



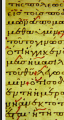




## Revelation: Vision 1:9–20

## Prologue 1:1–8

“John’s opening vision contains the heart and kernel of the whole of the Revelation. The rest of the prophecy unfolds the significance of this vision of Christ, and how the destiny of his people finds its fulfillment.”

—Beasley-Murray

## General Outline

Prologue	Church		World		Heaven	Epilogue
Jesus/John	Vision	Judgment	Vision	Judgment	Vision	Jesus/John
Revelation of J/Christ (1:1–8)	Vision of Son/Man (1:9–20)	Seven Letters (2–3)	Vision of Heaven (4–5)	Judgment Cycle (6–20)	Vision of Victory (21–22)	Revelation of J/Christ (22:6–21)
						

## General Outline



Church

Vision  
Vision of  
Son/Man  
(1:9–20)



## Vision 1:9–20

- I. Commission (1:9–11)
  - A. “brother . . . fellow sharer” (1:9)
    - Community identification
    - Kingdom theme development
    - Shared experience = witness (cf. “on account of the Word of God and testimony of Jesus”)
  - B. “tribulation . . . kingdom . . . perseverance” (1:9)
    - One Greek article controls all three interdependent realities
    - reigning through faithful endurance now
    - veiled kingship, later glory (same as Christ)

## Vision 1:9–20

- I. Commission (1:9–11)
  - B. “tribulation . . . kingdom . . . perseverance” (1:9)
    - Realities: true *both* now and future
    - tribulation: now = 2:9; future = 7:14
    - kingdom: now = 1:6; future = 11:15
    - perseverance: now = 2:2; future = 13:10
  - C. “in Jesus” (1:9)
    - Christological focus
    - identification with Christ
    - sets up Jesus’ suffering as church paradigm
    - Eschatological focus: church destiny

## Vision 1:9–20

- I. Commission (1:9–11)
  - D. “I was . . . Patmos” (1:9)
    - Patmos: question of John’s status
    - “was” = past = John no longer on Patmos!
    - composition location actually unknown
    - composition includes time for reflection
    - contra Catholic tradition
    - Patmos: question of Roman status

## Vision 1:9–20

- I. Commission (1:9–11)
  - E. “Word of God”
    - war of words
    - contra Roman imperial propaganda
  - F. “testimony of Jesus”
    - witness Jesus gave (1:5; 1:16)
    - witness Jesus receives (1:2)
    - forensic setting
    - law courts of Asia Minor
    - anticipates eschatological vindication

## Vision 1:9–20

- I. Commission (1:9–11)
  - E. “in the Spirit . . . Lord’s Day” (1:10)
    - Spirit
      - nature unknown (prophetic trance? Ez. 2:2)
      - infers authority of revelation
    - Lord’s Day
      - meaning: two options
        - temporal: Sunday worship or Easter
        - eschatological: “day of the Lord”
      - sabbatarian emphasis (Seventh Day Adven.)

## Vision 1:9–20

- I. Commission (1:9–11)
  - F. “voice . . . trumpet” (1:10)
    - Moses on Mt. Sinai (Ex. 19:16)
    - authoritative, divine revelation
      - Jewish theophany language
      - context for John’s commission to write
    - links to Seven Trumpet judgments
      - God’s angels blowing God’s trumpets
      - validates Seal Judgments of Christ

## Vision 1:9–20

- I. Commission (1:9–11)
  - G. “write . . . book” (1:11)
    - evokes God’s prophetic charge
      - Ex. 27:14; Isa. 30:8; Jer.37:2
      - contexts: testaments of judgment on Israel
    - insinuates judgment to come
      - on the church (= seven letters, 2–3)
      - on the world (= judgment cycle, 6–19)

## Vision 1:9–20

- I. Commission (1:9–11)
  - H. “seven churches” (1:11)
    - ancient postal route (Ramsey)?
    - meaning of seven: two major options
      - prophetic seven = stages of church history
        - if so, John himself never develops imagery
        - details in the letters become meaningless
        - any schematic completely arbitrary
      - symbolic seven
        - seven churches = all churches of Asia
        - church universal inferred

## Vision 1:9–20

### II. Vision Description (1:12–16)

#### A. Who he is—“one like a son of man” (1:13)

Daniel 7 and 10 background

Ancient of Days imagery

judicial figure

Jesus as fulfillment

the latter-day, divine judge

of church (seven letters, 2–3)

of world (seven seals, 6–9; cf. Dan. 10:21–12:13)

## Vision 1:9–20

### II. Vision Description (1:12–16)

#### B. Where he is—“midst of the lampstands” (1:12)

Promise of divine presence

temple imagery of lampstands

reversal of “Icabod” curse

Theological equivalent of Luke’s Pentecost

Joel’s latter-day outpoured Spirit (Acts 2:)

inspiration of all prophetic activity of church

## Vision 1:9–20

### II. Vision Description(1:12–16)

#### C. How he is clothed—“robe . . . golden sash” (1:13)

Robe as priestly attire

context: temple allusion in lampstands

connection: ties into Prologue language

“freed us from our sins” (1:5)

