

The Revelation

Chapter 1:1-3

Christ Church

Spring 2026





The Purpose

v. 23

vv. 28-31

Hebrews 3:9, 10

Luke 19:41-44

Eusebius 7:3:7 (p. 117)

Also...

- Remember that in the gospels Jesus is ***The Temple***
- This discourse then works at another level
- Jesus' death is the first fulfillment of this destruction – cf. John 2:19

- Mark 13:8 – ‘*kingdom against kingdom*’
 - 15:1 Jesus before Pilate (and Herod – Luke 23:6-12)
- Mark 13:9 – ‘*handed over to the local council and flogged*’
 - Mark 15:15
- Mark 13:12 – ‘*brother betrays brother*’
 - Mark 14:43,68,70
- Mark 13:12 – ‘*father betrays child*’
 - Mark 15:34

- Mark 13:16 – ‘*cloak*’
 - Mark 15:24 **PLUS** 14:51,52
- Mark 13:24 – *sun darkens*
 - Mark 15:33
- Mark 13:26 – ‘*coming in clouds with great power and glory*’
 - Mark 15:39

How?

- **How?**

- **“He used symbols”** – (‘made it known’ = very weak)
 - Some translation use ‘signified’, but we do not use that sort of language
 - This one word sets up the *genre*, the kind of book we’re going to study
 - The Bible was written in 3 different languages
 - Hebrew
 - Aramaic
 - Greek
 - We'll contend there is a fourth language –
 - Symbol

The next slide comes from
the background material

- In Revelation 1:1 John wrote: “**He *made it known...***”
 - The word ‘*made*’ is ‘*esemanen*’ and it literally means ‘signified’ or ‘symbolized’
 - This is a book written in a language called ‘symbol’
 - Symbols are visual prompts that point to other, different realities
 - John used the word ‘*semeion*’ in his gospel to describe the seven miracles that Jesus worked

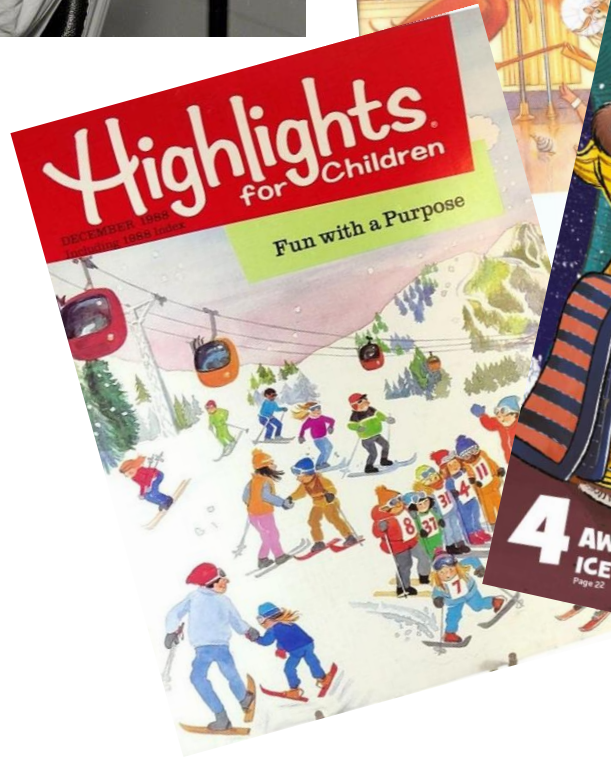
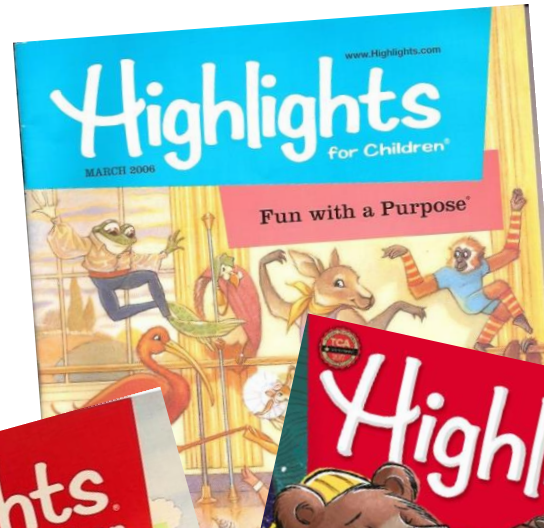


