

Revelation 1 Part 1

Table: Revelation 1:1-11
 Revelation 1:1-11, AV1611 versus NIV/NKJV footnotes

Verse	AV1611	NIV/NKJV footnotes
1	<i>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:</i>	<i>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,</i>
2	<i>Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.</i>	<i>who testifies to everything he saw — that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ.</i>
3	<i>Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand.</i>	<i>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.</i>
4	<i>John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;</i>	<i>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,</i>
5	<i>And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood,</i>	<i>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,</i>
6	<i>And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.</i>	<i>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.</i>
7	<i>Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.</i>	<i>Look, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of him. So shall it be! Amen.</i>
8	<i>I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.</i>	<i>“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”</i>
9	<i>I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.</i>	<i>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.</i>
10	<i>I was in the Spirit on the Lord’s day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,</i>	<i>On the Lord’s Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet,</i>

11	<p><i>Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: 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.</i></p>	<p>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."</p>
----	---	---

Note that many of the notes that follow this table are from Dr Ruckman's commentary *The Book Of Revelation*, Bible Baptist Bookstore, 1970, pp 1-23, 77-93, 128 and the *Ruckman Reference Bible*, pp 1643-1645, 1648.

Notes on Revelation 1:1-11

1. Revelation 1:1. Revelation 1:1 speaks of the revelation about the Lord Jesus Christ and what He would do in the End Times that ***“God gave...unto his servant John”*** for John in turn to reveal to all of God’s servants ***“things which must shortly come to pass.”*** Almost 2,000 years have elapsed since God gave the Book of Revelation to John but the word ***“shortly”*** still applies from God’s perspective as Peter explains in 2 Peter 3:8.

“But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.”

“His angel” is a reference to an appearance¹ by ***“the angel of the LORD.”*** Note the expression ***“the angel of the LORD appeared”*** or similar that appears 10 times in scripture, Exodus 3:2, Judges 6:12, 13:3, 21, Matthew 1:20, 2:13, 19, Luke 1:11, 22:43, Acts 7:30.

John describes ***“the angel of the LORD”*** and His appearance in Revelation 1:13-16.

2. Revelation 1:2. The revelation that *God* gave to John is therefore by definition ***“the word of God”*** of which John ***“bare record”*** because like the Lord Jesus Christ, he was ***“the true and faithful witness”*** Revelation 3:14 ***“of all things that he saw.”***

“The testimony of Jesus Christ” is defined in Revelation 19:10 as ***“the spirit of prophecy.”*** It is this spirit of prophecy to which John also faithfully ***“bare record”*** that enables the foretelling of the future or ***“things which must shortly come to pass.”***

It should be noted that ***“the spirit of prophecy”*** identifies ***“the scripture of truth”*** Daniel 10:21 as ***“the word of God.”*** Dr Ruckman² states that the four Gospels contain 48 fulfilled prophecies³ about the Lord Jesus Christ, the full details of which the Lord could not possibly have fulfilled Himself during His earthly ministry⁴. Only twice in scripture does the Lord appear to have been able to make a conscious decision with respect to the fulfilment of prophecy. However, only one such instance, John 19:28, with respect to Psalm 69:21, could be considered fulfilment of a Messianic prophecy and then only with respect to one particular detail.

“And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” Luke 4:21.

“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst” John 19:28.

This one detail is overwhelmingly outweighed by the other prophetic details that came to pass during the Lord’s earthly life over He had no direct control. Dr Ruckman states further that the late Peter Stoner⁵, of Pasadena City College, calculated that the statistical probability of one man fulfilling all 48 prophecies by chance is one in 10¹⁵⁷. That these prophecies have been fulfilled is clearly ***“the work of God”*** Psalm 64:9 fulfilling ***“the word of God”*** Revelation 1:2, as this Messianic statement resolutely declares.

“And all men shall fear, and shall declare the work of God; for they shall wisely consider of his doing.”

Many of the Old Testament prophecies that were fulfilled when the Lord Jesus Christ suffered ***“his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem”*** Luke 9:31 are listed below⁶. The fulfilment of these prophecies is a powerful testimony to ***“the spirit of prophecy”*** that will ensure the complete fulfilment of ***“things which shortly come to pass”*** as John prophesies them in the Book of Revelation.

