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THE REVELATION OF JOHN

ἈΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΙΣ

THE REVELATION ~ JOHN THE APOSTLE

- John was Translated
- Only surviving Apostle
- Exiled by Romans to the Island of Patmos
- The Revelation of John written about 80 - 100 AD
- Apostasy in the Church thriving
- Persecution of Christians
- The Revelation is God's message of Hope



HISTORICAL CONTEXT

- Vast Apostasy has infected the Church, people leaving the Church
- Emperor of Rome Nero to Domitian declaring war on disciples of Christ
- Illegal to follow Jesus Christ
- John is the sole Apostle under arrest
- John reminded Saints of highest truths of Gospel of Jesus Christ, Temple knowledge
- John reminded Saints that Jesus Christ in full control and He knows individual details
- John's wrote instructions and knowledge from Christ in Sacred Code
- John does this because of sacred nature of this knowledge and in case Romans arrest Saints and confiscate these scriptures



ΑΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΕ ~ ἌΠΟΚΑΛΥΨΙΣ

- John's vision is called the "Apocalypse"
- From Greek ἀποκάλυψις *apokalypsis*
- Meaning = "to uncover, disclose, make bare"
- Apocalyptic literature carries the idea of disclosing divine sacred knowledge and hidden things.
- This is a Vision with its Interpretation as opposed to a revelation or prophecy
- See also Isaiah 6, Ezekiel 1, 40-48, Daniel 7-12, Joel, 1 Nephi 8, 11-14



“The book of Revelation is one of the plainest books God ever caused to be written.”

“Whenever God gives a vision of an image, or beast, or figure of any kind, He always holds Himself responsible to give a revelation or interpretation of the meaning thereof, otherwise we are not responsible or accountable for our belief in it.”

–THE PROPHET JOSEPH SMITH ~ HISTORY OF THE CHURCH 5:342-343

Symbols are the timeless and universal language in which God, in His wisdom, has chosen to teach His Gospel and bear witness of His Son. They are the language of the scriptures, the language of revelation, the language of the Spirit, the language of faith. They are a language common to the Saints of all generations.

Symbols are the language in which all gospel covenants and ordinances of salvation have been revealed. They are a means whereby we enrich, deepen, and enhance understanding and expression. They enable us to give visual and conceptual form to ideas and feelings that may otherwise defy the power of words. Symbols take us beyond the language of words, granting us an eloquence in the expression of feelings.

Gospel Symbolism, by Joseph Fielding McConkie



"The first chapter of Revelation, indeed the first sentence, introduces the theme of the entire vision. It is *the* revelation of Jesus Christ....That is, the revelation proclaims the mission, ministry, and importance of the Lord and Savior.

The source of the revelation was God, who revealed Jesus Christ....Therefore the central focus of the vision, and that to which the Father testifies through it, is the important work of the Son.

The recipient was John, as the JST makes clear (see Rev 1:1), whose duty was to act as witness of the things that were given to him. We see from verse one that God intended the vision to circulate. He wanted it read and listened to. He wanted it understood. He did not give it to be a mystery, a puzzle, or an enigma that his people could not solve. He ordered John to disclose truth that otherwise would have remained hidden. God's purpose was to enlighten and lift the spirits of those who were faithful to him. John's responsibility was to record and to circulate the revelation."

