

Revelation 1:1–3

Answer Key

Introduction

When we begin the book of Revelation, the Holy Spirit does not overwhelm us with **symbols** or **judgments**. Instead, He begins by explaining what kind of **book** this is, where it comes from, and how God expects His people to **respond** to it.

Revelation 1:1–3 functions as a **lens** through which the entire book must be read. It also serves as a **doorway**. If we walk through this doorway correctly, the rest of the book will make sense **spiritually**, even when the symbols are challenging **intellectually**.

I. Revelation 1:1 — An Unveiling from Heaven

The word “Revelation” comes from the Greek word **ἀποκάλυψις** (*apokalypsis*), which means an **unveiling**, a **disclosure**, or the removal of a **covering**.

Revelation is not about **hiding** truth, but about **revealing** truth. God is not inventing a new reality; He is revealing the **true** reality that already exists but has been hidden from **human** sight.

The phrase “of Jesus Christ” has a **double** meaning:

- A revelation **from** Jesus Christ
- A revelation **about** Jesus Christ

Jesus is both the **source** of the revelation and its central **subject**.

The book of Revelation is not primarily about **end-time** events, political powers, or future **catastrophes**. Its primary purpose is to unveil Jesus Christ in His risen **authority**, sovereign **rule**, and coming **glory**.

The revelation was given to God’s **servants**. The Greek word is **δοῦλοι** (*douloi*), meaning **bond-**servants—those who belong to a master by choice and **loyalty**.

Revelation is not written to **spectators**, but to those who belong to **Christ** and live under His **authority**.

The phrase “things which must soon take place” includes the Greek word **δεῖ** (*dei*), which expresses **divine** necessity. These events are not **optional** or accidental; they are part of God’s **sovereign** plan.

History is not drifting toward an **uncertain** future. It is moving purposefully toward God's appointed **end**.

The word "communicated" comes from the Greek **σημαίνω** (*sēmainō*), meaning to make known through **signs** or **symbols**.

Revelation uses symbols not to **obscure** truth, but to **convey** truth with greater depth and power. The symbols are not **riddles** to be cracked, but theological **pictures** meant to shape how God's people see **reality**.

II. Revelation 1:2 — The Call to Faithful Witness

John says he "bore **witness**" to what God revealed. The Greek word is **μαρτυρέω** (*martyreō*), from which we get the word **martyr**. It means to testify faithfully, even at great **cost**.

Revelation is not based on **opinion** or speculation, but on faithful **eyewitness** testimony.

The phrase "testimony of Jesus Christ" comes from the Greek **μαρτυρία** (*martyria*), meaning an **authoritative** and binding declaration. Revelation is not just about Jesus—it is Jesus **speaking** to His Church.

Revelation is written by a faithful **witness**, about the faithful **Witness**, and for a people called to be faithful **witnesses**.

III. Revelation 1:3 — The Blessing of Revelation

The word "blessed" comes from the Greek **μακάριος** (*makarios*), describing deep, settled **spiritual favor** from God, not temporary **happiness**.

This blessing is connected to three actions:

1. "Blessed is he who **reads**."

Revelation was meant to be **read** aloud in the gathered church.

2. "Blessed are those who **hear**."

The Greek word **ἀκούω** (*akouō*) means attentive listening with the intent to **respond**.

3. "Blessed are those who **keep** what is written."

The Greek word **τηρέω** (*tēreō*) means to guard, watch over, and **obey**.

The blessing of Revelation comes not from merely **understanding** it, but from **living** in light of

The word “time” in verse 3 is not **χρόνος** (*chronos*), meaning clock time, but **καιρός** (*kairos*), meaning a decisive, appointed **season**.

God is calling His people to live with spiritual **urgency**, knowing that His redemptive plan is **moving** forward.

Key Teaching Truths

Revelation is an **unveiling**, not a concealment.

Revelation is authoritative **testimony**, not speculation.

Revelation is meant to be **obeyed**, not merely studied.

God promises blessing not to the **curious** mind, but to the faithful **heart** that listens, obeys, and lives in readiness for **Christ**.

Closing Summary

Before Revelation reveals **events**, it reveals a **Person**.

Before it challenges the **future**, it challenges our **faithfulness** today.

Revelation calls believers to see **Christ** clearly, trust Him **fully**, and follow Him **faithfully**—until the day He **comes**.