

Revelation 1:2- Logos

Who testified to the word of God and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, even to all that he saw (Revelation 1:2).

As we begin our study of verse two, I want to stress that you do not need to be a Theologian to study the book of Revelation. I consider myself a Berean and a lover of God's word. A Berean is someone who searches the scriptures for oneself to prove what is true. The Apostle Paul praised the Jews from Berea because they not only eagerly accepted his testimony, but they also searched the scriptures to make sure that what he said lined up with God's word.

Now these (Bereans) were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so (Acts 17:11).

When I gave my life to Jesus at the age of 20, I purposed in my heart to be a Berean. At that time, I didn't know what a Berean was, but I had decided that I would search the scriptures for myself. As a baby believer, I was so determined to read the entire Bible from Genesis to Revelation that I read a youth Bible first. This was a version of the scriptures called The Living Bible. It really did make the Bible come alive for me. It's been 20 years, and I am still excited about Bible study. I'm sure you are too, or you wouldn't be reading this. Do not let the difficult passages of scripture keep you from a life of learning God's word. Set your heart to be a Berean.

John's Testimony

Let's start unpacking the second verse. In verse two, we are told that the Apostle John is providing eyewitness testimony to the following:

1. The word of God;
2. The testimony of Jesus; and,
3. The things he saw

We will focus our study on these three things. Let's begin with the word testify. As a believer in Jesus, we each have a personal testimony of the great things the Lord has done in our lives. The Apostle John had a testimony too.

Greek Word Study “Martyreo”

Martyreo (martureo) verb: to be a witness, to bear witness, to give testimony, to give a good report.

The Greek word used for testify is *martyreo*. We get the word martyr from this word. Martyreo is a verb, and we know that verbs are the action words in a sentence. John actively testified to the Word of God, and he provided eyewitness testimony of Jesus and everything that he saw. Since John had inside knowledge of the life of Jesus Christ, he is also an expert witness. In our court of law, expert witnesses *do not* have to be eyewitnesses, they just need to have special knowledge of the subject matter. The Apostle John definitely had special knowledge, and his qualifications are undeniable. John walked, talked, and even ate with the Son of God. Not only did John witness miracles, healings, and the resurrection, but he also received a special “apokalypsis” or revelation for the church. John’s testimony isn’t just a second-hand account of “he said she said,” but John saw these things.

The word *martyreo* is used a whopping 96 times in the Greek New Testament. It can mean an eyewitness or someone who provides testimony. You and I are not eyewitness to the earthly life of Jesus, but we are witnesses of what Jesus can do with a surrendered life. We too have a testimony. Let’s look at a few examples of testimonies in the New Testament:

New Testament Witnesses of Jesus

- There are records of multiple witnesses to Jesus’ teachings (Luke 4:22)
- John the Baptist was a witness to the life of Jesus (John 1:7)
- The disciples of John the Baptist *testified* that John was a forerunner to the Messiah (John 3:28)
- Even Jesus’ own works testify that He is Messiah (John 5:36)
- God, the Father, testifies that Jesus is the Messiah (John 5:37)
- Moses and the Law testify of Jesus (John 5:39; Deuteronomy 18:15)
- The Holy Spirit always testifies of Jesus (John 15:26)
- All of the Apostles testified of Jesus (John 15:27)
- An angel of the Lord testified of Jesus to the Churches (Revelation 22:6)
- Jesus, Himself, testifies that He is coming soon (Revelation 22:20)

Notice these testimonies are all about Jesus. We are not providing testimony about anyone else. The only superstar in the church is Jesus Christ. As I read

these scriptures, I understood the importance of being a witness or *martyreo* for the Lord Jesus. No one can dispute the power of a personal testimony. I may not have lived in the first century, but I am a living testimony to what Jesus can do with a life when you become His bondservant. I know your life has been changed too. Never underestimate the power of your testimony.

Word Study “Logos”

As we unpack verse two, you will discover many wonderful nuggets that will deepen your understanding of Revelation. Let’s do another word study. The Greek word *logos* appears in verse two. The simplest meaning of Logos is “word.” *Logos* can be a pretty generic everyday term. When I used my online search tool, I discovered that *Logos* is used over 300 times in the Greek New Testament. Do not be overwhelmed, we will not study all 300 uses of this Greek word. Let’s look at three powerful ways the word *logos* is used in scripture:

Logos (lo-gos) noun: a word uttered by a living voice, decree, mandate, order, saying of God, Old Testament prophecy given by the prophets, the essential word of God.

