

Bible Basics Conference 2018

# Introduction to Revelation

Revelation 1:1-18

**Mark Grasso**

# Overview

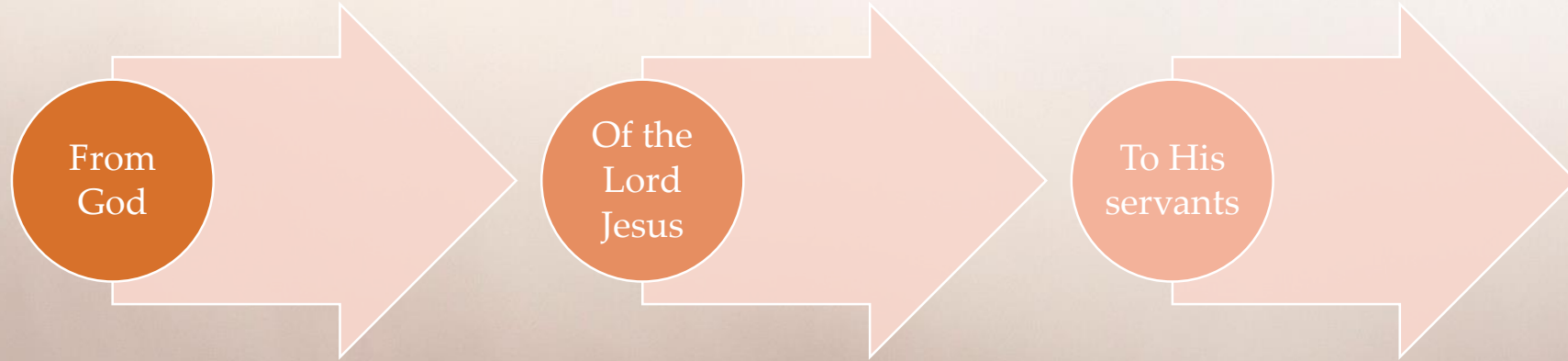
- Nature of Revelation
- Content and character of the book
- Purpose of the book
- Presentation of the Lord Jesus

# Nature of the book

- 'Revelation': something being made known by God in His grace
- Origin:

