

## How can I understand the introduction to Revelation (1:1-8)?

As we begin the process of studying the book of Revelation, we need to understand how God opens the book to the readers as it establishes the author and some of the background of the book itself.

1. What should we understand about the purpose of the book?

Revelation **1:1**

Luke **2:29-32**

Romans **1:16-18**

Ephesians 3:2-5

Hebrews **1:1-4**

Romans 2:3-6

Romans **16:25-26**

Amos **3:7**

The book is the Revelation Of Jesus Christ. Revelation comes from the Latin form of the Greek word, Apocalypsis or Apocalypse. The read literally means to unveil, draw back the veil of, or reveal Jesus Christ. Not only is the book about revealing Jesus it also indicates that the book is being delivered by God to Jesus and that Jesus showed it or revealed it to His servants. The revelation of Jesus is about the revealing of the mystery of God that was hidden in the writings and teachings of the prophets but has now been clearly exposed. It includes a revealing of what is to come. It is important to understand that the genre of the book is Apocalyptic and since it is apocalyptic in nature, its contents will not always be explicitly clear. It will be filled with symbolism and figurative language. Care must be taken not to interpret it too literally but literarily.

2. What should we know about the author of the book?

Revelation **1:2**

John **21:24-25**

1 John **1:1-3**

John **19:33-37**

The person who penned the book is writing what he actually saw and heard. The contents of the book are not hearsay but as clear an exposition as he is able to provide. He is also an eyewitness and an active testifier of the person and works of the Lord Jesus Christ.

3. What should we know about the recipient of the book?

Revelation **1:3**

Revelation **1:6**

Matthew 13:3-9

Luke 14:34-35

John **14:26**

Revelation 1:4

Romans **10:17**

Matthew 13:41-43

John **12:46-49**

There are blessings to the reader, to the listener and the obeyer of the contents of the book. Since the book is to be “kept” that means that its contents can be understood and followed. The book of Revelation is not to be understood as a mystery nor as something that is difficult to understand. The way to understand the book is to read it and pray that the Lord will provide the ears to hear. The only way to have the ears to hear the message is to have the spirit of God which comes upon all who believe.

4. What should we remember about Jesus from the introduction?

Revelation **1:4**

Exodus 3:14

John **8:54-58**

Revelation **1:5**

Revelation **1:7-8**

John **8:29**

John **5:20-23**

John **3:35**

1 Timothy **6:13-16**

Philippians **2:9-11**

Jesus is faithful to the message and He is a witness of God. This indicates that He communicates and lives out the message from God. Jesus "is". This indicates that He is the great "I AM". He is the first from the dead. This indicates that He truly is the first one born to eternal life. It is because of His resurrection that we can have hope of being resurrected and thus live for all eternity. He is the ruler above all rulers and will be obeyed whether the people want it or not.