

## Introduction:

Before we get deep into this study, we should all agree that since none of us have ever lived through an actual Biblical Apocalypse, assume there will be somethings that might be interpreted differently. The book itself is one of the most debated and argued over. This ought to place in us a position of caution when either accepting or dismissing another's interpretation. We are going to be mature and agree to disagree agreeably.

The book of Revelation is called the *Revelation of the Apocalypse* or in Greek the *Apokalupsis*, which means "the sudden uncovering of something that has been previously hidden". This book is part of Biblical eschatology, a word derived from its Greek word *eschatos* meaning "last, utmost or extreme," and the word *logos* meaning "word." It means "the last word" or "last things". John is exiled on the Isle of Patmos by Emperor Domitian. He had been an eye witness to the incarnate Christ and now has a vision of the glorified Christ. In addition, God would also reveal to him what would take place in the future-judgement and the ultimate triumph over evil. He writes in an "Apocalyptic" form, a Jewish style that uses symbolic imagery to communicate hope to those in the midst of persecution. The events are ordered in terms of literary rather than strict chronological patterns.

The Book of Revelation is centered around 4 central revelations:

- 1) The revelation of earth's final seven years ( Daniel's 70<sup>th</sup> week Daniel 9:27)
- 2) The revelation of the final judgements predicted by the OT Prophets
- 3) The revelation of the Messiahs return to earth establishing His Kingdom
- 4) The revelation of God's eternal plan for His people leading to an eternal kingdom

The vision is a “Revelation of Jesus Christ” and reveals Christ’s threefold ministry:

- 1) Jesus as High Priest (Rev. 1 :12-18)
- 2) Jesus as Judge releasing judgment against the ungodly (Rev. 14:14-20)
- 3) Jesus as King of Kings (Rev. 19:11-16)

There are 4 predominant interpretive views to the book of Revelation

- 1) The Preterist View believes that the majority of the events predicted in the book were fulfilled throughout the first century
- 2) The Historical View believes that the Apocalypse was fulfilled from the first century and has been fulfilled throughout the 1980 years of church history climaxing with Christs return
- 3) The Allegorical view believes that the book is an allegory and that many stories and the pouring out of judgement on the earth are to be interpreted allegorically in terms of a spiritual struggle between good and evil
- 4) The Futuristic View believes that Chapters 1-3 were messages to the 7 Churches in Johns time and that Chapters 4-22 reveal the future which is centered around a 7 year time frame of tribulation to be followed Christs return on earth and millennial reign.

ALL that having been said, for our study we are going to hold to a Futuristic interpretive view for most of the time. It doesn’t mean one view point is all right or all wrong. All the view points listed here will flow together at times being “Both, And” instead of “Either, Or”. Remember our “Giant Puzzle” analogy from Daniel? How pieces of the puzzle flow in and out all the time giving us glimpses of the future but not all at the same time? (Or not yet anyway?) That’s where we are. We are looking at a giant puzzle knowing pieces fit, not always knowing how or when or where.

Lets pray. Jesus we ask you for wisdom and insight into your Word. We ask you for understanding into the last days so that we may encourage others in their relationship with You and lead others to You. Strengthen us to finish the race well. Father, you are good, you are sovereign, and we submit to you. Jesus, you are King! And we worship you and praise you as such! Bless the hearer as we study. AMEN!

## **Chapter 1**

1. Revelation is the only book in the Bible with a special blessing placed on those \_\_\_\_\_ its instructions. (vs. 2-3)
2. In verses 5, John re-affirms Christ's mission "that \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_." (vs. 6)
3. In vs 12, John writes, "And I turned to see the voice that spake to me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; (vs 13) And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle."  
(KJV)

### WHERE JOHN SAW HIM: (VS 12)

John sees into the Temple in Heaven which is \_\_\_\_\_ then Moses's Temple. (HEBREWS 8:5) Heaven's Temple has 3 main pieces of sacred furniture.

Here's what's there and why it important:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (vs 12) – symbolizes 7 Churches; in the Jewish tradition it represented the TREE OF LIFE thus it speaks of eternal life found with God for His bride made available to all of us only through the blood of Jesus
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (9:13) -foreshadowing of Christs work in Heaven interceding for us; its made of gold and built with a crown symbolizing the reign and royalty of Christ in Heaven
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (11:19) – symbolized God's throne & presence from Israel's past; here it symbolizes an access to the throne of grace, the mercy seat and His presence as the final High Priest has applied the blood redeeming all who would believe

What's missing from Heavens' Temple and why it's important:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_: its missing because Jesus was our final offering and blood sacrifices are no longer needed (foreshadow of Christs work on the Cross; this altar was made of brass and had no crown symbolizing His suffering and humiliation)
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_: its missing as there is no necessity for ritual purification in the Heavenly Temple
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_: its missing as the "Bread of Life" is manifest through Christ himself and He is the "Bread of Life" (John 6:32-35)

WHAT JOHN SAW HIM WEARING: (VS. 13)

Christ's present ministry is that of our \_\_\_\_\_ who lives to make intercession for us (Hebrews 7:24-28)

The earthly high priests wore 8 garments of beauty. However, on the \_\_\_\_\_, he removed the 8 garments replacing them with 4 linen garments. The priests would wear a linen coat from the shoulder to the floor, linen trousers, a girdle above the chest to hold the coat together, and a linen headpiece.

WHAT JOHN SAW HIM CARRYING: (VS. 16)

The 7 Stars in Christs right hand are the \_\_\_\_\_ (figurative language for pastors) of the 7 Churches.

WHAT JOHN HEARD HIM SAY: (VS. 17-20)

John is told specifically to write down:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (Christ in Chapter 1)
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (includes Chapters 2 & 3)  
\_\_\_\_\_ (chapters 4-22)

John can “see” into 3 realms:

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_ (4:1)
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ (11)
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_ (9:1-11)

Chapter 1 is done! We are just getting started. I hope this blesses you as much as it has me. Lets pray as we close out our time together. Jesus, you are the author and the finisher of our faith. We know you sit at the right hand of the Father interceding for us as we complete our mission here. We know you defeated Death, Hell and the Grave and hold the keys! Thank you for your sacrifice on the cross that set us free once and for all time. Thank you for your precious Word as we learn what it means follow you in the last days. Guide us Holy Spirit as we set about “understand last things” so that we finish this race well. We love you!

Amen.

As Chapter 2 begins, Jesus starts by issuing encouragement, correction and blessing to 7 churches in Asia minor. Before we get into each Church specifically, lets first get an overview of the cities and what Jesus had to say.

<u>The Church</u>	<u>Christ's Message</u>	<u>The Blessing</u>
1. <u>Ephesus</u>	They had lost their first love	
2. <u>Smyrna</u>	They were enduring tribulation	
3. <u>Pergamum</u>	They held onto false doctrine	
4. <u>Thyatira</u>	They were tolerating a Jezebel	
5. <u>Sardis</u>	They had people dying spiritually	
6. <u>Philadelphia</u>	They were given an open door	
7. <u>Laodicea</u>	They were lukewarm and would be spit out	c

There is a debate among scholars concerning a theory that teaches these seven churches also represent seven different church ages. The seven time periods are divided as follows:

The Church	The Church Age	The General Time Frame
Ephesus	The Apostolic Church	30-100 AD
Smyrna	The Persecuted Church	100-312 AD
Pergamos	The Roman Church	313-600 AD
Thyatira	The Dark Ages	600-1517 AD
Sardis	The Reformation Church	1517-1700 AD
Philadelphia	The Missions Church	1648-21 <sup>st</sup> Century AD
Laodicea	The Lukewarm Church	the Present situation