PROPHECY		FULFILLMENT	
Genesis 3:15	John 19:18	Psalm 69:21	Matthew 27:34
Exodus 12:46	John 19:36	Psalm 109:25	Matthew 27:39
Psalms 2:2	Mark 15:1	Isaiah 50:6	Matthew 26:67
Psalms 22:1	Matthew 27:46	Isaiah 53:3	John 1:11
Psalms 22:6	Matthew 27:39-44	Isaiah 53:5,6,10	Romans 5:6,8
Psalms 22:7-8	Matthew 27:39-44	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 27:13-14
Psalms 22:16	John 19:18	Isaiah 53:7	Matthew 26:62-63
Psalms 22:17	Matthew 27:36	Isaiah 53:8	Mark 15:1-25
Psalms 22:18	Matthew 27:35	Isaiah 53:9	Matthew 27:57-60
Psalms 31:5	Luke 23:46	Isaiah 53:12	Mark 15:27-28
Psalms 34:20	John 19:32-33 & 36	Daniel 9:26	Matthew 26:24
Psalms 35:11	Mark 14:56	Amos 8:9	Matthew 27:45
Psalms 38:11	Luke 23:49	Zechariah 11:13	Matthew 27:9
Psalms 41:9	John 13:18	Zechariah 12:10	John 19:34
Psalms 69:19	Matthew 27:28-29	Zechariah 13:7	Mark 14:27,50

Speaking personally, the Christian has *“the spirit of prophecy”* in that he can know that he is saved for all eternity, where he is going for all eternity and where he is *not* going.

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life” John 5:24.

3. ***Revelation 1:3.*** God bestows a blessing upon anyone that reads the Book of Revelation, hears its words and keeps that which is *“written therein.”* Revelation 1:3 therefore contrasts sharply with Revelation 22:19.

“And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

Revelation 1:3, 22:19 are consistent with the Lord’s exhortation in Mark 4:24-25, by which the Christian *“shall be blessed in his deed”* James 1:25 to *“keep those things which are written therein.”*

“And he said unto them, Take heed what ye hear: with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you: and unto you that hear shall more be given. For he that hath, to him shall be given: and he that hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he hath.”

The expression *“the time is at hand”* rightly reinforces the urgency of the expression *“things which must shortly come to pass”* Revelation 1:1.

4. ***Revelation 1:4.*** John’s greeting to his readers *“Grace be unto you, and peace”* is similar to that found in the Pauline Epistles insofar as John has the complete Pauline revelation before him when he writes the Book of Revelation. Such a greeting is of course God’s greeting to *His* readers, which is an encouragement.

“Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ” 1 Corinthians 1:3, 2 Corinthians 1:2, Galatians 1:3, Ephesians 1:2, Philippians 1:2.

See also Romans 1:7, Colossians 1:2, 1 Thessalonians 1:1, 2 Thessalonians 1:2, 1 Timothy 1:2, 2 Timothy 1:2, Titus 1:4, Philemon 3.

The expression *“which is, and which was, and which is to come”* Revelation 1:4, 8 emphasises the expression *“I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending...the first and the last”* Revelation 1:8, 11. See also Revelation 11:17. The Lord Jesus Christ *“is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting”* Micah 5:2 according to *“the power of an endless life”* Hebrews 7:16 and according to Psalm 90:2 *“Before the mountains*

were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.”

“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.

The Lord Jesus Christ is *“that eternal life, which was with the Father”* 1 John 1:2 and 1 John 5:11-13 explain how the individual can be partaker of *“that eternal life.”*

“Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift” 2 Corinthians 9:15.

As Dr Ruckman observes, the recurrence of the number *“seven”* in the Book of Revelation and throughout the scripture should carefully noted; *“seven churches”* Revelation 1:4, *“seven Spirits”* Revelation 1:4*, *“seven golden candlesticks”* Revelation 1:12, *“seven stars”* Revelation 1:16, *“seven lamps of fire”* Revelation 4:5, *“seven seals”* Revelation 5:1, *“a Lamb...having seven horns and seven eyes”* Revelation 5:6, *“seven angels”* Revelation 8:2, *“seven trumpets”* Revelation 8:2, *“seven thunders”* Revelation 10:3, *“a beast...having seven heads”* Revelation 13:1, *“seven last plagues”* Revelation 15:1, *“seven vials”* Revelation 17:1, *“seven kings”* Revelation 17:10, seven key personages; the Lord Jesus Christ, John, the woman, the dragon, the beast, the false prophet, the whore, Revelation 12:1, 3, 13:1, 11, 16:13, 17:1. See *Note*.

