

WORSHIP,  
WATCH,  
AND WARN  
**THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST**

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WORSHIP, WATCH, AND WARN: THE REVELATION OF JESUS CHRIST

Adult Bible Study Leader's Guide

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# How to Use *Life Design*



**LIFE DESIGN:** Bible Study Designed for the Life You Live. These Bible study materials are designed to engage adult learners in inductive Bible study and in applying the truths of that study to their daily lives.

As you prepare to teach these lessons, keep these two factors in mind:

- The **FOCUS** of productive adult Bible learning is the learner. The intent of teaching is not teaching, but learning—the learner’s learning.
- The **GOAL** of productive adult Bible learning is an appropriate life-response to Biblical truth. You do not teach simply to impart information; you teach so that the Holy Spirit of God can use the truths of the Word of God to change the child of God into the image of the Son of God.

## **The Lesson Plan**

Each *Life Design* lesson has three distinct parts. **GETTING STARTED** is the attention-getter. The questions and activities “set the table,” as it were, for the Bible study. **SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES** is the heart of the lesson. A series of inductive Bible study questions leads the teacher and learners through the Biblical text. **MAKING IT PERSONAL** applies the truth to life.

As is true of any teaching experience, you can adapt the parts of the lesson to fit your particular class. You may choose to alter the beginning activities or change

the focus of the application. You will find more material in the Bible study than you can cover in one class session. Ask God to help you as you tailor the lesson for your learners.

## **The Study Book**

This leader’s guide is designed to accompany the Bible study book. As the teacher, you will want a copy of the Bible study. Commit to working through the questions before you plan your lesson. We encourage you to distribute Bible study books to your learners. Urge them to complete the study before class. The more your learners have studied on their own, the better the class discussions will be. When a question in the leader’s guide is picked up from the Bible study book, you will notice the question number in parentheses. The answers to the questions are usually in the lesson commentary. They are also grouped together in the back of this book.

## **Other Resources**

If you want to use transparencies as you teach, a packet of sixteen full-color transparencies is available. If you prefer to use PowerPoint, the resource CD includes a PowerPoint presentation for each lesson.

Some teachers stay very close to the outline as they teach. If this is true of you, and if you want your learners to capture that outline, reproducible in-class worksheets are included on the CD. The same worksheets may be downloaded from the Web and photocopied for class members. Visit [www.regularbaptistpress.org/downloads](http://www.regularbaptistpress.org/downloads) or [www.rbpadultministries.org](http://www.rbpadultministries.org). Thank you for choosing *Life Design* teaching materials. May God richly bless you and your learners as you study and apply His Word.

# Preface

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The book of Revelation is a fascinating look into the future that at times is somber and at other times is joyous. Our responses to the book are many, but we can summarize them in three words: *Worship, Watch, and Warn*. Worship Christ as He is revealed in the book. Watch for His coming by serving Him. Warn the lost of God's impending judgment.

As you study and teach this book you will sense the Holy Spirit directing you to respond in these three ways. That is what God intended. John even included a message to the reader in the opening verses of the book. He tells us that the person who reads the book and keeps those things written in it will be blessed (Rev. 1:3).

So approach this study with more than an interest in learning how to teach others to navigate through the complicated passages in Revelation. Prepare your heart to respond to the Spirit. Let God's Word work in your heart. Impress upon yourself and your learners that the book of Revelation is a necessary study for a proper development of the spiritual life.

May God richly bless and guide you in your study of Revelation and in your preparation and presentation of each lesson. May He bless each adult who engages in this study.

# Resources for This Course

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The transparency packet for this course (RBP0057) includes a transparency on which to record the summary statements from each lesson on Revelation. The transparency will help you track and review these lessons. Starting with lesson 1, use transparency 1 at the end of each lesson or at the beginning of the next lesson to record the summary statement for each lesson. You may use the suggestions in this leader's guide or ask your learners to suggest summary statements.

