

# Revelation (1)



from Revelation 1; 19

*During his exile on the island of Patmos, Apostle John was given the Revelation which he wrote down. Jesus Christ appeared to him and showed him, by means of visions, the completion of God's work and our future.*

*From this book certain thoughts have been compiled for the children showing them that a wonderful future awaits them and all those who remain faithful and overcome: to be united with Jesus Christ! After the first resurrection, the wedding feast of the Lamb—a truly wonderful feast—will take place. This wedding will mark the beginning of the eternal fellowship of the bride of Christ with God and his Son, Jesus Christ. That is the reason for great joy and thankfulness!*

The children are encouraged to prepare themselves for a wonderful future with Jesus Christ to which they can look forward to.

**A**postle John has grown old. In his heart the words and deeds of Jesus Christ have remained alive. He has been preaching the gospel for many years, he cares for the apostolic congregations and openly professes himself to Christ. This is not well received everywhere. He has to bear much suffering and injustice. The authorities and rulers have him arrested. They ban him to the small Greek island of Patmos. And here, in the solitude, God and Jesus Christ are particularly close to him. Apostle John busies himself with that which the Lord Jesus has said and looks forward to his Lord's return. In numerous visions, John sees all the things which will happen in the future.

At one stage Jesus Christ appears to him in a brilliant light and in royal splendour—his face is as bright as the sun, and he is wearing a robe reaching to his feet, with a broad golden band around the chest. He is holding seven stars and seven golden candlesticks in his hand. He places his right hand on John's shoulder and says: "Do not be afraid! I am the first and the last. I am the Living One! I was dead, but now I am alive for ever and ever. I have authority over death and the world of the dead. Write, then, the things you see: Both the

things that are now, and the things that will happen afterwards."

John writes down everything which Jesus Christ shows him. It will be a very special book indeed! Its title 'Revelation' reveals that it is about what will happen in future. This book is not an easy one to read, as most of the visions which Apostle John saw are difficult for us to grasp and understand. But one thing comes through very clearly: in the course of time much suffering will take place. It often appears as if God's enemies can simply do as they please. But finally Christ shall rule and reign as King over everything and everyone!

Apostle John also writes of the wonderful joy which awaits the faithful children of God. He sees the heavenly bride in God's glory!

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Then John also describes what he hears. In heaven a great multitude calls out in praise and honour of God: "Hallelujah! Praise the Lord! for the Lord, our almighty God, is king! Let us rejoice and be glad; let us praise his greatness! For the time has come for the wedding of the Lamb, and his bride has prepared herself for it—she is wearing a beautiful wedding gown."

## Jesus Christ is the resurrection

John marvels at how wonderfully the wedding of the Lord Jesus is prepared! How beautiful is his bride! What a feast of joy it will be! John longs for this day. If only it could be today already! How happy and blessed everyone will be who is invited to partake of the wedding feast of the Lord Jesus!



*Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lord Jesus, the bridegroom of our soul.*

Happily John writes down what the angel tells him: "Blessed are those who have been invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

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**1** We bring a photograph of a wedding and look at it with the children. A wedding is something very special. Two people who love one another want to be together for ever. They have long been looking forward to this day.

For such a feast many preparations must be made. The customs traditional to the country concerned may be discussed with the children.

**2** The Lord Jesus has promised to return and fetch his own. After the wedding in heaven his bride will remain with him for ever. We discuss the wedding feast of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) with the children and compare it to the photograph.

- **Bridegroom:** The bridegroom of the soul is Jesus Christ. He is king and ruler over everything. We want to love and honour him. We await him and prepare ourselves for his return.
- **Bride:** All faithful children of God on earth and in the beyond constitute the bride. They love the Lord Jesus and follow him faithfully. They prepare themselves for the day of the wedding.
- **Garment:** The beautiful wedding garment is given to the bride by the Lord Jesus. It should be pure and lovely. This garment, soiled through the sins and failings of our earthly life, is cleansed through the forgiveness of sins.

**3** How do we prepare ourselves for this wonderful day? (Faithful following and partaking of the sacraments are essential prerequisites. We believe that the Lord Jesus will come soon and pray that he will grant us the grace to be taken when he comes. We overcome those things which the Lord dislikes. But without God's grace no one can attain this goal.)

**4** The children draw a beautiful wedding dress and understand in this way the anticipatory joy and longing for the day of Christ's return. Perhaps a suitable hymn could be played here.