“made us a kingdom, priests” (1:6)

Sash as kingly attire

context: God the “Almighty” (1:8)

connection: ties into Prologue language

## Vision 1:9–20

### II. Vision Description (1:12–16)

#### C. How he is clothed—“robe . . . golden sash” (1:13)

Sash as kingly attire

context: God the “Almighty” (1:8)

connection: ties into Prologue language

“ruler of the kings of the earth” (1:5)

“made us a kingdom” (1:6)

Clothing: fulfilling messianic functions

hieratic function: salvation

royal function: judgment

## Vision 1:9–20

### II. Vision Description (1:12–16)

#### D. What he looks like—“his head and hair. . .” (1:13)

##### Seven-fold description

head/hair: Ancient of Days, judgment

eyes: flame of fire, infallible, omniscient

feet: burnished bronze, stability

voice: many waters, total authority

right hand: seven stars, church leaders

mouth: sharp, two-edged sword, witness

face: sun in strength, glorious power

## Vision 1:9–20

### II. Vision Description (1:12–16)

#### D. What he looks like—“his head and hair. . .” (1:13)

##### Seven-fold symbolism

perfectly fulfills *identity* (as Son of Man)

perfectly fulfills *presence* (in the church)

perfectly fulfills *functions* (priest, king)

## Vision 1:9–20

### III. Vision Response (1:17–18)

#### A. “fell at his feet as dead” (1:17)

Apocalyptic genre pattern: receive vision, fall on face, angel strengthens, further visions

Parabolic action: resurrection picture?

#### B. “placed his right hand”

same hand holding seven stars

John associated with seven stars

## Vision 1:9–20

### III. Vision Response (1:17–18)

#### C. “I am” (1:18)

Self identification of Jesus

Attributes of God from OT

#### D. “the first and the last . . . the Living One” (1:18)

beginning to end: complete control

Living One: gospel story line is context

#### E. “was dead . . . alive forever” (1:18)

never true of God

gospel story line becomes explicit

## Vision 1:9–20

### III. Vision Response (1:17–18)

#### F. “keys of Death and Hades” (1:18)

Enemies of God

Characters in Revelation’s drama (20:14)

Claim to sovereignty: controlling ultimate outcome of persecution

## Vision 1:9–20

### IV. Vision Commission (1:19)

#### F. “Therefore, write” (1:19)

Commission inclusio (cf. 1:11)

Prophetic authority reaffirmed

#### G. “things you saw . . . that are . . . going to happen” (1:19)

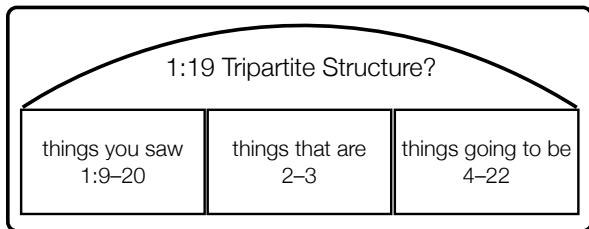
Three-fold object clause

Indication of book’s structure?

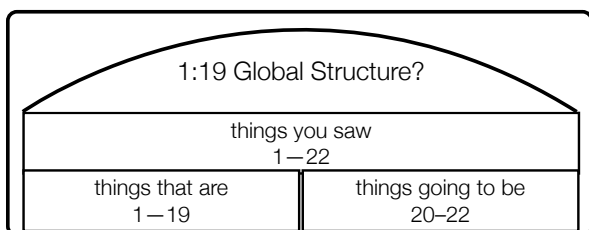
Consult extensive discussion in Beale

Inauguration of Daniel’s end time in Jesus

## Vision 1:9–20



## Vision 1:9–20



## Vision 1:9–20

### V. Vision Interpretation (1:20)

#### A. “mystery” (1:20)

Occurs only in Daniel in OT

Daniel’s context: eschatological

John interpreting Daniel 7 and 10

#### B. “seven stars . . . angels of seven churches” (1:20)

Interpretive options

Function: sovereign destiny of church

#### C. “lampstands” (1:20)

Simply stated as the seven churches

Revelation’s symbolism: christological, ecclesial

## Vision 1:9–20

### VI. Chapter One: Concluding Summary

#### A. Prologue (1:1–8)

Christological key to central theology of book

John’s focus is on gospel truths

Gospel truths fine-tuned to persecution setting

#### B. Inaugural Vision (1:9–20)

Hermeneutical key to symbolic imagery of book

God’s sovereignty through Christ’s lordship

Christ’s lordship through church’s witness

#### C. Background: suffused with OT imagery