The Resource CD (RBP0058) for this course includes a PowerPoint presentation for each lesson. All of the transparencies are part of the PowerPoint presentation. The transparencies are also included on the CD as printable PDFs. If you would like to make your own transparencies or PowerPoint slides, the CD includes backgrounds ready for your own text.

To help in your promotion of this course, the CD includes a PowerPoint slide, posters, and a flyer. You can add your group's information to all of the promotional material.

The CD also provides in-class worksheets. Each in-class worksheet has a fill-in-the-blank outline that follows

the corresponding outline in this leader's guide.

Other classroom resources on the CD include visuals. The leader's guide refers to each visual as a resource. Each resource is included in the corresponding PowerPoint presentation.

The CD also offers supplemental case studies. Each case study can be used as an in-class review, as material for a midweek Bible study, or as an e-mail attachment to your learners. E-mailing the case studies to your learners will emphasize living out the truth in daily life. You may want to enlist a learner to handle collecting e-mail addresses and e-mailing the case studies each week.

In addition, the CD includes a printable verse card for each lesson's key verse or verses. Blank verse cards are also included so you can enter different or additional verses for your learners to memorize. For your convenience, the verse cards are set for printing on Avery business cards. Use the Avery product number 8869 to avoid cutting apart the verse cards. You can find Avery business cards at [avery.com](http://avery.com). You could also simply print the verse cards on heavy paper and cut them apart using a paper cutter. Or you could e-mail the verse cards to your learners and have them print and cut their own.

## LESSON 1

# The Vision of Christ

### Scripture Focus

Revelation 1

### Key Verse

“I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” (Revelation 1:18).

### Overview

This session introduces the study of Revelation to the class. It is designed to encourage each learner to begin the study with a sense of purpose, value, and expectation. The Scripture focus of the session is on the opening chapter of Revelation. Revelation 1 states a promised blessing, describes Christ, and reveals a vision of Him.

### Topic

The revelation of Jesus Christ

### Theme

The revelation of Jesus Christ demands we worship Him, watch for His coming, and warn the lost of coming judgment.

### Desired Learner Response

The learner will consider how his or her life needs to change in light of the revelation of Jesus Christ.

### Outline

- I. The Nature of the Revelation (1:1–3)
  - A. Its title (1:1)
  - B. Its order (1:1–3)
  - C. Its blessing (1:3)
- II. The Greeting (1:4, 5)
  - A. From John (1:4a)
  - B. From the Trinity (1:4b, 5a)
- III. The Dedication (1:5b–8)
  - A. What Christ has done (1:5, 6)
  - B. What Christ will do (1:7)
  - C. Who Christ is (1:8)
- IV. The Description of John (1: 9–11)
  - A. His condition (1:9, 10)
  - B. His command (1:11)
- V. The Vision of Christ (1:12–18, 20)

### Materials

- RBP transparencies 1—3
- Case study for lesson 1 from resource CD
- Revelation 1:18 verse card from resource CD

- A. The description (1:13–18, 20)
- B. The response (1:17, 18)
- VI. The Command to Write (1:19)

## Getting Started

### Self Revelation

**Ask:** What is something you could reveal about yourself that others would be surprised to learn? **Ask:** How might people react to your revelation? **Discuss:** How might your life be different if God hadn't given us the book of Revelation as a way to learn more about Christ? (Question 1–3)

The book of Revelation reveals Christ to us. We should respond to Christ's revelation of Himself by worshiping Him, watching for His return, and warning the lost of coming judgment.

### Value of Studying Revelation

The title for this course is *Worship, Watch, and Warn*. "Worship" is a reference to our response to the revelation of Jesus Christ. **Discuss:** What might be meant by the word "watch"? (*Watch for the Lord's return by being obedient to Him and serving Him.*) **Discuss:** What is meant by the word "warn"? (*Warn unbelievers about coming judgment on sin as well as God's provision for salvation.*)

The study of Revelation should encourage us to worship the Lord and share the gospel with the lost as we anticipate the Lord's return.