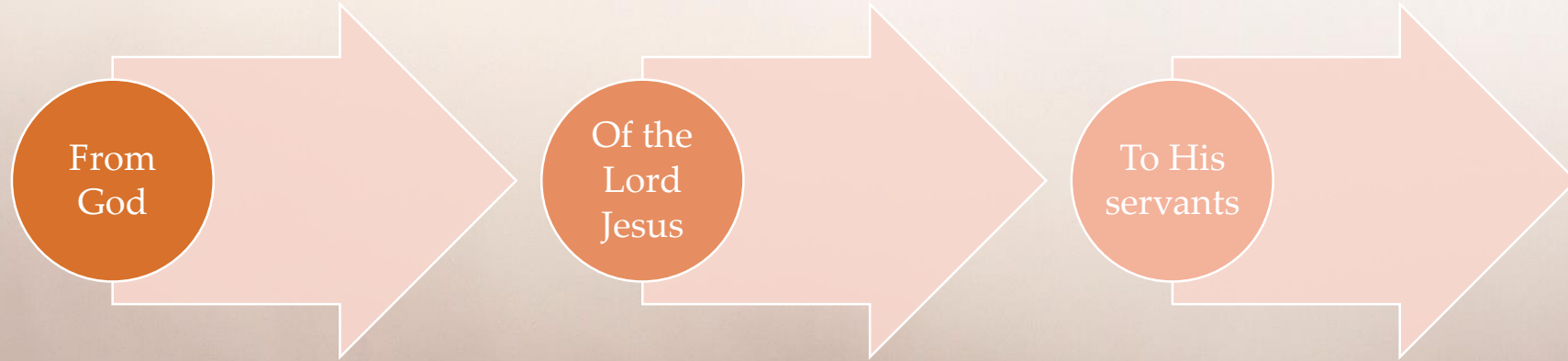
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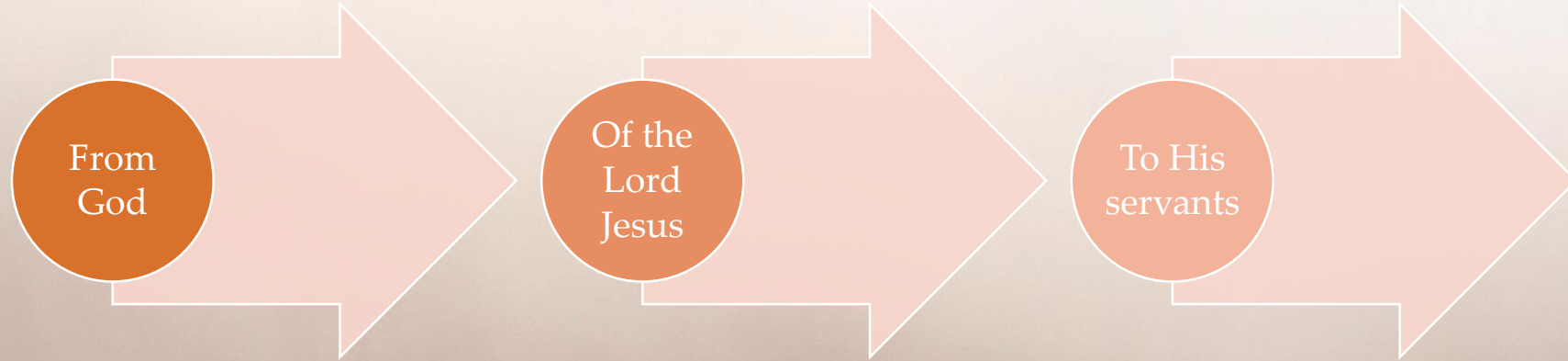
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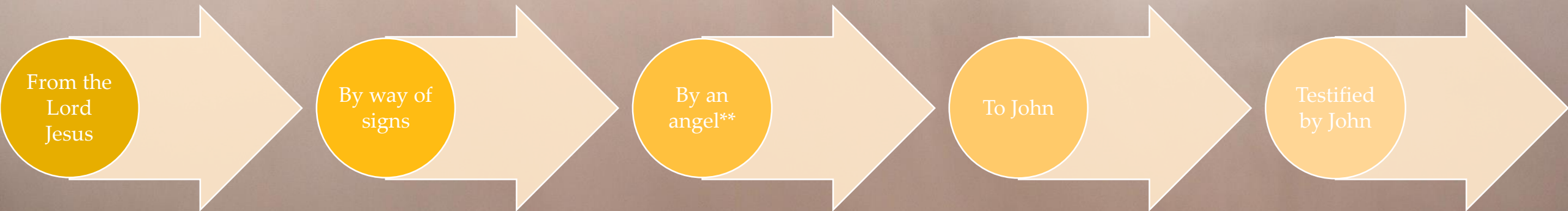
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\* Contrast with John 1:14; Heb. 1:1-2; 1 Cor. 2:13; etc.

\*\* Consider Acts 7:53

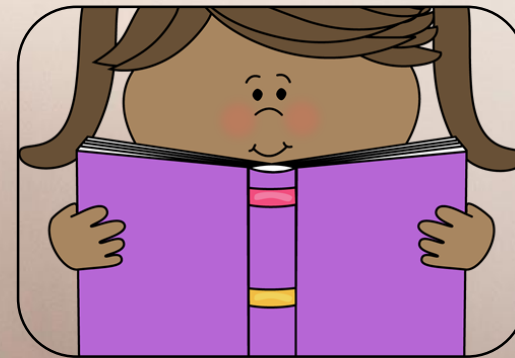
# Content and character of the book

- Prophetic book:
  - *'what must shortly take place'* (v. 1)
  - largely concerned with the earth
  - ultimate subject is Christ – key to prophecy (Rev. 19:10)
- Symbolical book:
  - *'signified'* (v. 1) – similar word to *'signs'*
  - example in v. 20
- Only NT book commended with blessing (v. 3; also 22:7)
- Practical book:

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- Practical book:



for the individual: those that read + keep it



collectively: they that hear and keep it (v. 3)



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  - Does not mean there were only seven assemblies in Asia
    - there are not literally *'seven Spirits before His throne'* (v. 4)
  - Revelation is a symbolical book
    - seven is number representing completeness
    - hence, really addressed to every assembly and the assembly (on earth) as a whole (see also 2:7, 11, etc.)
    - seven assemblies present history of Christendom
    - book therefore addressed to us as well (see again 2:7, 11, etc.)

# Purpose of the book

- Subject is Christ (v. 7)
  - but before commencing the main subject ...

# The worship

John cannot consider anything connected with the Lord without worshipping Him:

*'To him who loves us, and has washed us from our sins in his blood, and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father: to him be the glory and the might to the ages of ages.'*

(vv. 5-6)

# The worship (cont.)

- He *'loves us'*
  - not only loved us (KJV) – but love manifested at cross continues
- His work for us: *'washed us from our sins'*
- Cost to Him: *'in His blood'*
- Result:
  - delivered from the authority of darkness (Col. 1:13)
  - made a kingdom
  - priests – even to His God and Father
- In view of above, John's desire is He will have all glory and
- power ...

# Purpose of the book (cont.)

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- In meantime, path of the believer is the same as the path of the Lord: suffering for righteousness' sake (v. 9)
- Also need for exercise ...

# Presentation of the Lord (vv. 10-15)

- Not as Saviour, Head, High Priest or even Lord
- Nor does Revelation expound the love of God, the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, eternal life, love for one another, the Christian position and relationships, etc.
- While He is *'in the midst'*, not like Matthew 18:20
  - rather, Son of man stands amongst the assemblies to judge (v. 13)
  - judgment must begin at the house of God (1 Pet. 4:17)
- Note:
  - assemblies are presented as lamps (vv. 13, 20) – not body
  - subject of judgment is the testimony – i.e. all Christendom

# Presentation of the Lord (cont.)\*

<p><b>Son of Man (v. 13; see also Dan. 7)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Involves Lord as judge (e.g. Matt. 16:27)</li><li>• While form of judgment may differ, He is also the one who will judge whole earth with righteousness (Acts 17:31)</li></ul>	
<p><b><i>'Garment down to the foot'</i> (v. 13)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Official garment</li><li>• Not laid aside to serve (John 13:4)</li></ul>	
<p><b><i>'Girt about at the breasts ...'</i> (v. 13)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Not amongst the assemblies to bless</li><li>• In fact, blessing is being withheld</li><li>• Maintenance of divine glory (gold) requires this</li></ul>	
<p><b>Head white like wool and like snow (v. 14)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Judging in absolute purity and holiness</li><li>• Holiness becomes God's house (Ps. 93:5) – the assembly (1 Tim. 3:15)</li></ul>	

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<p><b>Head white like wool and like snow (v. 14)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Judging in absolute purity and holiness</li> <li>• Holiness becomes God's house (Ps. 93:5) – the assembly (1 Tim. 3:15)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Countenance as the sun (v. 16)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supreme authority</li> <li>• So bright in His glory and holiness that man cannot look upon Him (Ex. 33:20-23)</li> </ul>

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- But Lord does not want one who acknowledges His rights and humbles himself to be afraid:

*'Fear not; I am the first and the last, and the living one:  
and I became dead, and behold, I am living to the ages of ages,  
and have the keys of death and of hades.'*

(vv. 17-18)