The number seven is God’s signature for His Book *“the scripture of truth”* Daniel 10:21. It is no accident that many editions of the 1611 Holy Bible have seven marks or ‘seals’ around the cover of the binding on the spine that other so-called bibles do not have.

5. Revelation 1:5. Revelation 1:5 refers to the Lord Jesus Christ *“who is the faithful witness”* in that during His earthly ministry He glorified His Father, manifested His Father’s name *Jehovah* saves as *“JESUS”* Matthew 1:21 to the disciples and gave them the Father’s words, John 17:4, 6, 8.

“I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.”

“I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.”

“For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.”

The Lord was also *“the faithful witness”* to all men according to John 18:20.

“Jesus answered him, I spake openly to the world; I ever taught in the synagogue, and in the temple, whither the Jews always resort; and in secret have I said nothing.”

The Lord therefore commissions His followers to be faithful witnesses, unto Him, according to Acts 1:8.

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

The Lord Jesus Christ is *“the first begotten of the dead”* because He is the first man ever to come up from the dead *never to die again*.

“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.

Revelation 1:5, 18 together are immediately associated with Peter’s pivotal statement in Acts 2:24 with respect to the Lord as *“the first begotten of the dead”* according to *God* furnishing *“the power of his resurrection”* Philippians 3:10, an expression that occurs nowhere else in scripture.

“Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.”

Acts 2:24 and Philippians 3:10 are closely linked with Romans 1:4, a testimony to the Lord’s sinlessness and Deity through His Resurrection.

“And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead:”

God can make this power of resurrection available to anyone because the expression ***“Alive for evermore”*** is the promise the Lord makes to every individual who believes on Him for salvation, even if that individual dies physically before the Lord’s Return.

“Jesus said unto her, *I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:*” John 11:25.

“And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power” 1 Corinthians 6:14.

The Lord Jesus Christ is ***“the prince of the kings of the earth”*** according to Psalm 2, especially Psalm 2:10-11, Revelation 11:17-18, 19:15.

“Be wise now therefore, *O ye kings: be instructed, ye judges of the earth. Serve the LORD with fear, and rejoice with trembling.*”

“...We give thee thanks, *O Lord God Almighty, which art, and wast, and art to come; because thou hast taken to thee thy great power, and hast reigned. And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth.*”

“And *out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*”

The statement that the Lord Jesus Christ ***“loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood”*** is Pauline doctrine that applies directly to the Christian and points to the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ.

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed *the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood*” Acts 20:28.

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and *the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me*” Galatians 2:20.

“*In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*” Ephesians 1:7.

“*In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:*” Colossians 1:14.

6. Revelation 1:6. Revelation 1:6 reinforces 1 Peter 2:5, 9, with respect to the essential doctrine of the priesthood of all believers.

“Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.”

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”

Paul explains the “*spiritual sacrifices*” in Hebrews 13:12-15.

“Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, bearing his reproach. For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.”

See also 2 Corinthians 5:18-20 as part “*the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.*”

“And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.”

That is the Christian’s responsibility now. He will reign with the Lord Jesus Christ later, at the Lord’s Return, provided he fulfils 2 Timothy 2:12.

“If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:” i.e. a crown.

In other words, no cross Luke 9:23, no crown. So be it, “*Amen.*”

7. Revelation 1:7. Revelation 1:7 is a reference to the Second Advent, which will be an event to “*Behold*” as the Lord foretold in Matthew 24:30.

“And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.”

“*He cometh with clouds*” because the earth will have been without rain for three and a half years by means of the ministry of “*my two witnesses*” Revelation 11:3, 6, one of whom is “*Elias*” (Elijah), 1 Kings 17:1, James 5:17. Psalm 68:7-9 describes⁷ what happens at the Second Advent.

“O God, when thou wentest forth before thy people, when thou didst march through the wilderness; Selah: The earth shook, the heavens also dropped at the presence of God: even Sinai itself was moved at the presence of God, the God of Israel. Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful rain, whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary.”

“*They also which pierced him*” are Jews of “*This generation*” Matthew 24:34 who are on the earth at the Second Advent. These are the descendants of “*Ye men of Israel*” who “*By wicked hands have crucified and slain*” the Lord Jesus Christ “*whom ye delivered up, and denied him in the presence of Pilate, when he was determined to let him go*” Acts 2:22, 23 3:13.