## Searching the Scriptures

Revelation 1 provides a fitting introduction to the entire book. It contains the key to the three major divisions (1:19), and it explains the reason the book was written (1:9–11).

### I. The Nature of the Revelation (Rev. 1:1–3)

#### A. Its title (1:1)

The opening words of verse 1 give the true title of this writing: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ." He is both its source and its subject. It came from Him (22:16) and manifests Him. The translation "revelation" is based upon a word transliterated as "apocalypse." It means "to uncover, to unveil, or to lay bare." It thus stresses a disclosure for the purpose of understanding, not a covering up in secrecy.

The cover of this study has a curtain being pulled back. That is the idea of Revelation. A curtain is pulled back in a sense so we can better understand Christ including His plans for the future.



**DISCUSS:** Why is it important to know that the book of Revelation is Christ's revelation of Himself?  
**DISCUSS:** How should knowing this affect the way we read the book? (Questions 4, 5)

### B. Its order (1:1–3)

The sequence of transmission is clearly presented in verses 1–3. The content of the book of Revelation was given to Christ by God the Father within the redemptive program. Christ then sent His angel to John (1:1; 22:16). The means of communication to John is indicated by the verb “signified” (1:1), a reference to symbolic visions that manifest spiritual significance.

The purpose of the revelatory sequence was “to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass” (1:1). God has sovereignly determined the end of this time-space universe and the means to that end (Dan. 2:21; Eph. 1:11). He also has chosen to reveal these truths to His servants, people such as John and the keepers of the book (cf. Amos 3:7). These events, including blessings on believers and judgments on the lost, occur with great rapidity after they begin.

**DISCUSS:** Why might we say that Christ's revelation of His judgment on the lost demonstrates His grace? (Question 6)

### C. Its blessing (1:3)

Revelation is the only book of Scripture that begins with a direct promise of blessing for the actual reading of its contents. In fact, seven special blessings recorded within its pages. “He that readeth” (note the singular) refers to that individual who actually read the original manuscript in each church; whereas “they that hear” (plural) are the members of the churches who heard the oral reading. In application, all believers today have the individual and corporate privilege and blessing to read, to hear, and to keep the spiritual content of the book.

**ASK:** What does this blessing imply about the possibility of understanding the book of Revelation? (Question 7)

The seven blessings given in Revelation are found in 1:3, 14:13, 16:15, 19:9, 20:6, and 22:7, 14.

## II. The Greetings (Rev. 1:4, 5)

### A. From John (1:4a)

John, the last living apostle, wrote the five last books of the New Testament (1, 2, 3 John, the Gospel of John, Revelation) during the period AD 85–95. He first identified himself as a servant of Christ (1:1) and later as a brother and companion in tribulation (1:9).

In his greeting John addressed specific churches. The seven churches of the Roman province of Asia (modern western Turkey) were probably founded

as the result of Paul's ministry in Ephesus during his third missionary journey (Acts 19:10). Tradition states that John oversaw the work in this area late in his life and that he was banished to Patmos from Ephesus.

### **B. From the Trinity (1:4b, 5a)**

God the Father is described as the One "which is, and which was, and which is to come" (Rev. 1:4). These three aspects of time show His timelessness or His eternal nature.

God the Spirit is designated as "the seven Spirits" (cf. 3:1; 4:5; 5:6). This unique title probably refers to His sevenfold or total perfection.

God the Son, Jesus Christ, is identified in three ways (1:5). These identifications follow the time sequence of His redemptive functions—Prophet, Priest, and King.

First, He is "the faithful witness" (John 1:7). Christ preached exactly what the Father told Him to proclaim (John 7:16). He perfectly revealed God in what He said, did, and was.

Second, He is "the first begotten of the dead." Christ demonstrated His priestly function in His sacrificial death and subsequent resurrection (Heb. 4:14; 9:23–26). He became the first to receive an immortal, incorruptible resurrection body.