- We must interpret
 - Jesus as the first of four horsemen
 - Jesus as an angel with a rainbow on His head
 - Jesus riding a white horse in chapter 19

- “The only real way to read Revelation is to read the Old and New Testaments up to Revelation about 20,000 times until you learn the language of symbol so well and the alphabet of symbol so well that you can think in it, like learning a foreign language,...where you dream in it.”-

James B. Jordan, Revelation Explained, Vol. 2, p. 14

- “symbol” is a bit like a visit to the dentist





crescent
moon



apple



flowerpot



light bulb



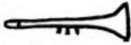
bell



banana



heart



horn



ring



crown



mug



sock



lightning
bolt



butterfly



snake



crayon



raindrop



hairbrush



ice-cream
cone

- More **How?**

- The whole work of revelation might be portrayed this way:

Father → Son → Angel → John → slaves

Why?

- **Why?** is in v. 3

Revelation 1:3

“Blessed is the ***one who reads aloud*** the words of this prophecy and ***blessed*** are ***those who hear it and take to heart*** what is written in it, because the time is near.”

Where?

- **Where? – v. 9**
 - Patmos









0 10 20 mi
0 10 20 30 km

■ *Ephesus*

■ *Priene*

■ *Miletus*

PATMOS



The Revelation

Chapter 1:4-8

Christ Church
Spring 2026

- **‘the seven churches’** (v.4) = 7 is the number of ‘fullness’, ‘completeness’
- It is a symbol of the Church for all time

- With this “*sevenness*” we understand that we are dealing with **creation**

- 7 Days of the week
- 7 Notes on the music scale
- 7 Colors of the rainbow
- 7 Categories in taxonomy
- 7 Rows of elements on the periodic table
- 7 Bones in mammal's necks
- 7 Spots on a ladybug
- 7 External sensory holes in the human head

- 7 Neutral pH value between alkalinity and acidity
- 7 Planets visible to the naked eye
- 7 Stars in The Big Dipper, Pleiades
- 7 Seas
- 7 Wonders of the Ancient World
- 7 Liberal Arts
- 7 Deadly Sins



JAMES BOND



007



- With this “seveness” we understand that we are dealing with creation
- In the NT the old creation is passing away, a new creation is beginning

*“...behold, **all things** are become
new”*

II Corinthians 5:17 KJV

- **New Covenant** – Luke 22:20; II Corinthians 3:6; Hebrews 7:22; 8:6,8,13, 9:15;12:24
- **New Creation** – II Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 6:15; Revelation 21:5
- **New Heaven and New Earth** – II Peter 3:13 (cf. Genesis 2:2 LXX with John 19:30)
- **New Order** – Hebrews 7:12, 9:10, 12:22-29

- **New Man** – Galatians 3:28; Ephesians 2:15,4:24; Colossians 3:10,11



- **New Birth** – John 3:3,7; Romans 6:4; I Peter 1:3,23
- **New Name** – Revelation 2:17
- **New Commandment** – John 13:34; I John 2:7, 8; II John 5

