

*Cultural, Historic, and Geographic Context*



## Revelation Backgrounds

"Greetings"

Revelation 1:1-11



1

**Acts 17:11 (KJV)**

**These (Bereans) were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so.**

Unless otherwise noted, all biblical passages referenced are from the Complete Jewish Bible by David H. Stern. (Clarksville, MD:: Messianic Jewish Publishers, 1998).

Unless otherwise noted, images courtesy of the Satellite Bible Atlas and the Pictorial Library of Bible Lands (BiblePlaces.org)



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## Topics

- Opening and blessing
- Salutation
- Behold He Comes
- The Day of the Lord



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Revelation 1	OT Allusions
1. This is the <b>revelation</b> which <b>God gave to Yeshua</b> the <b>Messiah</b> , so that he could show his servants what must <b>happen very soon</b> . He communicated it by sending his angel to his servant Yochanan,	1:1 Daniel 2:28 but there is a God in heaven who reveals mysteries, and he has made known to King Nebuchadnezzar what will be in the latter days. Your dream and the visions of your head as you lay in bed are these: 29 To you, O king, as you lay in bed came thoughts of what would be after this, and he who reveals mysteries made known to you what is to be.

Pattern of Sevens: The word "Messiah" (Christ) appears seven times in Revelation

*(talmidimway.org will catalog less obvious groupings)*



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*This is the revelation which God gave to Yeshua the Messiah...His servant Yochanan*



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## Revelation 1

1. He communicated it by sending his angel to his servant Yochanan,
2. who bore **witness** to the Word of God and to the **testimony of Yeshua** the Messiah, as much as he saw.

Dead Sea Scroll 4Q175 Testimonia ("Messianic Anthology"), 1st century BC



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### Revelation 1

3. **Blessed** are the reader and **hearers** of the words of this prophecy, provided they **obey** the things written in it! For the time is near!

There are seven blessings pronounced in Revelation



Jewish men gathered at the Western Wall for the Priestly Blessing on the Feast of Tabernacles



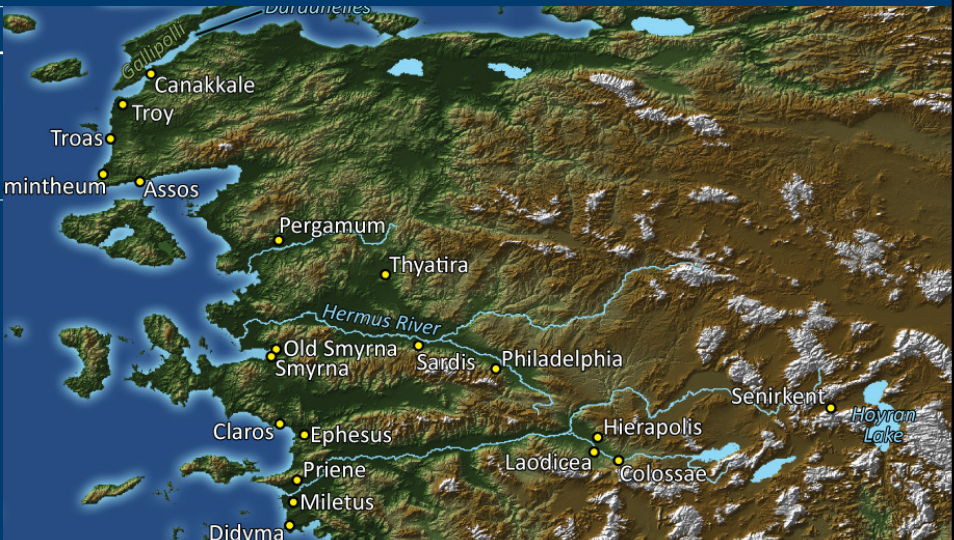
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- **שָׁמַע** - shama - listen/hear/obey
- Rev 1:3 (Delitzsch Hebrew New Testament)
  - אֲשֶׁרִי הַקּוֹרֵא וְאֲשֶׁרִי הַשֹּׁמְעִים אֶת־דְּבָרֵי הַנְּבוּאָה
- Deu 6:4
  - **שָׁמַע** יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד:
  - “**Hear**, O Israel: The LORD is our God, the LORD is one.
  - You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.
- **שֵׁם** - shem - name/reputation



