

Revelation—The End Times

1 ¶ The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified *it* by his angel unto his servant John:

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

3 ¶ Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand.

4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne;



The Personal Foreword of the Book

Rev. 1:1-3

- I. The Personality of the Revelation (v.1)
 - A. Its Person—Jesus Christ
 - B. Its Power—given by God to Him
- II. The Purpose of the Revelation (v.1)—to make manifest future prophetic occurrences
 - A. In Their Perfect Timing
 - B. In His Promised Fulfillment
- III. The Pattern of the Revelation (v.1-2)
 - A. Signified by Angels
 - B. Sent to John
 - 1. Because of his knowledge of the Scripture
 - 2. Because of his knowledge of the Saviour
 - 3. Because of his knowledge of the Subject
- IV. The Promise of the Revelation (v.3)
 - A. To those that read this book
 - B. To those that hear this book
 - C. To those that keep this book

The Formal Introduction to the Book

Rev. 1:4-11

- I. The Formal Address of the Book
 - A. To the Seven Churches in Asia (v.4,11)
 - 1. Ephesus
 - 2. Smyrna
 - 3. Pergamos
 - 4. Thyatira
 - 5. Sardis
 - 6. Philadelphia
 - 7. Laodicea

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4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace <i>be</i> unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne; 5 And from Jesus Christ, <i>who is</i> the faithful witness, <i>and</i> the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, 6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him <i>be</i> glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. 7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they <i>also</i> which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. 8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. ΑΩ	II. From The Trinity (1: 4-5) A. The Everlasting Father 1. He Which Is 2. Which Was 3. Is to Come B. The Ever-Present Holy Spirit 1. Complete in Purpose 2. Controlled in Presence C. The Eternal Son...The Faithful Witness 1. The First-Begotten of the Dead 2. The Prince of the Kings of the Earth III. The Deserved Adoration of the Book A. The Reasons for Adoration (1: 5-6) 1. His Ransom—He First Loved Us 2. Our Redemption—He Washed our Sins in His Blood 3. Our Reward—His Heritage to Us a) He has made us Rulers—Kings b) He has made us Righteous—Priests 4. His Right—His Due from Us a) Be glory—Praise b) And dominion—Power (Authority) c) Forever and Ever—Potency (Duration) B. The Results of Adoration (v.7) 1. He shall come again in glory—The Second Advent of the Second Coming 2. There shall be mixed reactions a) To the lost—wailing for impending judgment b) To the saved—waiting for impending Kingship IV. The Divine Authorship of the Book (v. 8) A. His Name—Alpha and Omega B. His Nature—Co-equal and co-eternal
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8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty. 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. 10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, 11 Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send <i>it</i> unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. 12 And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13 And in the midst of the seven candlesticks <i>one</i> like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14 His head and <i>his</i> hairs <i>were</i> white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes <i>were</i> as a flame of fire;	with God C. His Notability—Almighty Authority V. The Human Penmanship of the Book—John the Beloved (v. 9) A. A Fellow Sufferer B. A Felon in the Land—exiled to Patmos for: 1. The Word of God 2. The Testimony regarding Jesus Christ C. A Foreseer of Future Events 1. Through the Power of the Holy Spirit 2. In the Place of God's Preparation—His Will The Vision of the Seven Golden Candlesticks <i>Rev. 1: 10-20</i> I. The Meaning of the Seven Candlesticks—the Seven Churches II. The Midst of the Seven Candlesticks—the Son of Man (Jesus) A. The Man Himself (1: 13-15) 1. His Garment—a Robe (Righteousness) 2. His Girdle—a Belt or Sash of Gold (Deity) 3. His Head and Hair—White as Snow (Purity) 4. His Gaze—Eyes of Fire (Judgment) 5. His Foot—Fine Brass, tried in the Fire (Strong Judgment) 6. His Voice—Sound of Many Waters (Authority) B. The Man's Manner (v.16) 1. In His Right Hand—Seven Stars, Pastors of the seven churches (see 1:20)
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15 And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters.

16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance *was* as the sun shineth in his strength.

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:

18 I *am* he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.

19 Write the things which thou hast seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall be hereafter;

20 The mystery of the seven stars which thou sawest in my right hand, and the seven golden candlesticks. The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches: and the seven candlesticks which thou sawest are the seven churches.



2. Out of His Mouth—A Two-edged Sword, the Bible

3. His Countenance—Bright as the Sun

a) His Fullness of Glory

b) His Omnipotence

c) His Deity

C. The Man's Message (1: 18-20)

1. His Authority—Himself as:

a) Eternal God

b) Everlasting Conqueror

(1) Over Death

(2) Over Grave

(3) Over Hell

2. His Aim—To Show:

a) That which is Past—that which John had seen

b) That which is Present—that which existed in John's present time

c) That which is Future—that which shall be after John's time

3. His Arrangement—To reveal His Word by His Word (v.20)

a) Seven Stars—Seven Pastors

b) Seven Golden Candlesticks—Seven Churches

The first chapter of the Book of Revelation introduced us to the Person of Jesus Christ, the authority of the prophecy as revealed to John, and the general outline of the rest of the book: 1) the things which were, 2) the things which are, and 3) the things which shall be hereafter. The next two chapters deal with the middle part of the general outline—the things which are. These churches are typical of churches throughout history and of historical church eras, as well.