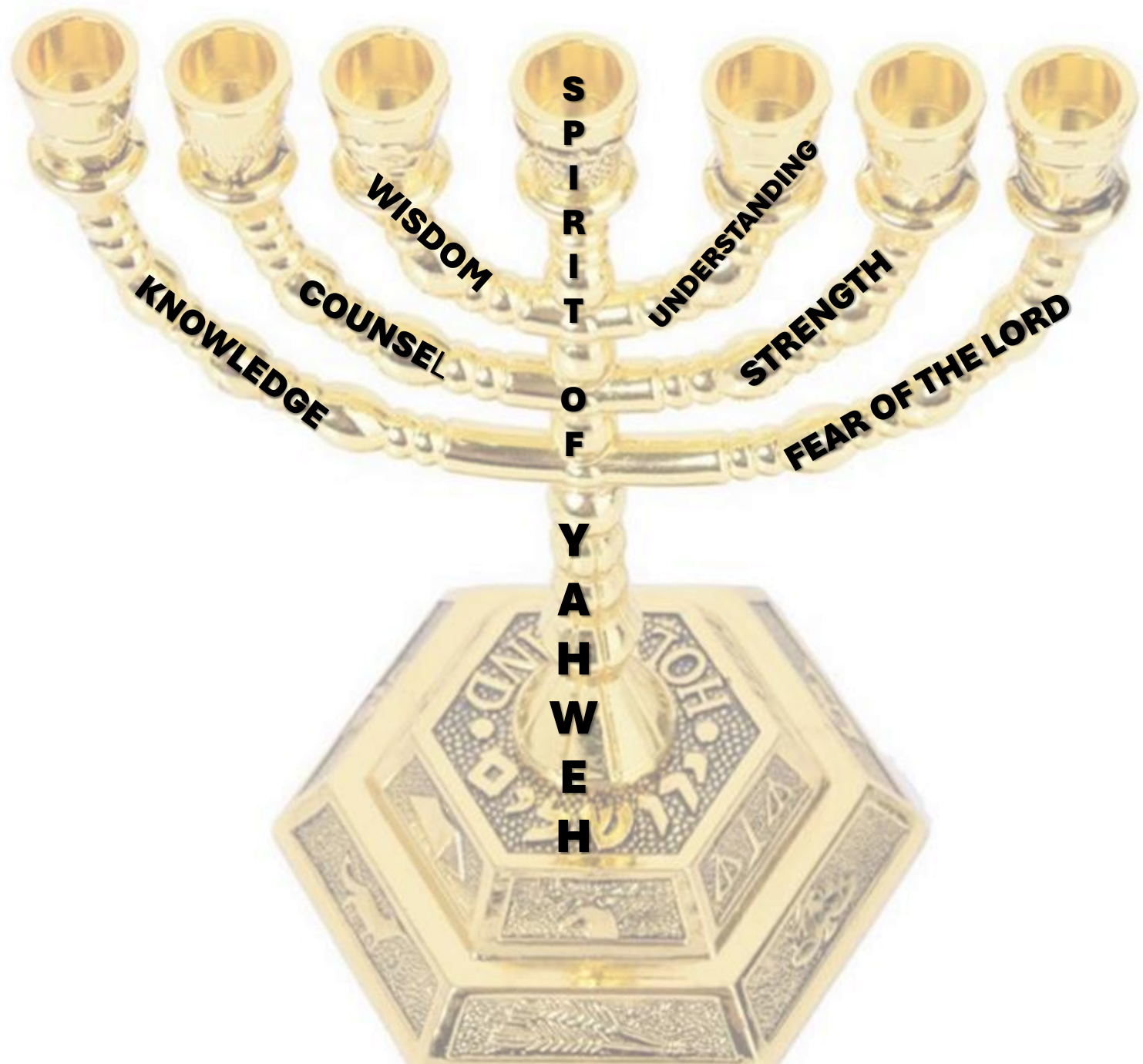
- **New Commission** – Matthew
28:16-20; Mark 16:15; Luke 24:44-49;
John 20:19-23

- With this “seveness” we understand that we are dealing with creation
- In the NT the old creation is passing away, a new creation is beginning
- And creation is the work of The Holy Spirit

- **‘seven-fold Spirit’ (v. 4)**

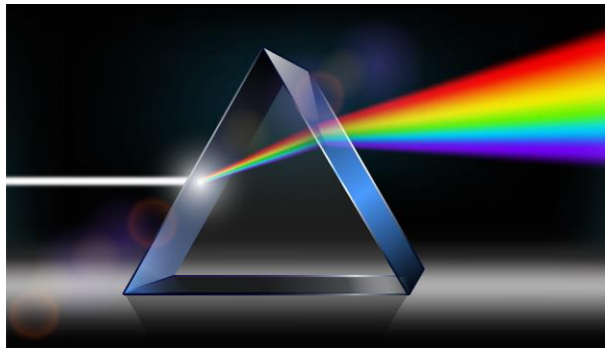






- One-in-seven
 - Revelation 1:4
 - Zechariah 4:1-10
- Isaiah 11:2
 - God, Spirit, Lord
 - Isaiah 6:8
 - Isaiah 48:11-17
 - Isaiah 61:1
 - Isaiah 63:7-19

