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# DIGGING DEEPER INTO THE

# REVELATION

OF

# JESUS CHRIST

THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM  
Psalm 111:10a; Proverbs 9:10a

# CHAPTER ONE

PAIN PLAGUES WARS LAWLESSNESS TORNADOES FAMINES SORROW SHAME  
DARKNESS EARTHQUAKES THUNDERING WOOD-WATER PESTILENCES LARGE HAILSTONES  
LIGHTNING HEAT

A STUDY GUIDE  
COMPILED BY MICHAEL COPPLE

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**CHAPTER ONE**

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The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom.  
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A Study Guide

Compiled by Michael Copple



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## Acknowledgments

First and foremost, I give thanks to our Triune God for saving many of my loved ones from the Great Tribulation and the Lake of Fire, and giving me eternal life with the Savior and with them. This new life and hope have motivated me to gather the truth of Scripture and consolidate it with explanations from gifted, solid brothers in Christ who have been commended by local assemblies, written commentaries, spoken at conferences, and have always been prepared to exercise their Spiritual gifts.

Our dear brother Randy Amos, went home to be with the Lord Jesus on 3 November 2020. He was gracious to accept my request to edit the first edition of the original study guide. (That was a challenge!) He is credited with suggesting the appropriate title of the first edition, and this has led to the present title. Two of Randy's books have left a profound, positive impact on my growth and walk with the Lord: *The Counterfeit Jesus* and "*The Church, a Discipleship Manual for the Body of Christ*".

Brother Warren Henderson's Old Testament commentary, a project that took 18 years until completion, consisting of 14 volumes was of tremendous value. I am especially grateful for inspiring me with his "Bible Prophecy Overview" in his *Infidelity and Loyalty* commentary on the Books of Ezekiel and Daniel. Warren's way of teaching is comparable to a picture being worth a thousand words.

I stand corrected on some sections in the previous study guide, and I sincerely appreciate the Morning Star Bible Camp Director, Josh Caplan, for having the spirit and moral fiber to approach me. In particular he reproved my commentary on 2 Thessalonians 2:1-3, I am genuinely grateful and edified. Josh gave our brother, Mercer Armstrong, credit for his sound doctrine on that passage.

Ralph Kirchhofer, who went home to be with the Lord on 29 January 2024, had been my mentor for continuing my growth in faith. For 20 years Ralph encouraged me moment by moment to take on more responsibilities, especially to spread the Gospel. Nothing could take away the joy from Ralph. His joy is now even more fulfilled, face-to-face with the Lord Jesus Christ.

My dear friend and solid brother in Christ, Larry Page, ever so kindly and gently, corrected my previous commentary on the Matthew 13 parable of the wheat and tares. He humbly honored God and also gave credit to T. Ernest Wilson's book: *God's Sacred Secrets*. We needed that!

A brother-in-Christ, Ben Bredeweg, created the new cover for this updated version of the previous Study Guide titled "Digging Deep into the Revelation of Jesus Christ – A Study Guide". We thank him for his skill and for being so learned in the Word and for his meticulousness.

My loving wife Elfriede Cople formatted the layout so it would ease comparison of Scripture to commentary and be more appealing and acceptable to you, the reader. Elfriede's gift of service, attention to detail in the publishing process, her devotion, advice and support for me is immeasurable.

I am grateful for my dad and mom (after much prayer and decades of patience) for instilling a foundation of moral values and faith; and for the way they raised my brother and sisters and myself with unfailing love and energy. I only wish I would have listened sooner. I would not be the person I am today without what they have done for me. God has called both of them home. Without any doubt, I will see them again.

## Introduction

An invitation of immense motivation to read and understand this Book is given in **Revelation 1:3**: *Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time is near.*

The Book of Revelation reveals that the Lord Jesus Christ is Almighty Jehovah God at least seven times: Revelation 1:8; 4:8; 11:17; 15:3; 16:7, 14; 19:15; {21:22}. See also Exodus 3:14; 6:3; John 8:58; and that the Lord Jesus Christ is the King of kings and Lord of lords (Revelation 19:16).