Third, He is "the prince of the kings of the earth." He is the sovereign potentate even though contemporary leaders do not bow before Him. He will, however, assert His kingly prerogatives when He returns to the earth.

**ASK:** What do these identifications of Christ mean to you? Choose one word for each of the three identifications. (Question 8)

### **III. The Dedication (Rev. 1:5b–8)**

John dedicated the book to Christ because of His spiritual accomplishments, His future glory, and His present sovereignty.

#### **A. What Christ has done (1:5b, 6)**

First, Christ loved us so much that He died for us (Rev. 1:5). Although John's emphasis here is upon the sacrificial act manifested at Calvary, that type of love goes on forever (Rom. 8:35–39).

Second, He "washed us from our sins in his own blood" (Rev. 1:5b). The spiritual washing of regeneration removed the guilt, penalty, and actual sins so that the child of God is spiritually clean before God, totally righteous in Christ (John 13:10; Titus 3:5). The means of cleansing is the shed blood of Christ, not His example or teaching (Heb. 9:22).

Third, Christ has constituted believers as "kings" (Rev. 1:6). Not only are they in the spiritual kingdom of God, but also they will rule over the earthly kingdom when Christ returns to the earth to establish that theocracy (5:10; 20:6).

Fourth, Christ has also made His own to become priests (1:6). They are a holy and royal priesthood (1 Pet. 2:5, 9).

As a response to what Christ has done, believers should render glory and dominion to Him (Rev. 1:6). To glorify Christ is to acknowledge Him to be what He is and to manifest in one's personal life those spiritual qualities that correspond to Him.

**READ:** Revelation 1:5b, 6. **ASK:** How does what Christ has done impact your life? (Question 9)

### **B. What Christ will do (1:7)**

Verse seven refers to Christ's future return to earth after the Tribulation. The verse does not refer to the rapture of the Church before the Tribulation. Christ will be seen by both the living saved and the living unsaved when He descends to the earth. The two major groups of mankind will also see Him. The nation of Israel is seen as those "which pierced him." John recorded that the soldiers pierced the side of Jesus' body with a spear (John 19:34–37) and that the wound was still visible in the resurrection body of Christ (John 20:25, 27). The Gentile nations, the other major people group, are included in the phrase "all kindreds of the earth."

### **C. Who Christ is (1:8)**

Verse eight includes descriptions of Who Christ is. First, He is the Alpha and Omega. These two names stand for the first and the last letters of the Greek alphabet. Christ is the sum total—the beginning and completion—of all that could be said or written about the essence of God. As the personal revelation of God, He could assert that to see Him was to see the Father (John 1:18; 14:9).

Second, Christ is eternal, a quality seen in two titles. The title "the beginning and the ending" relates Him to the created universe. He caused it to come into existence, and He will take it out of reality. The title "which is, and which was, and which is to come" shows Christ is the eternal, self-existent God.

Third, Christ is sovereign. He is "the Almighty." His plan and power work in total harmony. He can work in and through the activities of men and nations, both good and evil, to accomplish His ultimate purpose—the glorification of God and the blessing of His people.

**ASK:** What does this dedication of the book to Christ remind us about the completeness of His work? (Question 10)

## **IV. The Description of John (Rev. 1:9–11)**

### **A. His condition (1:9, 10)**

John identified with his readers. Although he was a revered apostle, he simply named himself as their brother in the family of God. He was also their companion in tribulation, in the Kingdom, and in the patience of Jesus Christ.

Christ predicted that His own would experience tribulation in the world

Tradition states that the next Roman ruler, Nerva, permitted John to return to the mainland (ca. AD 96).

(John 16:33). The Roman imperial persecutions of believers began under the reign of Nero (AD 67) and continued until Constantine issued his Edict of Toleration (AD 313). John described his banishment to the island of Patmos in the Aegean Sea by the emperor Domitian (Rev. 1:9). John stated two reasons for his exile—his commitment to the truth of the Word of God and his witness for Christ.

