

Revelation
Lesson #2

Revelation 1:2 Who bare record of the word of God, and of the testimony of Jesus Christ, and of all things that he saw.

- “Who”
 - This identity is found back in the 5th section of Revelation 1:1, in Revelation 1:1e we read: “and signified it by his angel unto his servant John:”
 - I want to add something here that got hurried over last week the word “signified” does have the meaning “to specify”
 - Signified is Strong's G4591 and is defined as “To make known, publicize, declare.” Note the base or root word used is sign. This indicates that a sign or signal is being given. The ending “-ified” is grouped from two classes of suffixes.
 - Signify is a present tense verb. The ending -fy or -ify is used to help the reader produce verbs and the meaning in the suffix is: *to make*. Hence we see that here what is being made is signs or signals or one may even add symbols.
 - There is more to this word, signified. The present tense form “signify” is not used in the text. So we have another rule of English because our “making signs” occurred in the past. Hence the rule is: “To form the past tense of regular verbs, we change a -y ending to -i- before adding s.” So the understanding is that “the signs were made or given in the past.
 - So the book was “Sign” -ified. It is a book that was pre-written and signs were inserted therein by God in eternity past and given to John circa 96AD (note: Psalms 119:89 LAMED. For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven. and Revelation 10:2 And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea, and his left foot on the earth,).
 - So yes, Revelation is a book of signs, signals and symbols. About half of the symbols and signs in Revelation are explained in the text. Lamps = Churches, Stars = Angels (or messengers/preachers), incense/odours = Prayers, etc. When the signs and symbols are NOT explained then one must look throughout the Word of God for their meaning. God is His own interpreter and the Holy Ghost is our Guide to ALL truth. Furthermore, Signs and symbols are excellent ways of preserving meanings. Words tend to change over time, especially in our English Language.
 - IE – prevent in 1 Thess. 4:15 in 2014 means to hinder, stand in the way, stop. In 1611 it meant to come before or get in front of (as in a line or queue).
 - So God's use of rarely changing symbols was an excellent method of preserving the understanding for those generations yet in the future.
 - We must however be extremely cautious when dealing with symbols so that we don't go overboard. Such as in Revelation 9 when some state that “locusts” are helicopters...
 - Thank you for allowing me that moment to clarify the word signified. Now back to “who” in Verse Two!
 - As stated before the who is defined in the ending of verse 1, It is none other than John. I'll give you more of a biography on John when we get to verse 9.
- “bare record”
 - This means that he (John) is giving evidence as an eyewitness. John wrote down what he saw and heard. This is where most preachers stop; but I believe that based on Revelation 1:17 “And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And **he laid his right hand upon me**, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last:” That this was not merely a vision John saw but that he was actually transported (see Rev. 4:1-2 – the door) into the presence of God into the Throneroom or as Paul called it the 3rd Heaven.

- We further note this is John the apostle by comparing his other works:
 - John 21:24 This is the disciple which testifieth of these things, and wrote these things: and we know that his testimony is true.
 - John 19:35 And he that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.
 - 1 John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)
 - 1 John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world.
- “of the word of God”
 - This phrase occurs 49 times in the Bible. It shows that the message being written or spoken is a prophetic message and is the verbalization or visualization of the very thoughts of the Almighty. Some instances are:
 - 1 Samuel 9:27 And as they were going down to the end of the city, Samuel said to Saul, Bid the servant pass on before us, (and he passed on,) but stand thou still a while, that I may shew thee the word of God.
 - Luke 4:4 And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.
 - Revelation 1:2 is the first occurrence of 5 occasions of the phrase. The other 4 are:
 - Revelation 1:9 I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ.
 - Revelation 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:
 - Revelation 19:13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.
 - Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.
- “and of the testimony of Jesus Christ”
 - He was an eyewitness of Jesus Christ.
 - This was what Christ Himself said and did.
 - This testimony especially concerns Christ and is based upon a personal knowledge of Him
 - see: Rev. 12:17; 19:10; 20:4
- “and of all things he saw” - again John is giving us a full account of what he SAW (and I believe what he felt also – but not of all of what he heard Rev. 10;4.