### CHAPTER

- 1 The Lord Jesus gives to John what to write and: John's vision picturing the Lord is strikingly similar to that of Ezekiel Chapter 1.
- 2 The Lord Jesus is quoted speaking to the seven churches of today's age.
- 3 The Lord Jesus is quoted speaking to the seven churches of today's age.
- 4 The redeemed and raptured Church believers worship and praise the Lord, and the 24 elders are described in their new bodies receiving rewards: (Revelation 4:1, 4, 10-11)
- 5 The Lord Jesus receives the scroll with seven seals, and the saints praise Him.
- 6 The Antichrist man is revealed as a *beast* who comes in on a white horse to begin the Seven-year Tribulation Period; but his pictured future is marred by next a red, then black, then pale horse representing death. The first six seals are opened (Revelation 6:12).
- 7 explains the salvation of 144,000 Israelites, and gives prophecy of some who will become believers during the Tribulation Period.
- 8 Seven trumpets are to sound giving more severe warnings. The first four trumpets are sounded.
- 9 The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> trumpets are sounded; a third of all mankind is killed.
- 10 Seven thunders utter their voices, but John is told to delay writing.
- 11 The two witnesses who've been prophesying for the first half of the Tribulation are killed and three-and-a-half days later are taken up to heaven (11:2-12). The seventh trumpet is sounded (11:15).
- 12 Describes the protection of the sealed Israelites from the woes of the Great Tribulation—that is, the last three-and-a-half years.
- 13 The Antichrist commits the *abomination of desolation* (Matthew 24:15) by taking over as God in the temple (2 Thessalonians 2:4). This begins the Great Tribulation. The False Prophet requires all to worship the Antichrist and/or his image and to take the mark of 666. Anyone who refuses will be denied the freedom to buy or sell (13:16-18), and those who take the mark will not be able to change their destination of eternal suffering in the lake of fire (Revelation 19:20).

- 14 Confirms that anyone who takes the mark of the beast will suffer eternally (14:9-11).
- 15 The seven vials (bowls) containing the seven plagues of God's furious wrath are prepared to be poured out onto the earth.
- 16 Revelation 16-17: Seventh Bowl (vial) poured out and the Lord Jesus Second Coming ends war of Armageddon and the Seven-year Tribulation Period.
- 17 details War effects on the fall of Babylon's religious system
- 18 details War effects on the fall of Babylon's commercial system
- 19 details Church saints returning from heaven with the Lord that ended the Chapter 16 war and see the Antichrist and False Prophet cast alive into the eternal lake of fire
- 20 details Satan being locked in the pit for one-thousand years, then Christ's Millennial Reign, then Satan released and joining with Gog and Māgog for war against the Lord cast into the lake of fire. Then all unbelievers will bow the knee at the Great White Throne and be cast into the eternal lake of fire.
- 21 moves to the eternal state of a new heaven and new earth, describing the beauty
- 22 continues picturing the splendor of heaven and warns against adding to or taking away anything from this Book.

The invitation to read and hear this Book was given in 1:3. The final invitation to anyone reading this is given in 22:17, the fifth to last verse in the Holy Bible, by the Spirit and the bride:

**Revelation 22:17** *And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.*

Of the 404 verses in Revelation, 265 contain verses alluding to 550 Old Testament references. Certain numbers like seven, and twelve have special significance in Revelation:

The number 7 is found 54 times in the Book of Revelation alone!

7 churches (1:11), 7 lampstands (1:13), 7 stars (1:16), 7 messages (2:1-3:22), 7 Spirits (3:1; 4:5) – refers to the Holy Spirit in His fullness, 7 seals (5:1), 7 trumpets (8:2), 7 bowls or vials (15:7), 7 mountains (17:9), and 7 blessings (1-22).

The number 12, even 12 x 12=144 (144,000; 7:4-8; 14:1), 12 gates, 12 angels at the gates, 12 tribe names, 12 foundations, names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb (21:12-14), and 12 fruits (22:2).

## HELPFUL NOTES

**Christ's Words** are “**in Red**” and printed in a different font “**Tekton Pro Font**”

Scripture has been taken from *The Holy Bible, New King James Version*, published by Thomas Nelson, Inc., Copyright 1994 unless otherwise noted. In the original, the words of Christ are in red.