Revelation 1:7 applies to “*This generation*” because Acts 3:14 applies to them.

“But ye denied the Holy One and the Just, and desired a murderer to be granted unto you;”

“*This generation*” did. As the Lord warned in John 5:43 “*if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.”*

He would be “*no king but Caesar*” John 19:15 “*a murderer from the beginning*” John 8:44 and the Devil incarnate, “*that man of sin...the son of perdition...Even him, whose coming is af-*

ter the working of Satan” 2 Thessalonians 2:3, 4, 9. “Barabbas” Luke 23:18, 19, John 18:40 as a murderer and ‘son of the father’⁸ John 8:44 foreshadowed him.

Zechariah 12:10 cross-references Revelation, emphasising that “they also which pierced him...shall wail because of him.”

“And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”

The result will be that Israel is converted to her Messiah Daniel 9:25, 26 in one day.

“Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? or shall a nation be born at once? for as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children” Isaiah 66:8.

“For behold the stone that I have laid before Joshua; upon one stone shall be seven eyes: behold, I will engrave the graving thereof, saith the LORD of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day” Zechariah 3:9.

For anyone who knows not the Lord Jesus Christ, the day is now.

“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)” 2 Corinthians 6:2.

Pray to “be instant in season, out of season” 2 Timothy 4:2 and the family too.

8. Revelation 1:8. See comments under Revelation 1:4 with respect to the expression “which is, and which was, and which is to come” with respect to “the Lord...the Almighty.” Note further that the Lord is He “which is” a priest, Hebrews 7:24-26, “which was” a prophet, Luke 13:33 and “which is to come” a king, Luke 1:31-33.

The Christian who is “of the household of God” Ephesians 2:19 manifests aspects of the Lord’s 3 offices according to the priesthood of all believers, according to 1 Peter 2:9.

“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, [Revelation 1:6] an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him [e.g. Isaiah 12] who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”

Note that the expression “Alpha and Omega” is defined in Revelation 1:8 as “the beginning and the ending” and in Revelation 1:11 as “the first and the last.”

Isaiah 46:9-10 therefore identifies the Lord Jesus Christ of the New Testament as the Lord God Jehovah of the Old Testament.

“Remember the former things of old: for I am God, and there is none else; I am God, and there is none like me, Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure:”

The Lord’s word, it should be noted, is “the first” in pre-eminence and “the last” in authority. That is how He is “the first and the last” because He has exalted His word above all else.

Psalms 138:2 is unequivocal in this respect, noting that the Lord’s name “is above every name” Philippians 2:9.

“I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.”

That should be the Christian’s attitude to the Lord’s word.

Note also the application of Revelation 1:8 to the Lord's role in the foundation and renovation of all creation according to Colossians 1:17, Hebrews 1:10-12 and 2 Peter 3:10.

“And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.”

“And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands: They shall perish; but thou remainest; and they all shall wax old as doth a garment; And as a vesture shalt thou fold them up, and they shall be changed: but thou art the same, and thy years shall not fail.”

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”

In the light of Revelation 1:8 and associated cross references, therefore, the Christian should be looking unto the fulfilment of 2 Peter 3:13.

“Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.”

The Lord Jesus Christ is also ***“Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending...the first and the last”*** with respect to ***“the faith of Jesus Christ”*** Galatians 2:16, according to Hebrews 12:2.

“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

The Lord Jesus Christ authored or began the ***“faith of Jesus Christ”*** Romans 3:22 ***“unto life eternal”*** John 12:25 during His earthly ministry according to His declaration to Martha in John 11:25-26.

“Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believe thou this?”

He finished ***“the faith of Jesus Christ”*** by His declaration ***“It is finished”*** John 19:30 on the cross ***“by his own blood. having obtained eternal redemption for us”*** Hebrews 9:12 and by the pledge of the ministry of the Spirit of God, Who would impart to the apostles ***“our faith”*** with respect to the entire body of Christian belief, as the term ***“faith”*** is used⁹ in Galatians 1:23, Colossians 1:23, 2 Timothy 4:7, 1 Peter 5:9, Jude 3 i.e. ***“the faith which was once delivered unto the saints,”*** according to John 14:26, 16:13.