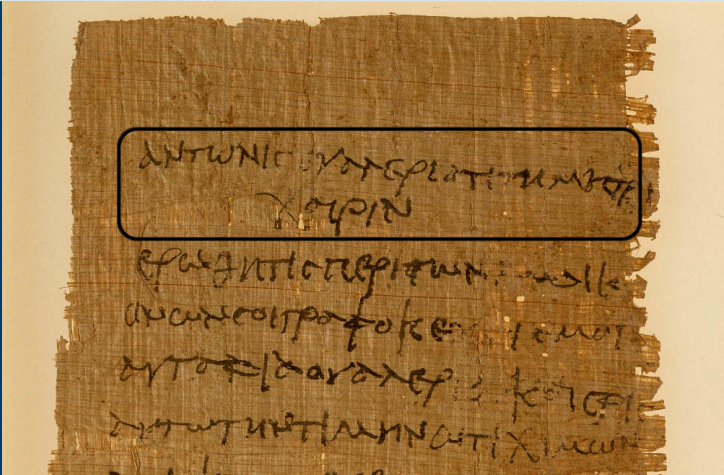
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<b>Revelation 1</b>	
4. From: Yochanan To: The seven Messianic communities in the province of Asia:	

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<b>Revelation 1</b>	<b>OT Allusions</b>
4. Grace and shalom to you from the One who is, who was and who is coming; from the sevenfold Spirit before his throne;	1:4 Isa 11: 2 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 the fear of the LORD.



Letter from Antonis to his mother, asking for blankets in winter, May 2, AD 101

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Revelation 1	OT Allusions
<p>5. and from Yeshua the Messiah, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the earth's kings. To him, the one who loves us, who has freed us from our sins at the cost of his blood,</p> <p>6. who has caused us to be a kingdom, that is, Cohanim for God, his Father—to him be the glory and the rulership forever and ever. Amen.</p>	<p>1:5 Gen 49: 11 Binding his foal to the vine and his donkey's colt to the choice vine, he has washed his garments in wine and his vesture in the blood of grapes.</p> <p>Psa 89:27 And I will make him the firstborn, the highest of the kings of the earth.</p> <p>1:6 Ex 19:5-6 Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6 and you shall be to me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.' These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel."</p> <p>Isa 61:6 but you shall be called the priests of the LORD; they shall speak of you as the ministers of our God; you shall eat the wealth of the nations, and in their glory you shall boast.</p>

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## Pattern of Sevens - 1:5-6 - Description of Messiah

1. Faithful witness (faithful martyr)
2. Firstborn from dead
3. Ruler of earth's kings
4. One who loves us
5. Causes us to be freed from our sins at the cost of His blood
6. Causes us to be a kingdom, a community subject to Him who loves us
7. Causes us to be priests for God, His Father

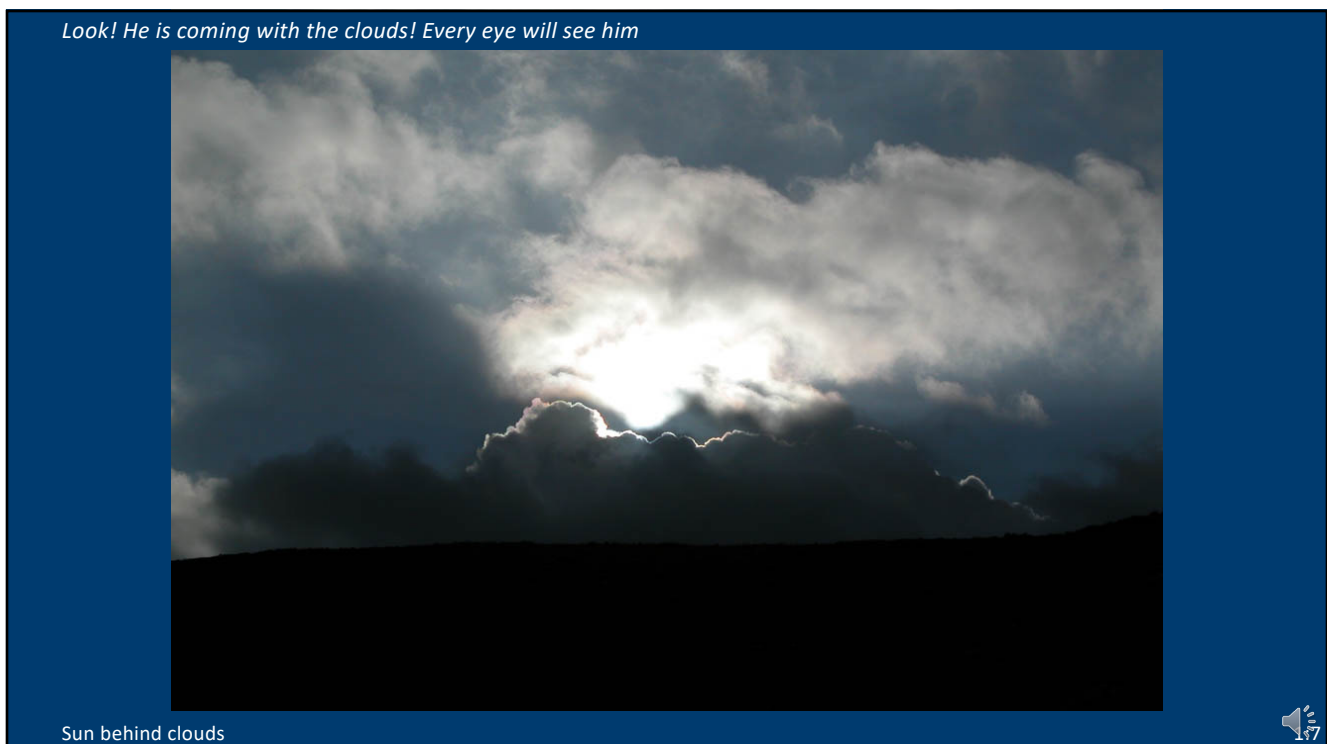
To all of this we can only reply "to Him be the glory forever and ever! Amen!"