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CHAPTER 2 1 ¶ Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks; 2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars: 3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted. 4 Nevertheless I have <i>somewhat</i> against thee, because thou hast left thy first love. 5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent. 6 But this thou hast, that thou hatest the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. 7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.	The Seven Churches <i>Rev. 2:1-3:22</i> I. Ephesus—The Church That Had Left Its First Love (2:1-7) A. Christ's Introduction to the Church 1. Holds the Seven Stars--Authority 2. Walks in the Midst of the Seven Candlesticks—Association B. The Good That They Had Done 1. Good Works 2. Hard Labors 3. Patience—Endurance under Trial 4. Sound in Doctrine 5. Hatred of Liberalism—Nicolaitans a) Moral Impurity—Liberty turned to License b) Separation of Classes—Clergy and Laity C. The Evil Which They Had Done 1. They Had Moved Away From Christ's Priorities 2. They Had Left, Not Lost Their First Love D. The Opportunity for Restoration 1. Remember—from where you have fallen 2. Repent—of your present condition 3. Return—to the First Love that was left E. The Opportunity for Judgment 1. Expeditious—He will come quickly 2. Extreme—Removal of the candlestick...the church F. The Promise to the Church 1. Overcoming—Eat of the Tree of Life 2. Overcoming—Eternity in Heaven
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7 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.

8 ¶ And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;

9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and *I know* the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but *are* the synagogue of Satan.

10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast *some* of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

12 ¶ And to the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges;

13 I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, *even* where Satan's seat *is*: and thou holdest fast my name, and hast not denied my faith, even in those days wherein Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast

Smyrna was the church that was headed by the martyr Polycarp, a disciple of John's in the second century. It was one of only two churches addressed in a completely positive manner.

II. Smyrna—The Faithful, Persecuted Church (2: 8-11)

- A. Christ's Introduction to the Church
 - 1. The First and the Last—Eternality
 - 2. The Dead and Alive—Immortality
- B. Christ's Commendation to the Church
 - 1. Their Unapparent Wealth
 - 2. Their Apparent Witness
- C. Christ's Command to the Church
 - 1. Fear Not in Persecution
 - 2. Faithfulness in Persecution
- D. Christ's Promise to the Church
 - 1. Overcoming in Persecution—A Crown of Life
 - 2. Overcoming in Salvation—A Cure for the Second Death

III. Pergamos, The Church That Dwelled in Satan's Seat (2: 12-17)

- A. Christ's Introduction to the Church
 - 1. The Sharp Sword—The Powerful Word of God
 - 2. Two Edges—The Potent Judgment of God
- B. Christ's Praise for the Church
 - 1. Surviving in Satan's Seat-- Health
 - 2. Holding Fast His Name—Stamina
 - 3. Not Denying His Faith—Loyalty
- C. Christ's Problem with the Church
 - 1. Doctrine of Balaam
 - a) Compromise with the World
 - b) Confusion before the Church
 - 2. Doctrine of the Nicolaitans
 - a) "Destroyer of the People"
 - b) Division of the People
- D. Christ's Proposal to the Church

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there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

15 So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.

16 Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.

17 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it.

18 ¶ And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God, who hath his eyes like unto a flame of fire, and his feet *are* like fine brass;

19 I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last *to be* more than the first.

Jezebel

1. Repent

2. Or else

a) Sudden Judgment

b) Sword of His Mouth—
Righteous Judgment

E. Christ's Promise to the Church

1. Overcoming—Eating of the Hidden Manna

2. Overcoming—Earning a White Stone

a) New Name Written Thereon

b) No Man Knows but He Who
Receives It

Thyatira was a flourishing commercial city in Lydia, now part of modern Turkey.

IV. Thyatira, The Church of Jezebel (2: 18-29)

A. Christ's Introduction to the Church

1. Son of God—Deity

2. Eyes Like a Flame of Fire—
Devouring Judgment

3. Feet Like Brass—Finishing
Judgment

B. Christ's Praise for the Church

1. Works for Christ—Initial

a) Charity—Love for God

b) Service—Love for Others

c) Faith

d) Patience

2. Works for Christ—Latter

a) More Abundant than the
First—Plenty in Trials

b) More Admirable than the
First—Purity in Trials

C. Christ's Problem with the Church—
the Doctrine of Jezebel

1. Refusing to Teach Sound Doctrine

a) Seduced the People—Subtlety
of Deceit