The following charts can be found in the back of the Printed Version of the Study Guide:

**Daniel's Prophecy Timeline,**

**Bible Prophecy Timeline,**

**End Times Major Events Timeline, and**

**The Beginning of Babylonian Religion**

God gave the visions to John the Apostle which he wrote in this Book.

Though written mostly with envisioned chronological time of events, the order often jumps from “real time” toward the later events to take place; then returns to the sequence of occurrences.

## How to Use This Study Guide

This Study Guide contains Scriptures from the New King James Version, New International Version and King James Version Bibles. The guide has been prepared with four columns - Scripture verses and commentary are conveniently printed across both facing pages. When each page is turned Scripture of the Book of *The Revelation of Jesus Christ* will be in the left-most column #1. In column #2, next to the Scripture will be commentary on the printed verses with references to other verses and passages within the Bible. To save the reader from searching and turning to those other Books, the reference verses and passages have been printed in column #3 on the side-facing page. Then column #4 consists of the commentary for those reference verses. Without turning any pages these four columns are side by side to use time more effectively and promote and enhance ease of understanding. Being difficult to fit all explanation into 4 columns, *the purpose of this study is to promote learning, discussion, and blessing.*

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> column, reference verses mentioned in the commentary are underlined. These verses are printed out in the 3<sup>rd</sup> column (on the side facing page). Bible study participants who have used this Study Guide have suggested that it is good to pause at these column 2 underlined verses, then go to the column 3 printed verses and to its commentary in column 4. Then return to where you paused in column 2 to continue reading the Revelation Scripture commentary. This keeps one's mind on the train of thought.

In the 4<sup>th</sup> column, commentary of "Reference Verses", these verses have been underlined to lessen the need for "guessing" what is being referred to. There are some other reference verses that are not underlined because their sentences or phrases have not been printed nor commented on in this compilation. It is left up to each person's motivation to look up these verses and to keep them in proper context.

Some Scripture words/phrases have been printed in **bold** for *emphasis only* since the original Scripture does not include this sort of highlighting. These are pointed out merely for enhancement of understanding the context correlation in the commentary columns.

When a comment of explanation is added to a quoted commentary (in the second and fourth columns on the right side of each page), [brackets] are made use of indicating that it is merely for clarification and differentiation written by Michael Copple.

This guide has been prepared and edited with careful and prayerful study comparing Scripture to Scripture to maintain our God's original intention on how to understand what is written. As Randy Amos says on page "iv" of *The Church—A Discipleship Manual for the Body of Christ*:

*the "goal is to simply look at the Bible and with the Spirit's power, communicate what He says.  
If it cuts across man's interpretation, so be it."*

See next page for visual "How to Use This Study Guide"

## Visual of “How to Use This Study Guide”

- We chose this 4 Column Format for ease of studying.
- At the top of each Column are the Book of Revelation **Chapter** and **Verse Numbers** that are being discussed on the particular page.
- **Column 1** contains the Scripture of the Book of Revelation.
- **Column 2** states Commentary on the Bible Verses, printed in **Column 1**.  
Reference Verses which are mentioned in the Commentary are underlined to make you aware that these verses are printed out in **Column 3** for ease of studying.
- **Column 3** (on the side-facing page) – here you will find any **Reference Verses** printed out that were mentioned and underlined in the Commentary from **Column 2**. Only Reference Verses which are underlined will be quoted in Column 3.
- **Column 4** consists of the Commentary for the Reference Verses from **Column 3**.

**VISUAL ON NEXT PAGE**

### Column 1

Chapter 8 Verses 7-11

<sup>1</sup>The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up.

### Column 2

Chapter 8 Verses 7-11  
Commentary

8:7  
**\*\*The first trumpet brings literal fire and hail, and causes the destruction of much of the vegetation on earth. Famine and shortage of oxygen will result.\*\*** (Ezekiel 38:22; Revelation 9:4)

### Study from Left to Right



<sup>2</sup>Then the second angel sounded: And *something* like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea, and a third of the sea became blood. <sup>3</sup>And a third of the ships were destroyed.

8:8-9  
**\*\*The second trumpet turns one third of the sea into blood and one third of the sea creatures and ships will be destroyed.\*\*** Commerce will suffer.