**READ:** Revelation 1:9. **ASK:** How well was John doing at worshiping, watching, and warning? (Question 11)

John set forth his prophetic experience. He literally “came to be in the Spirit” (Rev. 1:10). This later occurred when John was caught up into Heaven (4:2). In this vehicle of Spirit control, John could be transported into future time and space to see and to receive special revelation.

### **B. His command (1:11)**

John heard a voice, a sound as loud and clear as a trumpet. We may conclude that this was the voice of Christ, because the speaker used the same terms to describe Himself later (cf. 1:17; 22:13). The phrase “the first and the last” is a designation of Jehovah God.

Two commands are issued: write and send. The book of Revelation is the written record of what John was about to see. The apostle then was to send the finished volume to the seven churches of Asia. Each church was to read it, perhaps to make a copy and to pass it on to the next church.

## **V. The Vision of Christ (Rev. 1:12–18, 20)**

John turned around to see the person who had just spoken to him. He first saw the seven golden candlesticks or lampstands, but subsequently he perceived Christ in the midst of them.

In the holy place within the Mosaic tabernacle, and later in the temple, stood a single seven-branched lampstand, or menorah. In typology, the Jewish lampstand prefigured the Messiah, the light of His people (John 1:4). The seven golden candlesticks that John saw symbolize the seven local churches of Asia. The vision thus represented Christ, in all of His moral and resurrection glory, about to pronounce a spiritual evaluation of the churches over which He is the authoritative head.

### **A. The description (1:13–16, 20)**

**READ:** Revelation 1:13–16. **ASK:** Which description of Christ in this passage is most striking to you? (Question 12)

Christ often referred to Himself as the Son of Man. This title designated His humanity and His redemptive, Messianic function. His full-length garment resembles the type worn by the Old Testament priest-judge (Exod. 28:2). The high priest had golden thread within his girdle, but the breastplate of Christ

is solid gold. It probably symbolizes His worth and royalty.

The whiteness of His head and hairs seems to portray His eternity, purity, wisdom, and deity. In a vision Daniel saw God, the Ancient of Days, with hair white like pure wool (Dan. 7:9). The eyes of fire speak of perfect discernment. God can penetrate the inner recesses of mankind with His omniscience (Rev. 2:23).

The feet of brass possibly represent pure, righteous judgment. Christ judges according to truth and holiness. He is no respecter of persons or churches. The voice of many waters depicts the authority and power of His spoken word. He will do what He says He will do because He has the ability to achieve it.

In His right hand are seven stars. The seven stars are later identified as “the angels of the seven churches” (1:20). The Greek word for “angels” literally means “messengers.” Both angelic and human messengers are mentioned in Scripture. Some view these stars as the guardian angels of the churches (Heb. 1:14). Since angels minister to individual believers, it is possible that they could attend the activities of believers joined together in local churches. Others regard the stars as the human messengers, even the pastors of the churches.

The two-edged sword out of His mouth portrays His Word, which applies both to the saved and the unsaved. With it, He can chastise His own people (2:12, 16) or smite the wicked nations at Armageddon (19:15, 21).

The shining of His countenance as the sun represents the glory of His deity. When Jesus was transfigured before three of His apostles, His face “did shine as the sun” (Matt. 17:2). Isaiah saw this glory even before God the Son became incarnate (Isa. 6:1–8; John 12:41).

**ASK:** Which of the descriptions of Christ in verses 12–16 might believers today need to be reminded of the most? **ASK:** Which description do you need to be reminded of the most? (Questions 13, 14)

### **B. The response (1:17, 18)**

John’s response to the sight of Christ was dramatic. He fell at Christ’s feet as if he was dead (Rev. 1:17).

