

Series: *The End Begins*

Week 1 Title: *The End Is Not the End*

Main Text: Revelation 1:1–8

Big Idea: Revelation doesn't begin with fear—it begins with Jesus. The end of the world is the beginning of something better.

- **“Revelation is not a book of fear—it's a book of focus.**
- **“The book of Revelation isn't a horror story—it's a victory story.”**
- **“If you know how the story ends, you don't panic in the middle.”**

INTRO – SETTING THE TONE

We're launching a brand-new series today called **The End Begins**, and we're diving into the book of Revelation. I know—when people hear *Revelation*, they get nervous. But let me tell you upfront: **This book isn't meant to scare you; it's meant to show you Jesus.** We're not chasing conspiracies. We're not focused on beasts or blood moons. We're looking at **the beauty and victory of Jesus Christ.**

A simple outline for the book of Revelation is found in Revelation 1:19. In the first chapter, the risen and exalted Christ is speaking to John. Christ tells John to “write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later.” The things John had already seen are recorded in chapter 1. The “things which are” (that were present in John's day) are recorded in chapters 2–3 (the letters to the churches). The “things that will take place” (future things) are recorded in chapters 4–22.

The Setting of Revelation

Revelation was written by the Apostle **John**, who had been exiled to the island of **Patmos** for preaching the Word of God.

Revelation 1:9 (NIV): *“I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.”*

The world tried to isolate him—but God gave him a **revelation** that would impact the Church for all generations.

God does His best work in our most isolated seasons.

DEMYSTIFYING THE SYMBOLS IN CHAPTER 1

Even in the first chapter, there are a few images that can seem mysterious—so let's break those down real quick:

1. The Seven Golden Lampstands

Revelation 1:20 – “The seven lampstands are the seven churches.”

This represents the **Church**, called to shine in a dark world.

2. The Seven Stars in His Right Hand

Revelation 1:20 – “The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches.”

These represent **pastors or messengers**—spiritual leaders God has appointed to lead each church.

3. The Sharp Sword from His Mouth

Revelation 1:16 – “...and out of his mouth came a sharp, double-edged sword.”

This symbolizes the **Word of God**—powerful, piercing, and true.

4. Eyes Like Fire, Feet Like Bronze, Face Like the Sun

- **Eyes of fire** = He sees all.
- **Feet of bronze** = He is unshakable and holy.
- **Face like the sun** = His glory is radiant and overwhelming.

These are not scary—they're **sacred**.

Jesus is not weak, wounded, or worried. He's **fully alive and in control**.

MESSAGE OUTLINE

1. JESUS IS IN CONTROL OF THE TIMELINE

Revelation 1:8 (NIV):

“I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.”

He's the beginning and the end—and everything in between.

You don't need to fear the future when you follow the One who holds it.

2. JESUS SPEAKS TO HIS CHURCH FIRST

Revelation 1:4–5 (NIV):

“Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come... and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness...”

Before anything happens in the world, Jesus speaks to **His Church**.

Revival doesn't begin outside—it begins **in here**.

He's still speaking. Are we still listening?

“We want signs of the end—Jesus wants signs of faith.”

3. JESUS OFFERS VICTORY, NOT JUST WARNING

Revelation 1:5b–6 (NIV):

“To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father...”

Revelation isn't just about judgment—it's about **redemption**.

It's not a horror story. It's a **hope story**.

The King is coming—and **He's coming for His bride**.

“God didn't give us Revelation to scare us—He gave it to prepare us.”

“The end isn't about escaping the world—it's about preparing for eternity.”

"Now What?"

“We've heard the Word... now what do we do with it?”

- Don't get distracted by signs—get devoted to the Savior.
- You don't have to live in fear. You can live with faith, focus, and fire—because you know how this ends.
- “Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy...” — *Revelation 1:3*

Revelation 1

1 The revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ² who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³ Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

⁴ John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

Grace and peace to you from him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits^[a] before his throne, ⁵ and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood, ⁶ and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father—to him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen.

⁷ “Look, he is coming with the clouds,”^[b] and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him”; and all peoples on earth “will mourn because of him.”^[c] So shall it be! Amen.

⁸ “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” says the Lord God, “who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.” ⁹ I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. ¹⁰ On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, ¹¹ which said: “Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea.”

¹² I turned around to see the voice that was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³ and among the lampstands was someone like a son of man,^[d] dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴ The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵ His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶ In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword. His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance.

¹⁷ When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. ¹⁸ I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.

¹⁹ “Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. ²⁰ The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels^[e] of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches.