



WE POSSESS UNRELENTING HOPE Because of God's Plan for the Future

A Study of Revelation 1

Scripture Reading
Revelation 1:1-8

GOD'S PLAN FOR THE FUTURE —

1. Guarantees Blessings
 - a. As we see Jesus (v 1)
 - b. As God has given (v 2)
 - c. To the hearers (v 3)
 - d. Anchored in Jesus Christ (vv 4-6)
 - e. Until Jesus' return (v 7)
 - f. In Jesus' claims (v 8)
2. Centers On
 - a. God's providence for John (vv 9-10a)
 - b. John's assignment (vv 10b-11)

- c. John's discovery of Who was speaking
 - (1.) "one like the Son of Man" (vv 13-17a with Daniel 10:5-8)
 - (2.) One not to be feared (vv 17b-18)
 - (3.) One who revealed the "mystery" (vv 19-20)

Observe here the admirable order of divine revelation. God gave it to Christ, and Christ employed an angel to communicate it to the churches. The angels are God's messengers; they are ministering spirits to the heirs of salvation...Christ's servants.... John was the apostle chosen for this service. Some think he was the only one surviving, the rest having sealed their testimony with their blood. This was to be the last book of divine revelation; and therefore notified to the church by the last of the apostles. John ... was, under the New Testament, as the prophet Daniel under the Old, a man greatly beloved. He was the servant of Christ; he was an apostle, an evangelist, and a prophet; he served Christ in all the three extraordinary offices of the church. James was an apostle, but not a prophet, nor an evangelist; Matthew was an apostle and evangelist, but not a prophet; Luke was an evangelist, but neither a prophet nor an apostle; but John was all three; and so Christ calls him in an eminent sense His servant John. John was to deliver this revelation to the church, to all His servants. For the revelation was not designed for the use of Christ's extraordinary servants the ministers only, but for all His servants, the members of the church....

— Matthew Henry in
"Revelation 1," *Commentary on the Whole Bible*, 1706.