–PROF. RICHARD DRAPER ~ OPENING THE SEVEN SEALS, PP. 25-26

REVELATION ~ PART I

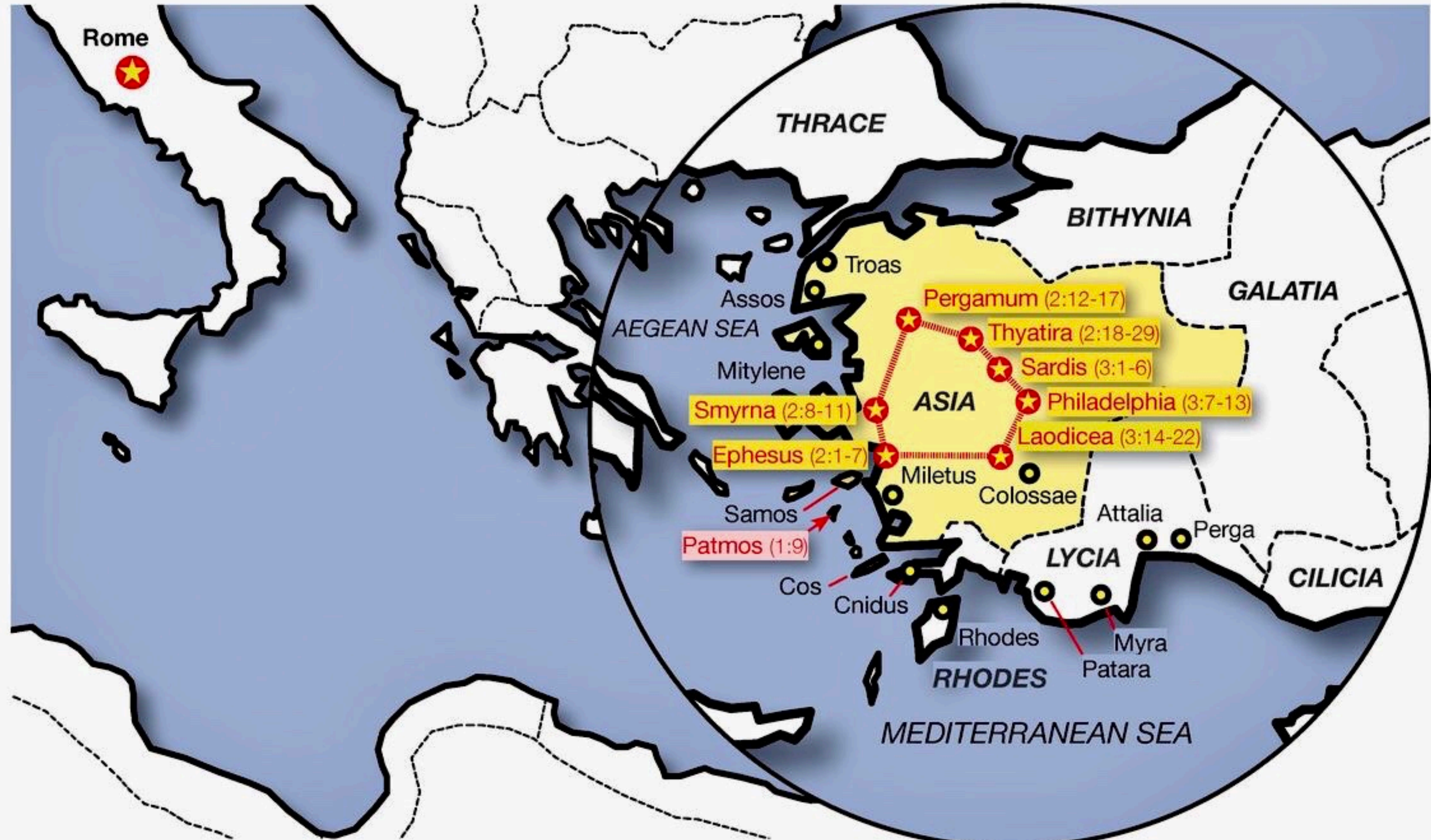
CHAPTER 1

- The Vision and Revelation of Jesus Christ
- Second Coming, Kings and Priests
- To the 7 Stakes of the Church of Jesus Christ in Asia Minor
- John's Witness of the resurrected Jesus Christ



REVELATION: ROME & THE SEVEN CHURCHES

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SACRED SYMBOLS

- Candlesticks = instrument that carries light (to the world) = Church Stakes
- Stars = Celestial lights = Church Servants
- Alpha and Omega ~ Aleph and Tav = first and last letters of Greek and Hebrew Alphabets
- 7 = Holy number = Sheva' Hebrew means "to swear" a covenant
- Other symbolic numbers: 3 and 4, 3 = truth, Godhead, triangle, circle, 4 = exactness, square, fullness, $3 + 4 = 7$, $3 \times 4 = 12$
- 12 = Fullness, Leadership, Israel, $12 \times 12 = 144$, $12,000 \times 12,000 = 144,000$ ~ Infinite and Eternal



“The veil was taken from our minds, and the eyes of our understanding were opened. We saw the Lord standing upon the breastwork of the pulpit, before us; and under his feet was a paved work of pure gold, in color like amber. His eyes were as a flame of fire; the hair of his head was white like the pure snow; his countenance shone above the brightness of the sun; and his voice was as the sound of the rushing of great waters, even the voice of Jehovah, saying: I am the first and the last; I am he who liveth, I am he who was slain; I am your advocate with the Father. Behold, your sins are forgiven you; you are clean before me; therefore, lift up your heads and rejoice. Let the hearts of your brethren rejoice, and let the hearts of all my people rejoice, who have, with their might, built this house to my name. For behold, I have accepted this house, and my name shall be here; and I will manifest myself to my people in mercy in this house. Yea, I will appear unto my servants, and speak unto them with mine own voice, if my people will keep my commandments, and do not pollute this holy house. Yea the hearts of thousands and tens of thousands shall greatly rejoice in consequence of the blessings which shall be poured out, and the endowment with which my servants have been endowed in this house. And the fame of this house shall spread to foreign lands; and this is the beginning of the blessing which shall be poured out upon the heads of my people. Even so. Amen.”

–JOSEPH SMITH ~ D&C 110:1-10

REVELATION 2-3 ~ THE 7 CHURCHES

- The 7 Churches = Congregations, Stakes
- Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamos, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea
- Specific instructions and words of hope from Jesus Christ to the stakes
- The Lord Jesus Christ knows each leader and congregation in detail



REVELATION 4 ~ THRONE OF GOD

- John saw the Throne of God the Father and Yehovah / Jesus Christ
- John trying to describe things that are indescribable and incomprehensible to mortals
- He uses symbols to describe the vision of God's Throne because what he sees is too sacred.
- D&C 77 = Q&A on meanings of symbols



REVELATION 5 ~ THE 7 SEALS

- John saw a vision of the history of the world
- He saw Jesus Christ's role in the salvation of all mankind
- The Scroll contains the story of God's children on earth and how they would be saved
- Only the One authorized to view the Scroll could break the Seals
- The Lamb of God will open each Seal one at a time
- The 7 Seals represent the Holy Sealing Power



SACRED SYMBOLS

- The Lamb = Yehovah, Jesus Christ
- Lion = Kingship of Judah
- Scroll = The Plan
- Seals = Authority to open a Dispensation and Seal with power
- Beasts = Celestial Animals
- Horns = power and strength
- Eyes = light and knowledge

