

Prologue

^{1.1} The Revelation of Jesus Christ.

The Creator gave this revelation to show his servants the things which had to happen quickly (Psa 25:14; Amos 3:7). Through his angel, the Creator revealed this revelation to his servant John. ² John was a martyr of everything he saw about the Creator's Narrative and Jesus Christ's Martyrdom—*the Two Martyrs* (Rev 11:1-13). ³ Blessed is the one who reads and listens to the narratives of this prophecy and clings to the things written within it. For the time is here!

⁴ From John to the seven churches in the Roman province of Asia Minor: Grace to you and peace from the one who is, was, and is arriving, from the seven spirits who are before his throne (Isa 11:2), ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the martyr, the faithful one, the firstborn from the dead, and the one above the rulers of the Earth. Jesus Christ loves us and frees us from our selfishness with his blood *of self-sacrifice*. ⁶ Jesus Christ has made us a Kingdom of priests for his Creator and Father (Exod 19:6). To him be glory and ruling power into the ages. Amen!

⁷ Look! Jesus Christ is arriving with the clouds (Dan 7:13-14)! Every eye will see him, even the ones who pierced him (Zech 12:10)! All the tribes of the Earth will grieve over him! Yes, amen! ⁸ I AM—the Beginning and the End, the Lord Creator, the one who is, was, and is arriving, the All-Powerful—is speaking (Exod 3:14; Isa 41:4, 44:6).

The Seven Messages to the Church

⁹ I, John, am your brother and communal-partner in the oppression (Exod 4:31; Deut 4:29, 31:17; Psa 60:11; Isa 10:3; Dan 12:1), the Kingdom, and our patient-endurance with Jesus. I was on the island called Patmos because of the Creator's Narrative and Jesus's Martyrdom (Rev 1:2). ¹⁰ I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day and following me I heard a great voice like a trumpet—*announcing the Creator's present judgment and liberation* (Exod 19:16-19, 20:18-19; Lev 25:8-10; Num 10:1-10; Josh 6:1-5; Judg 7:19-22). ¹¹ It was saying,

“Write what you see in a book and send it to the seven churches in Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”

¹² Then I turned back to look at the voice which was speaking to me. After turning I saw seven golden lampstands. ¹³ In the middle of the lampstands, I saw one like a Child of Humanity—*Jesus Christ* (Exod 25:37; Dan 7:13-14; Zech 4:2; Rev 1:7). He was wearing a long robe with a gold belt around his chest—*like a priest* (Exod 28:3-8; Dan 10:5). ¹⁴ The hairs of his head were white like wool and snow—*like the Creator's* (Dan 7:9). His eyes were like a flame of fire—*judging and seeing all things as they truly are* (Dan 10:6). ¹⁵ His feet were like glowing metal burning in a furnace—*having stood with his Church in suffering* (Dan 3:16-27). His voice was like the sound of much water—*a cleansing flood* (Psa 93:1-5; Ezek 1:24, 43:1-2). ¹⁶ He had seven stars in

his right hand, a sharp double-edged blade coming out of his mouth—*the Creator’s Narrative* (Isa 11:4, 27:1, 49:2), and his face was shining like the sun with his power (Exod 34:29-35; Judg 5:31).¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead (Exod 3:6; Ezek 1:28; Dan 8:17-18, 10:9-12). He put his right hand upon me, saying,

“Do not fear! I AM the First and the Last.¹⁸ I am the Living-One. I died but, look, I am living into the ages of the ages. I have the keys of Death and Hades—*the Realm-of-the-Dead* (1 Sam 2:6; Job 38:17)!¹⁹ Therefore, write of the things you saw—these are the things that are already happening and are about to happen after them (Hab 2:2; Rev 1:1, 1:3).²⁰ This is the mystery of the seven stars that 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 are the seven churches.”