



REVIEW

Chapter 1

- John wrote the Book of Revelation while living on *the island of Patmos* (v. 9) as, *the revelation from Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants what must soon take place* (v. 1).
- *On the Lord's Day* John was in the Spirit and heard a loud voice like a trumpet (v. 10). The voice told him, *Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea* (v. 11).
- John had a vision of Jesus *among the seven lampstands... dressed in a long robe... and with a golden sash around his chest. His hair was like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace... His face was like the sun shing in all its brilliance* (vv. 13-15, 16). *In his right hand he held seven stars, and coming out of his mouth was a sharp, double-edged sword* (v. 16).
- Jesus told John, *Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and now look, I am alive for ever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and Hades. Write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later. The mystery of the seven stars that you saw in my right hand and of the seven golden lampstands is this: The seven stars are the angels of the seven churches, and the seven lampstands are the seven churches* (vv. 17-20).

Chapters 2-3

- Descriptions of Jesus:
 - *...him who holds the seven stars in his right hand and walks among the seven golden lampstands* (2:1).
 - *...him who is the First and the Last, who died and came to life again* (2:8).
 - *...who has the sharp, double-edged sword* (2:12).
 - *...the Son of God, whose eyes are like blazing fire and whose feet are like burnished bronze* (2:18).
 - *...him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars* (3:1).
 - *...him who is holy and true, who holds the key of David. What he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open* (3:7).
 - *...the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the ruler of God's creation* (3:14).
- As instructed, John addressed the Book of Revelation to each of the seven churches located in Asia Minor. Each of the seven sections in chapters 2-3 contains specific statements from Jesus to the individual churches
 - **EPHESUS:** *I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked people, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. You have persevered and have endured hardships for my name, and have not grown weary. Yet I hold this*

against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place. But you have this in your favor: You hate the practices of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate. (2:2-6)

- *SMYRNA: I know your afflictions and your poverty—yet you are rich! I know about the slander of those who say they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. Do not be afraid of what you are about to suffer. I tell you, the devil will put some of you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days. Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. (2:9-10)*
- *PERGAMUM: I know where you live—where Satan has his throne. Yet you remain true to my name. You did not renounce your faith in me, not even in the days of Antipas, my faithful witness, who was put to death in your city—where Satan lives. Nevertheless, I have a few things against you: There are some among you who hold to the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to entice the Israelites to sin so that they ate food sacrificed to idols and committed sexual immorality. Likewise, you also have those who hold to the teaching of the Nicolaitans. Repent therefore! Otherwise, I will soon come to you and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth. (2:13-16)*
- *THYATIRA: I know your deeds, your love and faith, your service and perseverance, and that you are now doing more than you did at first. Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways. I will strike her children dead. Then all the churches will know that I am he who searches hearts and minds, and I will repay each of you according to your deeds. Now I say to the rest of you in Thyatira, to you who do not hold to her teaching and have not learned Satan's so-called deep secrets, 'I will not impose any other burden on you, except to hold on to what you have until I come.' (2:19-25)*
- *SARDIS: To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have found your deeds unfinished in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. (3:1-4)*
- *PHILADELPHIA: I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name. I will make those who are of the synagogue of Satan, who claim to be Jews though they are not, but are liars—I will make them come and fall down at your feet and acknowledge that I have loved you.*

Since you have kept my command to endure patiently, I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth. I am coming soon. Hold on to what you have, so that no one will take your crown. (3:8-11)

- *LAODICEA: I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say, ‘I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.’ But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and naked. I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see. Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent. Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me. (3:15-20)*

Chapter 4

- John saw *a throne in heaven*, and God the Father was sitting on it. He had a bright appearance accented by colors of green and red. The throne was encircled by a bright rainbow (v. 3). It was surrounded by *twenty-four other thrones* on which were seated *...twenty-four elders... dressed in white with crowns of gold on their heads* (vv. 4-5).
*While there are many interpretations as to the identity of the *twenty-four elders*, many scholars believe they represent the 12 tribes of Israel - God’s Chosen People, and the 12 Apostles - the redeemed Body of Christ.
- Lightning and thunder are coming from the first throne and the Holy Spirit was in front of it, represented by *seven lamps. In front of the throne there was what looked like a sea of glass, clear as crystal.* (vv. 5-6)
- *In the center, around the throne, were four living creatures... covered with eyes in front and in back* (v. 6).
 - *The first ...was like a lion*
 - *the second was like an ox*
 - *the third had a face like a man*
 - *the fourth was like a flying eagle*
 - *Each ...had six wings and was covered with eyes. Day and night they never stop saying ‘Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.’* (vv. 6-7)
 - The *four living creatures* were circling the throne, worshiping God. As they did *the twenty-four elders fall down before him who sits on the throne and worship...they lay their crowns before the throne...* (vv. 8-11)
*While many have tried to assign metaphorical or prophetic meaning to the *four living creatures*, it is quite possible they are literal creatures that exist only in heaven.

Chapter 5

- God the Father is holding *a scroll ...in his right hand*. There is *writing on both sides* of the scroll, and it is *sealed with seven seals.* (v. 1)
- John *wept and wept because no one was found who was worthy to open the scroll or look inside.* (v. 4)

- *Then one of the elders said to me, “Do not weep! See, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed. He is able to open the scroll and its seven seals.” (v. 5)*
*This can only be Jesus Christ!
- *The Lamb had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth (v. 6).*
*This speaks to the perfect unity of the Trinity as God the Father is on the throne, the Holy Spirit is in front, and Jesus, the Son, is there ready to open the scroll.

Chapter 6

The Seals

NOTE: This is the beginning of the Tribulation, that period which follows the Rapture described in Matthew 24:39-44; 1 Corinthians 15:51-52; and 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17, 5:1. Because Christians will be raptured or taken up before these events and because Jesus promised, *I will also keep you from the hour of trial that is going to come on the whole world to test the inhabitants of the earth (3:10)*, we do not have to fear the Tribulation.

- The First Seal (6:1-2) When Jesus *opened the first seal... one of the four living creatures released a white horse with the word, come! The rider held a bow, and he was given a crown, and rode out as a conqueror bent on conquest.* This is not Jesus! This is the antichrist who comes to power without a fight or resistance.
- The Second Seal (6:3-4) When Jesus *opened the second seal... the second living creature released a fiery red ...horse. Its rider was given power to take pace from the earth and to make people kill each other.* This represents a terrible, unprecedented world war.
- The Third Seal (6:5-6) When Jesus *opened the third seal... the third living creature released a black horse. Its rider was holding a pair of scales in his hand.* John heard a voice that said, *two pounds of wheat for a day’s wages, and six pounds of barley for a day’s wages, and do not damage the oil and the wine!* This represents a worldwide famine, the inevitable result of war, during which a day’s wages will only buy enough food to feed one person.
- The Fourth Seal (6:7-8) When Jesus *opened the fourth seal... the fourth living creature released a pale horse. Its rider was named Death and Hades was following close behind him. They were given power over a fourth of the earth to kill by sword, famine, and plague, and by the wild beasts of the earth.* This represents the chaos of the antichrist’s oppressive government, world war, famine, disease, and desperate people and animals turning on one another as 25% of those still alive when the fourth seal is opened die.
- The Fifth Seal (6:9-11) When Jesus *opened the fifth seal... John saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained... each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the full number of their fellow servants, their brothers and sisters, were killed just as they had been.* These are Christian martyrs who are being protected under the altar until the time when their number was complete.