

Revelation 1: The True Purpose of the Book

Revelation 1:1 and 1:4–5 | Sunday, December 14 | Revelation Series

Hal Lindsey Media Ministries · hallindsey.com

OVERVIEW

The focus tonight, Hal says, is the book's true purpose. People take Revelation for a strange, mystical book of symbols; the first clause of the first verse tells us what it is actually for. The word behind "revelation" is apocalypse — to unveil that which is not understood — so the purpose of the book is to unveil who Jesus really is. And God gave it to the apostle who stood closest to him: the youngest of them, a teenager when he was called, who loved Jesus fiercely and was loved in return, and who, when he finally saw who this person really is, felt as if he were dead. From verse 4 Hal works through the book's three sources, one for each person of the Trinity. The Father, described in Greek tenses that reduce to "God who always is, always was, and always will be." The seven spirits before the throne — the Holy Spirit in perfection and completeness, the one who implements the will of God, and who breathed out the very words of Scripture. And Jesus Christ, the faithful witness.

KEY SCRIPTURES

Revelation 1:1 — "The revelation of Jesus Christ" — the first clause gives the book its purpose

Revelation 1:4 — Grace and peace from him who is, who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne

Revelation 1:5 — And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, the ruler of the kings of the earth

Revelation 19:10 — The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy

John 14 — If I go away I will send the comforter, who will guide you into all truth; "he who has seen me has seen the father"

John 6:63 — "It is the spirit who gives life ... the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life"

John 6:67–69 — "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life"

2 Timothy 3:16 — All Scripture is God-breathed — theopneustos

KEY TERMS

Apocalypse — the Greek word translated "revelation" — to unveil that which is not understood

Aktionsart — what the Germans called it: Greek cares more about the kind of action than about the time of the action

The imperfect tense — continuous action in past time — "he who always was"

The aorist tense — something that happened at a point of time, once and for all; the tense used about salvation

The seven spirits — the Holy Spirit in his perfection and completeness, before the throne as the one who carries out the will and purpose of God

Theopneustos — God-breathed — what 2 Timothy 3:16 says all Scripture is

The faithful witness — Jesus, who faithfully witnessed everything the father sent him to do and is the moving picture of the father

Spiritual gift — a special God-given ability that adds to you what is needed to fit God's plan for your life

REVIEW QUESTIONS

Answer from the message itself. Every answer is in the teaching.

1. What does Hal say the true purpose of this book is, and what word does he build it on?

2. Why does Hal say God chose John to write it?

3. What happened to John when he saw who this person really is?

4. What does chapter 19, verse 10 add to the purpose of the book?

5. What question does Hal leave the class to think about for the following week?

6. What does Hal mean when he says the book is authenticated as no other book is?

7. How do the Greek tenses in “who is, who was and who is to come” work, and what do they reduce to?

8. Why does Hal say Greek grammar cares about something different from English grammar?

9. What does the number seven mean, and what is being said by “the seven spirits”?

10. What does Hal say the Holy Spirit has done in this age that he did in no other?

11. What is Hal's own testimony about spiritual gifts?

12. How does Hal state the inspiration of Scripture, and how does he answer the objection about copied manuscripts?
-
-

DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION

1. If the point of this book is to unveil who Jesus really is, what have you been reading it for instead?

2. John was closest to Jesus and still went down as though dead when he saw him as he is. What does that do to a comfortable familiarity with Jesus?

3. “God who always is, always was, and always will be.” Which of those three is hardest for you to actually live as though it were true?

4. Hal says the Holy Spirit is the implementer, the one who carries out the will of God — including through gifts given to ordinary believers. What ability has been given to you that you would not have chosen for yourself?

5. He could not speak in front of a class, and that is now what he does. Where has God used the very thing you are worst at?

6. If God chose the actual words, not just the ideas, what should that change about how you read a chapter this week?

MEMORY VERSE

“Grace to you and peace, from him who is, who was and who is to come; and from the seven spirits who are before his throne.”

— Revelation 1:4, as Hal reads it in this message