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Revelation 1	OT Allusions
7. Look! He is coming with the <b>clouds</b> ! Every <b>eye</b> will see him, including those who <b>pierced</b> him; and all the tribes of the Land will mourn him. Yes! <b>Amen</b> !	<p>Dan 7:13-14 "I saw in the night visions, and behold, with the <b>clouds</b> of heaven there came one like a son of man, and he came to the Ancient of Days and was presented before him. 14 And to him was given dominion and glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve him; his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom one that shall not be destroyed.</p> <p>Isa 52:8 The voice of your watchmen—they lift up their voice; together they sing for joy; for <b>eye to eye they see</b> the return of the LORD to <b>Zion</b>.</p> <p>Zech 12:10-12 "And I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of <b>Jerusalem</b> a spirit of grace and pleas for mercy, so that, when they look on me, on him whom they have <b>pierced</b>, they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn. 11 On that day the mourning in <b>Jerusalem</b> will be as great as the mourning for Hadad-rimmon in the plain of <b>Megiddo</b>. 12 The land shall mourn, each family by itself:</p>

Patterns of Seven: Seven "amens." Amen is a Hebrew word that connotes "truth" or "may it be so." 


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Revelation 1	OT Allusions
8. "I am the 'A' and the 'Z,' " says Adonai, God of heaven's armies, the One who is, who was and who is coming.	1:8 Isa 41:4 Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am he.
<p>Patterns of Seven: There are seven "Lord God Almighty," which CJB renders as "Adonai, God of heaven's armies."</p>	

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Revelation 1	OT Allusions
9. I, Yochanan, am a brother of yours and a fellow-sharer in the suffering, kingship and perseverance that come from being united with Yeshua. I had been exiled to the island called Patmos for having proclaimed the message of God and borne witness to Yeshua.	
	
Patmos: acropolis and Skala harbor from south	

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**Revelation 1**

10. I came to be, in the Spirit, on the Day of the Lord; and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet,



Sunset over the Mediterranean

**OT Allusions**

Isa 2:12 For the LORD of hosts has a day against all that is proud and lofty, against all that is lifted up—and it shall be brought low;

Joe 1:15 Alas for the day! For the day of the LORD is near, and as destruction from the Almighty it comes.

Oba 1:15 For the day of the LORD is near upon all the nations. As you have done, it shall be done to you; your deeds shall return on your own head.

Mal 4:5-6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the LORD comes. (6) And he will turn the hearts of fathers to their children and the hearts of children to their fathers, lest I come and strike the land with a decree of utter destruction.”



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*and I heard behind me a loud voice, like a trumpet,*



Palm Sunday Procession



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**Revelation 1**

11. saying, "Write down what you see on a scroll, and send it to the seven Messianic communities—[Ephesus](#), [Smyrna](#), [Pergamum](#), [Thyatira](#), [Sardis](#), [Philadelphia](#) and [Laodicea](#)!"

**OT Allusions**

Isa 30:8 And now, go, write it before them on a tablet and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come as a witness forever.



Jewish Scribe



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## Conclusion

- Introduction part of the letter
- Next lesson we will taxi for takeoff!
- Verse 12 will contain a most unusual depiction of the Godhead
- Be sure to note "unusual" blessings that come your way - and also expect unusual challenges



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