

Part 1: Christ and the Seven Churches

Revelation 1-5

The Illustrated Letter

Revelation 1:1-11

1. Following Jesus brings many benefits. It also causes new pressures and problems. In what ways have you found being a Christian difficult?
2. Read [Rev. 1:1-11](#). The word *revelation* means to bring to light what was formerly hidden, veiled and secret. Who and what will be unveiled by the revelation given to John ([Rev. 1:1-3](#))?
3. What statements stress the urgency and importance of the revelation?
4. How would John's description of God be a comfort to his readers ([Rev. 1:4-5](#))?
5. Why would it help discouraged believers to know they are "a kingdom and priests to serve his God and Father" ([Rev. 1:6](#))?
6. John presents a vision of Jesus as both coming ([Rev. 1:7](#)) and already and always here ([Rev. 1:8](#)). What would it be like to have only one of these two perspectives?

7. In what ways has a knowledge of Christ's coming encouraged you in the midst of suffering?

8. How does John's description of himself in [Rev. 1:9](#) make you want to hear what he has to say?

9. Why are the circumstances of his receiving the revelation especially encouraging ([Rev. 1:9-11](#))?

10. What does John's example teach us about helping believers to be faithful through hard times?

11. Imagine that you are a member of one of the seven churches. How would you feel when you discovered that Christ himself had asked John to send you this letter ([Rev. 1:11](#))?

To what extent do you have this same feeling today, knowing the letter is also addressed to you?

12. John states that we will be blessed if we hear his message and take it to heart ([Rev. 1:3](#)). In what ways do you think he expects us to take this message to heart?