HE HAS MADE US TO BE A KINGDOM AND PRIESTS

Revelation 1:1–8

Key Verses: 1:5b,6

1. How is this book described? (1a; see also 3a; 22:7) Who is it for? (1) How does verse 1 describe the process of the revelation, and why do you think John wants us to know this? What can we learn here about God? (Da2:47)
2. How was John involved in the revelation? (1b,2) What does it mean to bear “witness to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ”? (9b; 2:13; 6:9) Why is it important to know that John bore witness “to all he saw”? (22:6)
3. According to verse 3, who are those who are blessed? What does it mean to “keep” what is written here? (3:3a,8b) How should knowing that “the time is near” affect us? (Ro13:12; Heb10:25; 1Pe4:7)
4. To whom is John writing? (4a,11) Note how these seven churches in Asia are representative of all churches (2:7a,11a,17a,29; 3:6,13,22). In verse 4b, who is John describing? (see also verse 8) Why is it important to know this about God? Who are “the seven spirits who are before his throne”? [Why “seven”?] (see 1Co12:4–13)
5. How is Jesus described? (5a) What does it mean that Jesus is: “the faithful witness” (Jn3:31–33; 18:37); “the firstborn from the dead” (Ps89:27; Ro8:29; Col1:18); “the ruler of the kings of the earth” (17:14). How should knowing this about him inspire us?
6. Read verse 5b. How did Jesus show he loves us? Read verse 6a. When we accept his death, resurrection and his shed blood, what happens to us? (5:10; 20:6; cf. Ex19:6; 1Pe2:5,9.) What does it mean to reign with Jesus? (1:9; 14:12) Why is this the best way of life? (Lk1:74,75) What does Jesus deserve from us? (6b)
7. What vision did John have of Jesus, and how will this fulfill prophecies? (7; cf. Da7:13,14; Zech12:10) At his coming, who will mourn, and why? Finally, what does God proclaim about himself? (8) What does “the Alpha and the Omega” mean (22:13), and how does this truth about God contrast with the world that rejects him?