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

See also 1 Corinthians 2:13. The Christian should constantly remind himself to ***“grieve not the holy Spirit of God”*** Ephesians 4:30 by neglecting, disbelieving or disobeying ***“the words...which the Holy Ghost teacheth;”***

9. Revelation 1:9. John describes himself as “*your brother*” and claims no special distinction as an apostle, just as Peter claims no special distinction as an elder but simply refers to himself as “*also an elder*” 1 Peter 5:1.

John reminds his readers that he is their “*companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ*” as the other apostles do.

“Confirming the souls of the disciples, and exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God” Acts 14:22.

“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world. But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you” 1 Peter 5:8-10.

“Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,” Jude 24.

The prospect of undergoing 2 Timothy 3:12 “*Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution*” is not only daunting but certain. However, the Christian has the promise of Paul’s experience in 2 Timothy 3:11.

“Out of them all the Lord delivered me.”

The Lord gets you through.

Note that John “*was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.*” John therefore is living proof of 2 Timothy 2:8, 9, 3:12 and 1 Peter 2:21-23, 4:14, 16.

“For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth: Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously:”

“If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified... Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.”

10. Revelation 1:10. Revelation 1:10 refers to Revelation 4:1-2, which “*the Lord...the Almighty*” Revelation 1:8 is able to bring about. John is caught up “*in the Spirit*” to view that which is still future.

“After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter. And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.”

“*The Lord’s day*” is not Sunday as according to popular usage but “*the day of the Lord*” Acts 2:20, 1 Thessalonians 5:2, 2 Peter 3:10, the events of which John sees and records in the Book of Revelation, Revelation 1:11.

The “*great voice, as of a trumpet*” is identified as that of the Lord Himself, Revelation 1:18. It is also identified as “*the voice of God*” Deuteronomy 4:33 according to the association with Sinai, Exodus 19:13, 16, 19, 20:18, which includes the first mention of the word “*trumpet*.”

11. Revelation 1:11. See comments under point 8 on Revelation 1:8 with respect to the expression ***“I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.”***

In addition to their 1st century historical setting and prophetic import for the End Times, the names of the seven churches match the prevailing characteristic of the period that each represents in the Church Age. Some periods, i.e. Smyrna, Thyatira, Sardis, evidently have to do with great suffering by true believers.

It is clear from Revelation 3:14-20 that the church is now in the Laodicean Age, the last age before the Lord’s Return.

“Ephesus” – fully purposed

“Smyrna” – myrrh

“Pergamos” – much marriage

“Thyatira” – odour of affliction

“Sardis” – red ones

“Philadelphia” – brotherly love

“Laodicea” – civil rights

The challenge for today’s believer is to ensure that he has obeyed Revelation 3:18-19.

“I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.”

Taking just one aspect of the Lord’s exhortation ***“to repentance”*** 2 Corinthians 7:9 in Revelation 3:18-19, by way of illustration, ***“to buy of me gold tried in the fire”*** would be to become ***“rich in faith”*** James 2:5 according to 1 Peter 1:7.

“That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:”

Faith tried by fire is true faith that pleases God, Hebrews 11:6, which all of the Lord’s people should seek to do, especially in view of Revelation 3:16. This true faith is characterised by belief in ***“the word of faith, which we preach;”*** Romans 10:8. See also Romans 10:17 ***“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”***

Of the preaching of ***“the word of faith”*** that is ***“the word of God,”*** Proverbs 25:11 states ***“A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.”***

“The word of faith” consists, of course, of ***“the words of faith”*** 1 Timothy 4:6.

The association between ***“the word of faith,”*** ***“the words of faith,”*** gold and silver is carried further in Psalm 19:10, 12:6, 7, along with the process of being ***“tried in the fire”*** and ***“tried by fire.”***

“More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold:”

“The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times. Thou shalt keep them, O LORD, thou shalt preserve them from this generation for ever.”

Because God has kept and preserved His words, ***“the words of faith”*** that have been ***“in a furnace of earth, purified seven times,”*** therefore the Christian can keep them. This is the commendation that God gave ***“the church in Philadelphia”*** Revelation 3:7.

“Thou...hast kept my word” Revelation 3:8.

“Thou hast kept the word of my patience” Revelation 3:10.

“The church in Philadelphia” is the church of the Reformation, revival and global, *effective* mission that in church history extended from approximately 1500 A.D. to 1900 A.D. It is *this church* that God *particularly* commends for keeping His word, *not* the apostolic, or immediately post-apostolic churches with ‘the originals’ and the so-called ‘oldest and best manuscripts.’