1. Logos Theos/Word of God

*But He said, On the contrary, blessed are those who hear the **word of God** and observe it (Luke 11:28).*

Right now we are studying the Logos Theos or Word of God. *Logos Theos* is used throughout many New Testament passages. The book of Revelation is part of the written *logos* of God. In fact, every book of the Bible is the *Logos Theos* or Word of God. Jesus pronounced a special blessing on those who not only hear the Logos Theos but observe the Logos Theos. That is the heart of this study. As Bereans, we are observing the finest details of God’s word, and we are indeed blessed.

2. Logos Christos/Word of Christ

Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you, with all wisdom, teaching, and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with thankfulness in your hearts to God (Colossians 3:16).

The Apostle John provided testimony of the Word of God and the Word of Christ. Can you imagine walking, talking and eating with the Messiah? John was blessed, and he knew it. His life’s mission was to share the words of Christ with a lost and dying world. The Logos Christos deeply impacted this former “son of thunder,” a name he was affectionately called by the Lord. When you read the

letters of this humble Apostle, it is evident the words of Christ transformed a fisherman into a fisher of men.

3. Logos Aletheia/Word of Truth

*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the **word of truth** (2 Timothy 2:15).*

Not only did the Apostle John testify to the Logos Theos and Logos Christos, but he also shared *Logos Aletheia*, words of truth. He did not hold back. John's testimony wasn't watered down in an effort to relate to first century culture. These words of truth got John in hot water and exiled to the rocky island of Patmos. In our day and age, absolute truth is mocked. Bible believing Christians are made fun of or condemned for being intolerant. Jesus said: *I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father, but through the Son (John 14:6).* Wow! Does Jesus sound intolerant here? There are many who will claim to respect the teachings of Jesus, yet Jesus clearly told people He was the only way to God. Today, bold followers of Jesus Christ are considered intolerant.

If I tell coworker that Jesus is the only way to Heaven, I am called close-minded. Yet, Jesus Himself said, *"You would know the truth and it would set you free (John 8:32)."* Who doesn't want to be set free? Most people don't realize they are imprisoned in a web of lies. No one in their right mind wants to be lied to. Yet, we are living in a time when people hate the truth of God's word. They would rather believe a lie. However, Godly truth sets us free from error. The fatal error that people so freely accept is the ancient lie that there are many paths to God. There is only one path- His name is Jesus! Modern society considers the truth intolerant and hateful because God's truth makes you uncomfortable in your sin. Jesus Christ spoke the *Logos Aletheia* (Words of Truth) from the *Logos Theos*- (Word of God), and He alone is the walking Logos Christos. By engaging in this study, you are filling your mind with powerful words of truth.

I encourage you to extend this study, and I have provided a table with other examples at the end of this chapter. You will be blessed beyond measure as you engage in a more in depth word study of the Logos.

Summary of Verse 2- Logos

1. The Apostle John was an eyewitness to the life of Jesus;
2. John's testimony is accurate; and,
3. The written logos is full of power, comfort, and truth.

Prayer

Father,

My prayer and heart's cry is that I want to rightly divide the *Logos Aletheia* (Word of Truth) in the *Logos Theos* (Word of God), and provide *Logos Paraklesis* (Words of Comfort) to those in need. Make me a bold witness to the living *Logos Christos* (Words of Christ).

In Jesus Christ's name,

Amen!

Use this chart to extend your study of the Greek word Logos @ www.blueletterbible.org

Logos	Word of	Scripture
Logos Basileia	Word of the kingdom	Matthew 13:19
Logos Theos	Word of God	Mark 7:13
	Abiding Word	John 5:38
	Word of Truth	John 17:17
	Word of Grace	Acts 14:3
	Word of the Gospel	Acts 15:7
	Word of Comfort	Acts 13:15
	Words of the Prophets	Acts 15:15
	Word of Knowledge	1 Corinthians 12:8
	Word of Reconciliation	2 Corinthians 5:19
	Word of Life	Philippians 2:16
	Word of Christ	Colossians 3:16
	Word of Faith	I Timothy 4:6
	Word of Righteousness	Hebrews 5:13
	Word of the Oath	Hebrews 7:28
	Word of Prophecy	2 Peter 1:19
	Word of Life	I John 1:1
	Word of My Patience	Revelation 3:10
	Word of their Testimony	Revelation 12:11

*In the beginning was the logos, and the logos was with God,
and the logos was God (John 1:1).*