



## I. Revelation — Arrival of the Messiah

Revelation 1:1-3 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> The revelation of 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, <sup>2</sup> who testifies to everything he saw--that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup> **Blessed is the one who reads 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.

### A. Prophetic Images

### B. John, the apostle

Revelation 1:9-11 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>9</sup> 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. <sup>10</sup> On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, <sup>11</sup> 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."

Matthew 20:20-28 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>20</sup> Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him. <sup>21</sup> "What is it you want?" he asked. She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom." <sup>22</sup> "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?" "We can," they answered. <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father." <sup>24</sup> When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. <sup>25</sup> Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup> Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, <sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave-- <sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

### C. Jesus, the Christ

Revelation 1:12-19 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>12</sup> I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup> His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup> In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> I am the Living One; I was

dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. <sup>19</sup> "Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.

## D. Scenes from Heaven & Earth

Revelation 4:1-2 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> After this I looked, and there before me was **a door standing open in heaven**. And the voice I had first heard speaking to me like a trumpet said, "Come up here, and I will show you what must take place after this." <sup>2</sup> At once I was in the Spirit, and there before me was a throne in heaven with someone sitting on it.

Revelation 14:1, 6-7 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>1</sup> Then I looked, and there before me was the Lamb, standing on Mount Zion, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. . . . <sup>6</sup> Then I saw another angel flying in midair, and he had the eternal gospel to proclaim to those who live on the earth--to every nation, tribe, language and people. <sup>7</sup> He said in a loud voice, "Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come. Worship him who made the heavens, the earth, the sea and the springs of water."

## E. Be Ready!

Revelation 22:7-16 (NIV<sup>®</sup>)

<sup>7</sup> "Behold, I am coming soon! **Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy in this book.**" <sup>8</sup> I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. <sup>9</sup> But he said to me, "Do not do it! I am **a fellow servant with you and with your brothers the prophets** and of all who keep the words of this book. Worship God!" <sup>10</sup> Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this book, because the time is near. <sup>11</sup> **Let him who does wrong continue to do wrong; let him who is vile continue to be vile; let him who does right continue to do right; and let him who is holy continue to be holy.**" <sup>12</sup> "Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. <sup>13</sup> I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. <sup>14</sup> "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. <sup>15</sup> Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. <sup>16</sup> "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

## PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Word. I rejoice in the great privilege of reading "the truth". May each precept find the proper place in my heart. Holy Spirit bring to life the reality of Almighty God within me — open my eyes to see and my heart to understand. The truth of Jesus Christ is my most treasured possession. I rejoice in the revelation you have brought to my life. In Jesus' name, amen.

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