The testimony of church history is that ***“the word of my patience”*** that ***“the church in Philadelphia”*** kept is in its seventh and final state of purification is the 1611 Authorized King James Holy Bible.

The Lord in Revelation 3:18-19 is therefore urging ***“the church of the Laodiceans”*** Revelation 3:14 to ***“be zealous therefore, and repent”*** and return to that Book as ***“gold tried in the fire”*** as priority.

The testimony of church history is unequivocal. Without *that Book*, Reformation, revival and global, *effective* mission will not happen.

That is the challenge for today’s believer in ensuring that he has obeyed Revelation 3:18-19.

12. The NIV is deficient in the following verses in Revelation 1:1-11.

12.1. Revelation 1:3. Substitution of ***“the one”*** for ***“he”*** is a subtle move to ‘the One’ of the New Age heresy. See *New Age Versions* by Dr Mrs Gail Riplinger, Chapter 5.

12.2. Revelation 1:4. Substitution of ***“spirits”*** lower case *s* for ***“Spirits”*** upper case *S* detracts from the Deity of the third Person of the Godhead, the Holy Ghost 1 John 5:7.

12.3. Revelation 1:5. Although ***“firstborn from the dead”*** is a correct expression with respect to the Lord Jesus Christ, see Colossians 1:18, substitution of that expression for ***“first begotten of the dead”*** in the context of Revelation 1, especially Revelation 1:18, weakens the cross references to the key scriptures Acts 2:24, Romans 1:4, Philippians 3:10.

12.4. Revelation 1:5. It is essential to be ***“washed”*** from sin 1 Corinthians 6:11, Ephesians 5:26, not merely ***“freed.”*** Omission of the word ***“own”*** weakens the cross reference to Acts 20:28. See remarks under point 5.

12.5. Revelation 1:6. Substitution of ***“kingdom”*** for ***“kings”*** demotes the faithful Christian from royalty 2 Timothy 2:12 to subjection to royalty. Alteration of ***“God and his Father”*** to ***“his God and Father”*** allows for the New Age false teaching that the God of the Bible is but one ‘God.’ See *New Age Versions*, Chapter 16.

12.6. Revelation 1:8. Addition of the word ***“God”*** creates confusion between the First and Second Persons of the Godhead, 1 John 5:7. The NIV actually cuts out the word ***“God”*** 468 times in scriptures, although adding it erroneously in Revelation 1:8, www.av1611.org/biblewrd.html. See point 12.9 on the NIV’s omission of the expression ***“the beginning and the ending.”***

12.7. Revelation 1:9. The important word ***“Christ”*** is omitted twice and thereby totally removed from Revelation 1:9. The NIV cuts out the word ***“Christ”*** a total of 25 times from scripture, www.av1611.org/biblewrd.html.

12.8. Revelation 1:11. The word ***“book”*** occurs 28 times in the Book of Revelation, which is itself part of ***“the little book”*** Revelation 10:8, 9, 10 and ***“the book of life”*** Revelation 22:19. The NIV’s substitution of the word ***“scroll”*** obscures this revelation. See point 12:9 on the NIV’s omission of the expressions ***“I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last”*** and ***“which are in Asia.”***

- 12.9. Revelation 1:8, 11 are among the many verses from which the typical critic of the 1611 Holy Bible seeks to cut out God's words. What follows is an extract from the site *Time for Truth*, with an addition at the end, signified by *.

See www.timefortruth.co.uk/content/pages/documents/1302983577.pdf

Revelation 1:8. Text supposedly to remove: ***“the beginning and the ending”***

It should first be noted that departures from the 1611 Holy Bible in the Book of Revelation are particularly well documented. Dr Moorman in Chapter 4 of *When The KJV Departs From The “Majority” Text* describes the work of Hoskier who identified two major streams of manuscripts for the Book of Revelation, collating 200 plus extant mss. of the Book of Revelation.

Over half of the mss. belong to what Hoskier termed the Andreas group, the text of which can be traced back to the 2nd century, i.e. not long after the time of the Apostle John himself. The 1611 Holy Bible follows the Andreas text for the Book of Revelation. The remaining mss. belong to what Hoskier termed the 046 group. He concluded that it dates from the 7th century, when changes were made to extant mss. that now constitute the observed departures in modern versions from the text of the 1611 Holy Bible.