<sup>4</sup>Then the third angel sounded: And a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of water. <sup>5</sup>The name of the star is Wormwood. A third of the waters became wormwood, and many men died from the water, because it was made bitter.

8:10-11  
**\*\*The third trumpet makes one third of the earth's fresh water turn bitter causing widespread thirst and death.\*\*** Prolonged sustainability of life on the earth's land will end. **\*\*Wormwood is literally undrinkable\*\*** (Deuteronomy 30:18-20).

### Column 3

Chapter 8 Verses 7-11  
References

V. 7  
**Ezekiel 38:22**—“And I will bring him to judgment with pestilence and bloodshed; I will rain down on him, on his troops, and on the many peoples who are with him, flooding rain, great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.  
**Revelation 9:4** They were commanded not to harm the grass of the earth, or any green thing, or any tree, but only those men who did not have the seal of God on their foreheads.

### Column 4

Chapter 8 Verses 7-11  
References Commentary

V. 7  
**Ezekiel 38:22 and Revelation 9:4:** “depicting the destruction of the enemies of God’s people reminds us of the Lord’s promise in Isaiah 54:17: *“No weapon formed against you shall prosper. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD.”* God’s enemy will be unable to prevail against these supernatural disasters.

“V./Vv.” indicate which Revelation Scripture Verse/s the References and Commentary refer to.

Vv. 10-11  
**Deuteronomy 30:18-20** <sup>18</sup>“I announce to you today that you shall surely perish; you shall not prolong *your* days in the land which you cross over the Jordan to go in and possess. <sup>19</sup>“I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, *that* I have set before *you* life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live; <sup>20</sup>that you may love the LORD your God, that you may obey His voice, and that you may cling to Him, for He is your life and the length of your days; and that you may dwell in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers, to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, to give them.”

Vv. 10-11  
**In Deuteronomy 30:18-20**—the people were called to choose between life and good on the one hand, and death and evil on the other—life for obedience, but death for disobedience. Moses strongly pleaded with them to prefer blessing over cursing—to choose life so that both them and their descendants may live. The desired response (choosing to obey and live) brought good results, including length of...days and abundant spiritual life, implied by the words that you may cling to Him. The only alternative was that of cursing.\*

- “Continued on Next Page “References/Commentary” (a note at the bottom of Column 3 and 4) indicates a continuation on the following set of pages due to lack of space. And in those instances, Column 1 Scripture and part of Column 2 Commentary are repeated on the next left facing page for context.

**The Revelation of  
Jesus Christ  
Chapter 1 Verses 1-3**

<sup>1</sup>The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave Him to show His servants—things which must shortly take place. And He sent and signified *it* by His angel to His servant John, <sup>2</sup>who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. <sup>3</sup>Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

**Revealing the Revelation  
Chapter 1 Verses 1-3  
Commentary**

**The Revelation of Christ and  
What Must Happen**

**1:1-3**

Christ's testimony reveals that He is God Himself. The Revelation of Jesus Christ is both *from* Christ and about Christ. We see this also in Revelation 22:6, 16, and 20. **Things which must shortly take place** refers to the Rapture of the Church, and next, to "the Day of the Lord"—*Day of the Lord* refers the end of the Seven-year Tribulation (Revelation 19:20-21) followed by the Millennial Reign and Great White Throne Judgment (20:11-15).

Although no one has seen God in all His essence, people have seen God in Jesus Christ (John 1:18; 14:9).

Verse 3 gives the reasons the Spirit motivates us to seek more deeply. We need to let others know.

**Chapter 1 Verses 1-3  
References**

**Vv. 1-3**

**John 1:18** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared *Him*.

**John 14:9** Jesus said to him, **"Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"**

**Chapter 1 Verses 1-3  
References Commentary**

**Vv. 1-3**

John 1:18 combined with John 14:9 tells us that [God] the Father is seen and heard *in* His only begotten Son because the Father sent Him to be alive in us. The Lord Jesus Christ said to the Jews who sought to kill Him: John 5:37-38 <sup>37</sup>**"And the Father Himself, who sent Me, has testified of Me. You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His form. <sup>38</sup>But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe."**

Christ Jesus is equally God with His Father who is God (Philippians 2:5b-6).