- **Spirit of Yahweh**
- **Wisdom** – to decide between possibilities and choose the advantageous
- **Understanding** – ability to solve problems
- **Counsel** – ability to devise
- **Power** – connected to strength
- **Knowledge** – knowing God fully
- **Fear** – obeying, pleasing, and glorifying the Lord



- **‘province of Asia’** – Asia Minor

The Roman Empire in 117 AD



- Asia Minor is half-way between Israel and Rome
- Revelation is going to deal with the axis between the Jews and Rome
 - Babylon and the beast
 - Synagogue of Satan and Satan's throne



- The churches in Asia Minor have contacts with Jews and with Imperial forces
 - Jesus had already told the Jewish what they should do – ‘**flee**’ (Matthew 24, etc.)
 - John writes to the Asia Minor churches to warn them not to fall from faithfulness – ‘look what happens to Jerusalem’

- **‘Grace and peace’** – the opening salutation, greeting - epistle
 - See Romans 1:7; I Corinthians 1:3; II Corinthians 1:2; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2; I Thessalonians 1:1; etc.
 - Grace always comes before peace

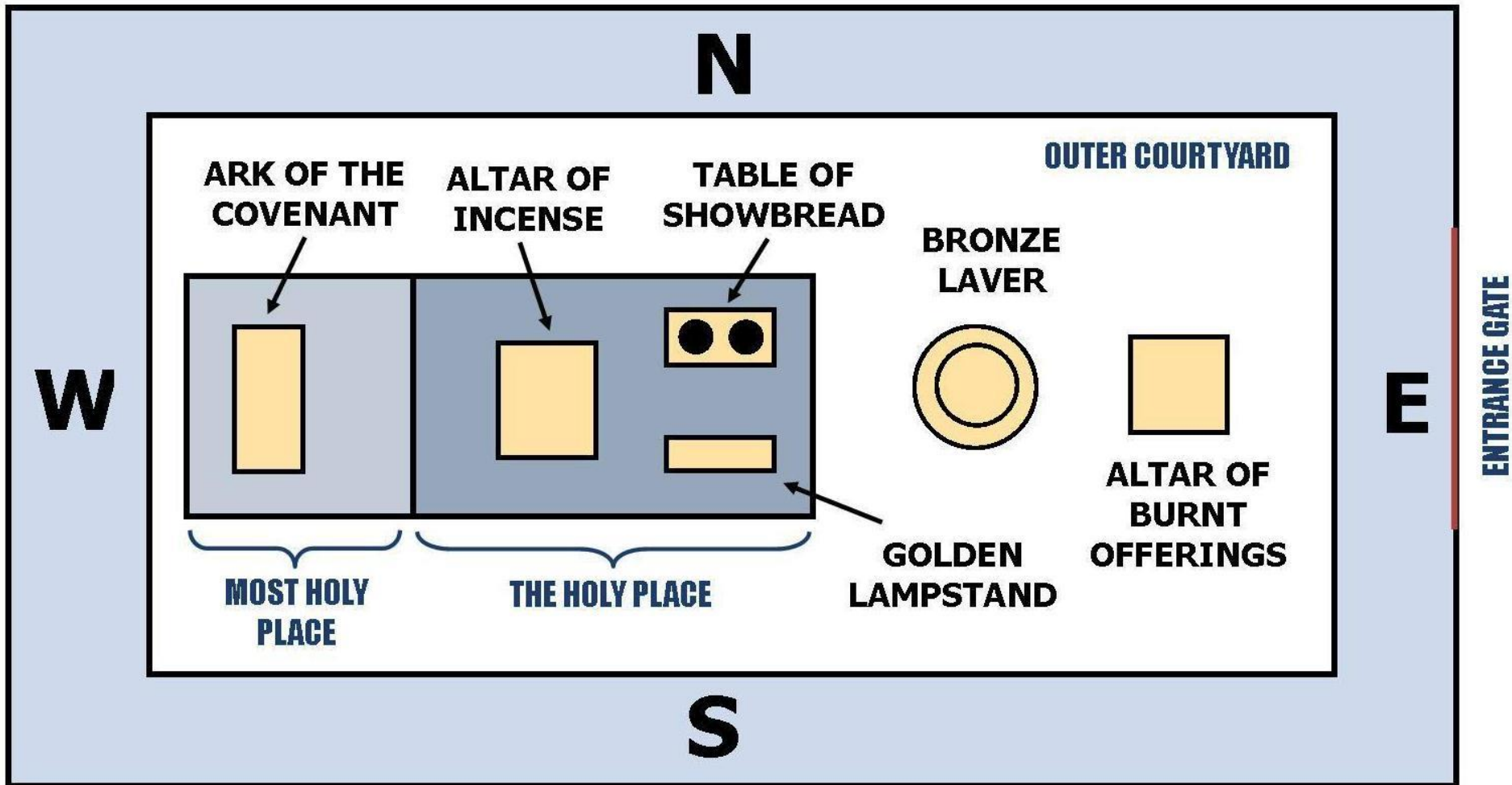
- Note the order of the Trinity in Rev. 1:4,5