Dr Mrs Riplinger states in *Hazardous Materials* pp 754ff that the changes to the correct i.e. Andreas/1611 Holy Bible texts were made by Greek Orthodox monks who denied the literal 1000-year reign of the Lord Jesus Christ on earth as prophesied in Revelation 20:3-5.

Dr Moorman in *Early Manuscripts and the Authorized Version, A Closer Look!* p 149 confirms that the Andreas mss. contain the words ***“the beginning and the ending”*** along with 8 Old Latin witnesses.

The words are found in the Wycliffe, Tyndale, Coverdale, Great, Bishops', Geneva bibles and in Stephanus's Received Text.

It should therefore be noted again that the critic will have to overthrow the witness of the 16th century English Protestant Reformation in order to deny this and the subsequent readings from the Book of Revelation that he seeks to cut out of the 1611 Holy Bible.

It should be noted further that the critic is evidently taking of his alterations to the 1611 Holy Bible from the so-called Majority Text of Hodges and Farstad. This is not a majority text but is based on the incomplete 1913 collation of Herman von Soden, who collated only about 8% of available cursive mss. and leant heavily towards those he could identify as having appreciable departures from the text of the 1611 Holy Bible. See Chapter 3 of *When The KJV Departs From The “Majority” Text*.

The corrupt Critical Text such as Nestle's and the corrupt modern versions, RV Revised Version, NIV, TNIV, JB Jerusalem Bible (Catholic), NJB New Jerusalem Bible (Catholic), NWT New World Translation (Watchtower), HCSB Holman Christian Standard Bible omit the words ***“the beginning and the ending.”***

Revelation 1:11. Text supposedly to remove: ***“I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and...which are in Asia”***

Dr Moorman in *When The KJV Departs From The “Majority” Text* p 80 specifies 29 cursive mss. that contain the first phrase ***“I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last.”*** He adds that of the Andreas mss. that contain Revelation 1, 57 i.e. most of the group, contain the words. The Tyndale, Coverdale, Great, Geneva, Bishops' bibles all contain the words, along with the Received Texts of Stephanus, Beza and Elzevir.

Dr Moorman specifies 3 cursives that contain the words ***“which are in Asia”*** and says that a total of 10 of Hoskier's cursives contain the words. The words are found in the Tyndale,

Coverdale, Great, Geneva, Bishops' bibles and the Received Texts of Stephanus, Beza and Elzevir.

The corrupt Critical Text such as Nestle's and the corrupt modern versions, RV, NIV, TNIV, JB, NJB, NWT, HCSB omit the words "***I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last and,***" "***which are in Asia.***"

The DR Douai-Rheims Jesuit Bible omits the words "***I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last and.***"

It is up to the critic to show that the witnesses listed above in favour of the texts that he wishes to cut out of the Holy Bible are corrupt. He has not done so and will not do so.

The above witnesses* show that it is actually corrupt Greek texts and corrupt versions of scripture that support the omissions that the critic favours.

*Including the Bibles that God used to bring in the 16th century English Protestant Reformation.

Those critics who favour or even condone the omissions noted under point 12 for the NIV in Revelation 1:8, 9, 11 should reflect carefully on Revelation 22:19, with reference to "***this book,***" not "*scroll.*"

"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."

Note: "***seven Spirits***" Revelation 1:4

The "***seven Spirits***" are identified as follows, where the small *s* for *spirit* in these scriptures accentuates the *ministry* of the Holy Ghost in the life of the believer and indeed in that of the Lord Jesus Christ with respect to the *sevenfold spirit* of Isaiah 11:2-3, "***the spirit of holiness***" Romans 1:4, "***the spirit of wisdom and knowledge in the revelation of him***" Ephesians 1:17 and "***the spirit...of power, and of love, and of a sound mind***" 2 Timothy 1:7.

"And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD; and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears" Isaiah 11:2-3.

References

¹ *The Book of Matthew*, p 18

² *Ruckman Reference Bible*, pp 1233-1234,

³ www.unityinchrist.com/prophecies/1stcoming.htm

⁴ www.greatcom.org/resources/areadydefense/ch19/default.htm

⁵ sciencespeaks.dstoner.net/

⁶ *Creator or Liar?* by Chick Publications, 2005

⁷ *Volume 1 of the Book of Psalms* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman, Bible Baptist Bookstore, 1992, pp 442ff

⁸ *The Book of Matthew*, p 547

⁹ *The Book of Hebrews* by Dr Peter S. Ruckman, Bible Baptist Bookstore, 1986, p 292