## Chapter 1 Verses 4-6

<sup>4</sup>John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from Him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before His throne,

<sup>5</sup>and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood,

<sup>6</sup>and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

## Chapter 1 Verses 4-6 Commentary

### 1:4

The greetings are from John, the Savior, and the seven Spirits, to the seven churches. Although the churches are named, the very words of the Head of the Church—the Lord Jesus Christ—should be heeded with all somberness by all local churches today: **“hear what the Spirit says to the churches.”** (Revelation 2:7b)

### 1:5

Jesus Christ is the witness of John’s Book of *The Revelation* prophecy.

### 1:6

Jesus Christ has made believers to be kings and priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9a) while reminding us that all glory is given to our God—not ourselves.

## Chapter 1 Verses 4-6 References

### V. 6

**1 Peter 2:5** you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. [NIV].

**1 Peter 2:9a** But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood,... [NIV]

## Chapter 1 Verses 4-6 References Commentary

### V. 6

1 Peter 2:5, 9a: \*The **spiritual house** is built up of all believers in Christ, and is therefore the same as the Church.\* All believers are saints and priests—representatives of the Head of the Church, the Lord Jesus.

## Chapter 1 Verses 7-8

<sup>7</sup>Behold, He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of Him. Even so, Amen. <sup>8</sup>**“I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End,” says the Lord, “who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”**

## Chapter 1 Verses 7-8 Commentary

### 1:7-8

He will be seen by all at His Second Coming, whether then or during His Millennial Reign or at the Great White Throne of judgment (Zechariah 12:10).

Jesus Christ is the equal Almighty God with the Father (Revelation 15:3; 16:7; 19:15, 19:11). The Lord Jesus Christ is referred to as the great I AM when mentioned in John 8:58 with Exodus 3:14, and YHWH, (Jehovah in NKJ Bible reference of Exodus 6:3). Isaiah 41:4; 48:12.

## Chapter 1 Verses 7-8 References

### Vv. 7- 8

**Zechariah 12:10** “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for *his* only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.”

**Isaiah 41:4** “Who has performed and done *it*, calling the generations from the beginning? ‘I, the LORD, am the first; and with the last I *am* He.’”

## Chapter 1 Verses 7-8 References Commentary

### Vv. 7-8

Zechariah 12:10: \*The people **will mourn** bitterly when they **look on** the Messiah **whom they pierced**. The One **whom they pierced** was the Lord Jesus Christ, Jehovah. Mourning for an **only son** was the deepest form of sorrow for an Israelite.\*

Isaiah 41:4: The passage (Isa. 41:2-4) which contains vs. 4 \*is about Jehovah raising up Cyrus to decree that the Jews be released from captivity. The Lord raised up Cyrus to have one generation succeed another, but even with the last generation, the Jehovah Lord Jesus is still the same.\* Jer. 52:27-30 gives the prophesy of the Jews being taken into captivity. 2 Chron. 36:22-23, Ezra 1:1-4 and Isa. 44:28-45:1 provide further confirmation of the biblical prophesies and the historical fulfillments of these prophesies. The fact that hundreds of past prophesies have come to fruition, lends incredible proof for knowing the prophesies in this *Revelation of Jesus Christ* will also surely be fulfilled.

## Chapter 1 Verses 9-11

<sup>9</sup>I, John, both your brother and companion in the tribulation and kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was on the island that is called Patmos for the word of God and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>I was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet,

<sup>11</sup>saying, "*I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last,*" and, "*What you see, write in a book and send it to the seven churches which are in Asia; to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea.*"

## Chapter 1 Verses 9-11 Commentary

### 1:9-20 Introduction:

These verses give John's vision of the **Son of Man** (Revelation 1:13)—a title the Savior gave for Himself especially in the Gospel of Luke.

### 1:9-10

John writes of his tribulation on the Island of Patmos off the SW coast of today's Turkey.

### 1:11

\*Jesus tells John to **write** the vision he had seen.\* What John wrote, we are reading today: In Chapter 1, "**which are**" were the churches of the early part of the Church Age addressed in Chpt 2 and 3. The seven churches in Chpt 2 and 3 are typified in today's different churches. Christ's accolades and rebukes are still relevant today.