- **‘to Him who was, is, is to come’***
- **‘the seven-fold Spirit’**
- **‘Jesus Christ’**

- * By the way – What John actually wrote was:
‘The Being and The Was and The Coming’

- That is different from Father, Son, Holy Spirit
- It is the order of creation – See Genesis 1:1-3
- And the Tabernacle

THE TABERNACLE OF MOSES (EXODUS 35-40)



- In v. 5 Jesus is
 - **“the faithful witness”**
 - **“the firstborn from the dead”** – see Colossians 1:18; Acts 2:32-36; * Psalm 89:27
 - **“the ruler of the kings of the earth”** – Matthew 28:19; Psalm 2:8-12;

- This is precisely the reason that Christians are persecuted by the State
 - Rulers can submit to Christ as absolute sovereign over the earth, or be smashed to bits by the rod of His anger
- It is for this reason that John breaks out in praise

- He **‘loves us’**
- He **‘has freed us from our sins by His blood’** (literally “*bathed us*”)
- He **‘made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father’**

- v. 7 “**coming with the clouds**” – is one of the most familiar images for judgment in the Bible
 - Genesis 15:17; Exodus 13:21-22; 14:19-20; 19:9, 16-19; Psalm 18:8-14; 104:3; Isaiah 19:1; Ezekiel 32:7-8; Matthew 24:30; Mark 14:62; Acts 2:19

- Think of God's Glory-Cloud – the heavenly chariot He make His presence known from – *Psalm 104:3-4
- * Isaiah 19:1; Nahum 1:2-8
- God coming in clouds means He is bringing judgment and deliverance
- **What are some of the clouds we've read in the OT?**



- Wilderness wandering
- Tabernacle/Temple
- Ezekiel 1
- Daniel 7
- Transfiguration
- Ascension

- **“and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him...”**
 - **‘see’** = experience and understand –
 - namely the Gentiles (John 19:34, 37)
 - And the crucifiers (Matthew 24:30; 26:62)
- **“...all the peoples of the earth will mourn ...”**
 - Bad translation – it is not ‘peoples’ but ‘tribes’ and not ‘earth’ but ‘land’
 - This is the language of * Zechariah 12:10-14

- In v. 8 the reason for the coming judgment is given - That the world may know “The Lord God”
 - As ‘the Alpha and Omega’

- **If you make those translation changes to ‘tribes’ and ‘land’ WHAT IS A POSSIBLE MEANING?**

- Do you know any particular, special land in the Bible?
- A land comprised of tribes?

12 Tribes of Israel

Approximate borders assigned during the Conquest