**READ:** Revelation 1:17a. **DISCUSS:** Why would John fall at Christ’s feet as if he was dead? **ASK:** Do you think your response would be any different? Explain. (Questions 15, 16)

No mortal can long stare at the moral glory of the Savior. Our finiteness and our falling short of Christ’s glory overwhelm us in His presence. Christ then ministered to John by touching the apostle and by speaking to him regarding His titles.

The self-revelation of the Savior through the titles shows His relationships to time and eternity and to death and life.

**READ:** Revelation 1:17b, 18. **DISCUSS:** Why would

Christ’s titles in these verses be particularly encouraging to John? (Question 17)

The title “the first and the last” indicates Christ’s deity. He is Jehovah God. The next title, “and was dead” affirms His humanity (1:18). Christ took to Himself a complete humanity through the virgin conception and birth. As a divine-human person, He experienced death on the cross but then overcame death through His resurrection.

Through His death and resurrection, He destroyed Satan. He has the keys, the authority, over those who are in Hades (Hell) and over death. Hades is the place where the soul of the unsaved goes at death, and death is the realm of the body. At the Great White Throne Judgment, Christ will call the unsaved out of death and Hell to appear before Him (Rev. 20:11–15).

**VI. The Command to Write (Rev. 1:19)**

Verse 19 is the key to the major divisions of the book. John had just seen the vision of Christ (Rev. 1). Christ would later show John “the things which must be hereafter” (4:1—22:5). Thus, “the things which are” must be the seven letters to the seven churches (Rev. 2; 3).

Major Divisions of Revelation				
“Must Seem” Past (Revelation 1)	“Are” Present (Revelation 2-3)	“Shall be hereafter” Future (Revelation 4–22)		
The Vision of Christ	The Seven Churches of Asia	(Revelation 4–12) The Throne and the Book The Seal Judgments The Trumpet Judgments Holy Conflicts	(Revelation 13:1–19:6) The Beasts The Bowl Judgments The Fall of Babylon	(Revelation 19:7–22:21) The Return of Christ The 1,000 Year Reign of Christ The Final Judgment The New Heaven and New Earth
<p>“I am [Jesus Christ] he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death” (Revelation 1:18).</p>				

**TRANSPARENCY:** Display transparency 2 to show the major divisions of Revelation.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ and its unfolding events, yet future, is a source of special comfort and guidance in these days that precede His return. Knowing the future provides hope in the present.

From this opening chapter we know how John came to write down the prophecies contained in this Book. We know its structure and that it reveals things yet to come. In its revelation of Jesus Christ and its unfolding of events yet future it is a source of special comfort and guidance in these days that precede His return.

Responding to the Revelation of Christ Revelation 1		
Worship	Watch	Warn

**TRANSPARENCY:** Display transparency 3. **ASK:** Record key phrases from Revelation 1 that call us to worship, watch, or warn. Record learners’ answers on the transparency. (Question 18)

**Making It Personal**

**John’s Description of Christ**

John was very encouraged by the description of Christ he wrote in Revelation 1. Studying this passage should also be encouraging to us.

**Ask:** What one or two big impressions about Christ does Revelation 1 leave in your mind? **Discuss:** What changes should those impressions make

Use the case study for lesson 1 as desired.

in your life? (Questions 19, 20)

Encourage your learners to approach the rest of this study with a focus on Christ and sensitivity to how they should respond to His revelation of Himself.

**Worship, Watch, and Warn**

**Transparency:** Display transparency 3 as a review. **Ask:** What specific responses should you make in light of the revelation of Christ in Revelation 1? (Question 21)

Challenge your learners to strive to live in light of the revelation of Jesus Christ as they learn more about Him and His ways from the book of Revelation.

**Review Transparency**

Use transparency 1 to review the response for this lesson: Live in light of Christ's revelation of Himself.

**Memory Verse**

Distribute copies of the Revelation 1:18 verse card from the resource CD. Encourage the learners to memorize the verse.