## Chapter 1 Verses 9-11 References

## Chapter 1 Verses 9-11 References Commentary

## Chapter 1 Verses 12-16

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. <sup>14</sup>His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup>He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was like* the sun shining in its strength.

## Chapter 1 Verses 12-16 Commentary

### 1:12-16

John describes God in his vision. John's vision resembles Ezekiel's more detailed vision, with angels as well, in Ezekiel 1:4-28. (Ezekiel 1:4, 7, 10, 13, 24, 26-28)

## Chapter 1 Verses 12-16 References

### Vv. 12-16

**Ezekiel 1:4** I looked, and I saw a windstorm coming out of the north — an immense cloud with flashing lightning and surrounded by brilliant light. The center of the fire looked like glowing metal, ... [NIV]

**Ezekiel 1:7** Their legs were straight; their feet were like those of a calf and gleamed like burnished bronze. [NIV]

**Ezekiel 1:10** Their faces looked like this: Each of the four had the face of a human being, and on the right side each had the face of a lion, and on the left side of an ox; each also had the face of an eagle. [NIV]

**Ezekiel 1:13, 24, 26-28**

-CONTINUED ON NEXT  
PAGE "REFERENCES"-

## Chapter 1 Verses 12-16 References Commentary

### Vv. 12-16

Ezekiel 1:4: \*The first Chapter of Ezekiel is taken up with a vision of the glory of God among the Jewish captives.\* The **windstorm** coming out of the north represents the Babylonians whom God used as agents of His judgment: **fire** (Divine judgment)—to punish the Jews by having them exiled.

Ezekiel 1:7, 10: The four living creatures: probably cherubim angels—represent God's majesty: **lion**; power: **ox**; swiftness: **eagle**; and wisdom: **face of a man**. The **straight legs** show strength, **calves' feet** point to stability and firm stance.

-CONTINUED ON NEXT  
PAGE "COMMENTARY"-

Chapter 1 Verses 12-16

**-VERSES 12-16 REPEATED  
FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-**

<sup>12</sup>Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and in the midst of the seven lampstands *One* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. <sup>14</sup>His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and His eyes like a flame of fire; <sup>15</sup>His feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and His voice as the sound of many waters; <sup>16</sup>He had in His right hand seven stars, out of His mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and His countenance *was like* the sun shining in its strength.

Chapter 1 Verses 12-16  
Commentary

**-COMMENTARY  
REPEATED FROM  
PREVIOUS PAGE-**

**1:12-16**

John describes Jesus in his vision. John’s vision resembles Ezekiel’s more detailed vision, with angels as well, in Ezekiel 1:4-28. (Ezekiel 1:4, 7, 10, 13, 24, 26-28)

Chapter 1 Verses 12-16  
References

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-**

**Vv. 12-16**

**Ezekiel 1:13** The appearance of the living creatures was like burning coals of fire or like torches. Fire moved back and forth among the creatures; it was bright, and lightning flashed out of it. [NIV]

**Ezekiel 1:24** When they went, I heard the noise of their wings, like the noise of many waters, like the voice of the Almighty, a tumult like the noise of an army; and when they stood still, they let down their wings. ...

**Ezekiel 1:26-28**

**-CONTINUED ON NEXT  
PAGE “REFERENCES”-**

Chapter 1 Verses 12-16  
References Commentary

**-CONTINUED  
FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-**

**Vv. 12-16**

**Ezekiel 1:13:** The **burning coals of fire, torches and bright fire** convey God’s glory and pure, burning justice.

**Ezekiel 1:24:** The **noise of many waters** in Ezekiel’s time may be symbolic of many living creatures moving rapidly in reaction to Almighty God’s sovereign authority. But, more specifically here in John’s vision, the noise (or **tumult** in Eze. 1:24) may be the sound of an army, possibly the Christian warriors (Rev. 14:1-2). Isaiah 17:12-13 is also comparable with God’s rebuking of the nations that exiled Israel in Isaiah’s time.

