

The Purpose of the Book of Revelation

Let the letter from John speak for itself:

Revelation 1:1-3 (International Standard Version) – *This is¹ the revelation of Jesus the Messiah, which God gave him to show his servants the things that must happen soon. He made it known² by sending his messenger³ to his servant John, who testified about this message from God and the testimony about Jesus the Messiah. How blessed is the one who reads aloud and those who hear the words of this prophecy and obey what is written in it, for the time is near!*

Revelation 1:1-3 (Young's Literal Translation) – *A revelation of Jesus Christ, that God gave to him, to shew to his servants what things it behoveth to come to pass quickly; and he did signify [it], having sent through his messenger to his servant John, who did testify the word of God, and the testimony of Jesus Christ, as many things also as he did see. Happy is he who is reading, and those hearing, the words of the prophecy, and keeping the things written in it – for the time is nigh!*

Revelation 1:1-3 (Complete Jewish Bible) – *This is the revelation which God gave to Yeshua the Messiah, so that he could show his servants what must happen very soon. He communicated it by sending his angel to his servant Yochanan, who bore witness to the Word of God and to the testimony of Yeshua the Messiah, as much as he saw. 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!*

Revelation 1:1-3 (Evangelical Heritage Version) – *The revelation from Jesus Christ that God gave him to show his servants the things that must soon take place. Christ expressed this revelation by means of symbols sent through his angel to his servant John. John spoke as a witness to the word of God and to the testimony about Jesus Christ, that is, to everything he saw. Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy and blessed are those who hear it and hold on to the things written in it, because the time is near.*

Analysis

- (i) It is not necessarily an unveiling of Jesus Christ – The Greek can be translated “revelation from Jesus Christ” because of the lack of prepositions in the language (‘of’ and ‘about’ are not in the Greek).
- (ii) It is not necessarily a testimony of Jesus Christ – The Greek can be translated “testimony about Jesus Christ” because of the lack of prepositions in the language (‘of’ and ‘about’ are not in the Greek).
- (iii) The message was from Father, not Jesus.
- (iv) The revelation Father gave was about King Jesus and his involvement in what was about to happen
- (v) The reason for the message was to show his people what was about to happen
- (vi) It is a prophecy of events that were about to happen.
- (vii) The chain of communication of the message was:
 - (1) Father gave the message directly to Jesus.
 - (2) Jesus gave it to an angel.
 - (3) The angel explained it to John.
 - (4) John gave it to us, God’s servants.

1 – Phrase not in the Greek

2 – “He signified it” (TPT)

3 – Angel?

(viii) The book of Revelation is a book full of symbols – He “signified it” or “made it known (by a miracle-sign)”. The Greek uses the verb *sēmainō*, which means “to give a sign”. The noun form is *sēmeion* and is the word used most often (seventy-seven times) in the New Testament for “miracle”. In the Septuagint of Dan. 2:45 the word *sēmainō* is used, which indicates the meaning of “to symbolize”. The Aramaic likewise can be translated “symbolized”.⁴

(ix) Those who heard the message or read it were to heed what was in it and take the content to heart.⁵

(x) John referred to what he received as τὸν λόγον τοῦ θεοῦ, “the logos (word) of God”. He didn’t say his letter to the seven churches was ‘the Word of God’, only what he received as prophecy and the words that were spoken to him in the vision that he recorded.

The Purpose

The purpose of the letter was to send a prophetic message in symbols to the 1st Century believers to show them what was about to happen and how King Jesus was to be involved. They were to take heed of what was in the symbols the message contained, once they interpreted them.



IMPORTANT: If you have difficulty accepting my analysis based on the way the first three verses are translated into English, just remember that the Commandments don't say, “You shall not kill”, which most Christians believe. It actually reads, “You shall not murder”. If it was 'kill', then King David would have sinned and been outside of ‘God's’ favour and blessing because of the warfare he engaged in.

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(Readers will need to look up for themselves any scriptures alluded to in this document)

4 – Brian Simmons “The Passion Translation”
5 – Amplified Bible

www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=rev+1%3A1-3&version=TPT#en-TPT-11984