

Southern Friendship Missionary Baptist Church

“Revelation Chapter 1”

“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. 18 I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades.” (Rev 1:17-18)

Apocalyptic - forecasting the ultimate destiny of the world: prophetic¹

Writer: The Book of Revelation was written by John the Apostle (1:1, 1:4, 1:9, 21:2 KJV; 22:8).

Date: The Book of Revelation was probably written between A.D. 95 and 96, during the reign of Domitian (A.D. 81-96).

Literary Format: The Book of Revelation is a general epistle.

- The Book of Revelation is Johannine:
 - The Gospel of John
 - First John
 - Second John
 - Third John
 - Revelation
- The Book of Revelation is an apocalyptic book.

Purpose: The Book of Revelation was a circular letter to read among the Seven Churches of Asia Minor (21:16). Furthermore, the Book of Revelation is a message of hope particularly adapted to those who are passing through, or who know they may soon be called to pass through, fierce temptation.²

Outline of Chapter 1: The Past – “The Things Which You Have Seen” 1:1-20³

- I. Introduction 1:1-8
- II. Revelation of Christ 1:9-20 Part One: “The Things Which You Have Seen” (1:1–20)

In your opinion, what are the most significant challenges of outside pressures the church faces today?

¹ Merriam-Webster, Inc. 2003. In [Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary](#), Eleventh ed. Springfield, MA: Merriam-Webster, Inc.

² Guthrie, Donald. 1996. *New Testament Introduction*. 4th rev. ed. The Master Reference Collection. Downers Grove, IL: Inter-Varsity Press (962-963).

³ Thomas Nelson Publishers. 1996. *Nelson’s Complete Book of Bible Maps & Charts: Old and New Testaments*. Rev. and updated ed. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.

How do you think the church is handling outside pressure or persecution? _____

How well do you think you handle the pressure or persecution of the world at work, in your home, community, or immediate circle of influence? _____

What have you learned from this study that you will implement in your life concerning Revelation Chapter 1? _____

Notes:
