude. (Dan 10:4-6)

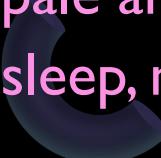
Revelation 1

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man, dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. (Rev 1:12-16)

The Man Dressed in Linen (see Dan 10:6)

- He has eyes like blazing fire (Rev 1:14)/eyes like flaming torches (Dan 10:6)
- Wearing a golden sash (Rev 1:13)/wearing a belt of fine gold (Dan 10:5)
- With feet like bronze (Rev 1:15)/with arms and legs like bronze (Dan 10:6)
- With a face like the sun (Rev 1:16; see also Matt 17:2)/a face like lightning (Dan 10:6)
- With a voice like rushing waters (Rev 1:15)/like the sound of a multitude (Dan 10:6)

So I was left alone, gazing at this great vision; I had no strength left, my face turned deathly pale and I was helpless. Then I heard him speaking, and as I listened to him, I fell into a deep sleep, my face to the ground. (Dan 10:8-9)



Revelation: Outline

When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

“Write, therefore, **what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later**. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: **The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.**” (Rev 1:17-20)



Revelation: Outline

“Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.” (Rev 1:19)

- What you have seen: Revelation 1
- What is now: Revelation 2-3
- What will take place later: Revelation 4-22



Revelation

Imagery in Revelation

1. Heavenly scenes (nonphysical)

E.g., Isaiah 6

2. Allegories (summaries/representations)

E.g., Daniel 7

3. Descriptive metaphors for literal scenes that are beyond John's ability to explain/understand

E.g., technology of the far future