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PAGE “COMMENTARY”-**

Chapter 1 Verses 12-16

**-VERSES 12-16 REPEATED  
FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-**

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Chapter 1 Verses 12-16  
Commentary

**-COMMENTARY  
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**1:12-16**

John describes Jesus in his vision. John’s vision resembles Ezekiel’s more detailed vision, with angels as well, in Ezekiel 1:4-28. (Ezekiel 1:4, 7, 10, 13, 24, 26-28)

Chapter 1 Verses 12-16  
References

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-**

**Vv. 12-16**

**Ezekiel 1:26-28** <sup>26</sup>And above the firmament over their heads *was* the likeness of a throne, in appearance like a sapphire stone; on the likeness of the throne *was* a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it. <sup>27</sup>Also from the appearance of His waist and upward I saw, as it were, the color of amber with the appearance of fire all around within it; and from the appearance of His waist and downward I saw, as it were, the appearance of fire with brightness all around. <sup>28</sup>Like the appearance of a rainbow in a cloud on a rainy day, so *was* the appearance of the brightness all around it. This *was* the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the LORD. So when I saw *it*, I fell on my face, and I heard a voice of One speaking.

Chapter 1 Verses 12-16  
References Commentary

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FROM PREVIOUS PAGE-**

**Vv. 12-16**

Ezekiel 1:26-28: The Godhead appears in the likeness of humanity, though *God is Spirit* (John 4:24) **the likeness of the throne *was* a likeness with the appearance of a man high above it.**  
The Messiah, God incarnate—God in the flesh, Jesus, is the representative of the “fullness of the Godhead (Colossians 2:9), so this can be a prelude to the incarnation (“became flesh and dwelt among us” John 1:14) of Messiah in His character as Savior and Judge.

## Chapter 1 Verses 17-18

<sup>17</sup>And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, **“Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. <sup>18</sup>I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hādēs and of Death.**

## Chapter 1 Verses 17-18 Commentary

### 1:17-18

James 2:26 explains that the dead body in the grave has been separated from the soul and spirit. When the body of an unbelieving soul dies It is in the grave called Hādēs.

## Chapter 1 Verses 17-18 References

### Vv. 17-18

**James 2:26** As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. [NIV]

## Chapter 1 Verses 17-18 References Commentary

### Vv. 17-18

James 2:26: In the Scriptures, *death* never denotes nonexistence. When a believer dies, the soul and spirit are in heaven (2 Corinthians 5:8). However, when a person who dies without being in Christ, his soul and spirit are in the grave until brought to the Great White Throne Judgment (Revelation 20:13-15).

## Chapter 1 Verse 19

***19*** Write the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will take place after this.

## Chapter 1 Verse 19 Commentary

### **1:19**

\*Jesus tells John to write of the past things he has seen, the things that are presently happening (the present church age), and **things which will take place after this** (after the Church is raptured; Chapters 4 to 22)\*. John saw the **things** soon coming: the Rapture, Judgment Seat of Christ (for rewards) in heaven, the Seven-year Tribulation, Christ's Second Coming, Armageddon, Millennial Reign, Great White Throne Judgment (judging unbelievers), New Heaven, New Earth, etc.

The Seven-year Tribulation is thoroughly described in Chapters 6 to 19. Chapter 16:16 begins the gathering for the Battle of Armageddon and ends in 16:19. Effects of the battle are detailed in Chapters 17-19. Also things to come: the marriage of the Lamb and His bride the Church in heaven (19:7 calls the Church His *wife*). The marriage supper takes place on earth.

## Chapter 1 Verse 19 References

## Chapter 1 Verse 19 References Commentary

**Chapter 1 Verse 20**

<sup>20</sup>*The mystery of the seven stars which you saw in My right hand, and the seven golden lampstands: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands which you saw are the seven churches.*

**Chapter 1 Verse 20  
Commentary**

**1:20**

Jesus tells the mystery of *seven stars and seven golden lampstands.*

*“The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches”* in Chapters 2 and 3; (1 Corinthians 11:10)

*“The seven lampstands...are the seven churches.”*

**Chapter 1 Verse 20  
References**

**V. 20**

**1 Corinthians 11:10** For this reason the woman ought to have a symbol of authority on her head, because of the angels.

**Chapter 1 Verse 20  
References Commentary**

**V. 20**

1 Corinthians 11:10

Transitioning to Revelation Chapters 2 and 3 we read that the Lord Jesus is addressing the angels of each church indicating admonitions to 5 churches. May we today share this warning to local churches which are falling away.

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