

NOTES ON A STUDY OF

THE BOOK OF

REVELATION

THE REVELATION OF
JESUS CHRIST



*"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."*

— REVELATION 1:3 —

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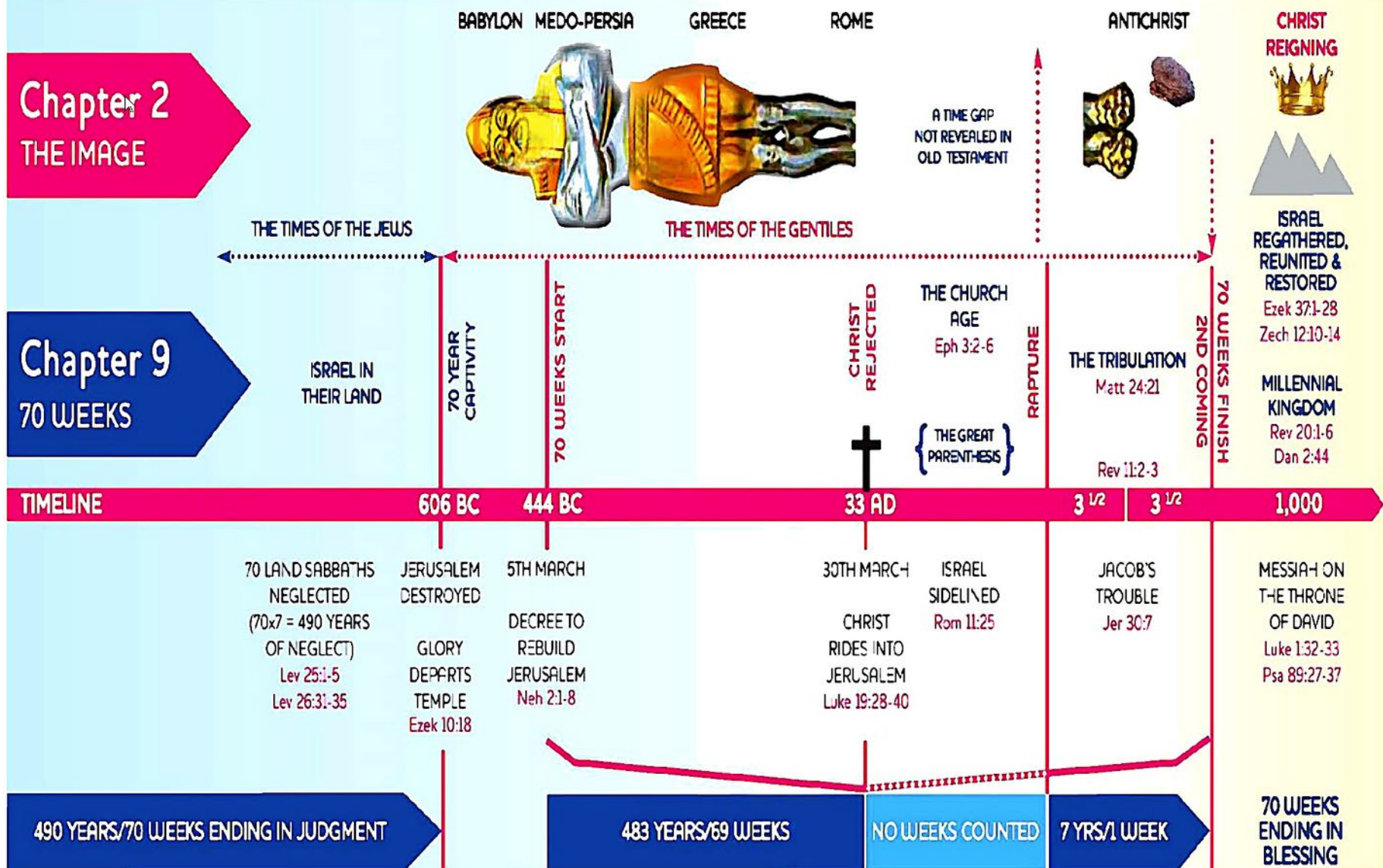
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THE PROPHECY OF DANIEL

"Know that the Most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will" (Dan 4:32)

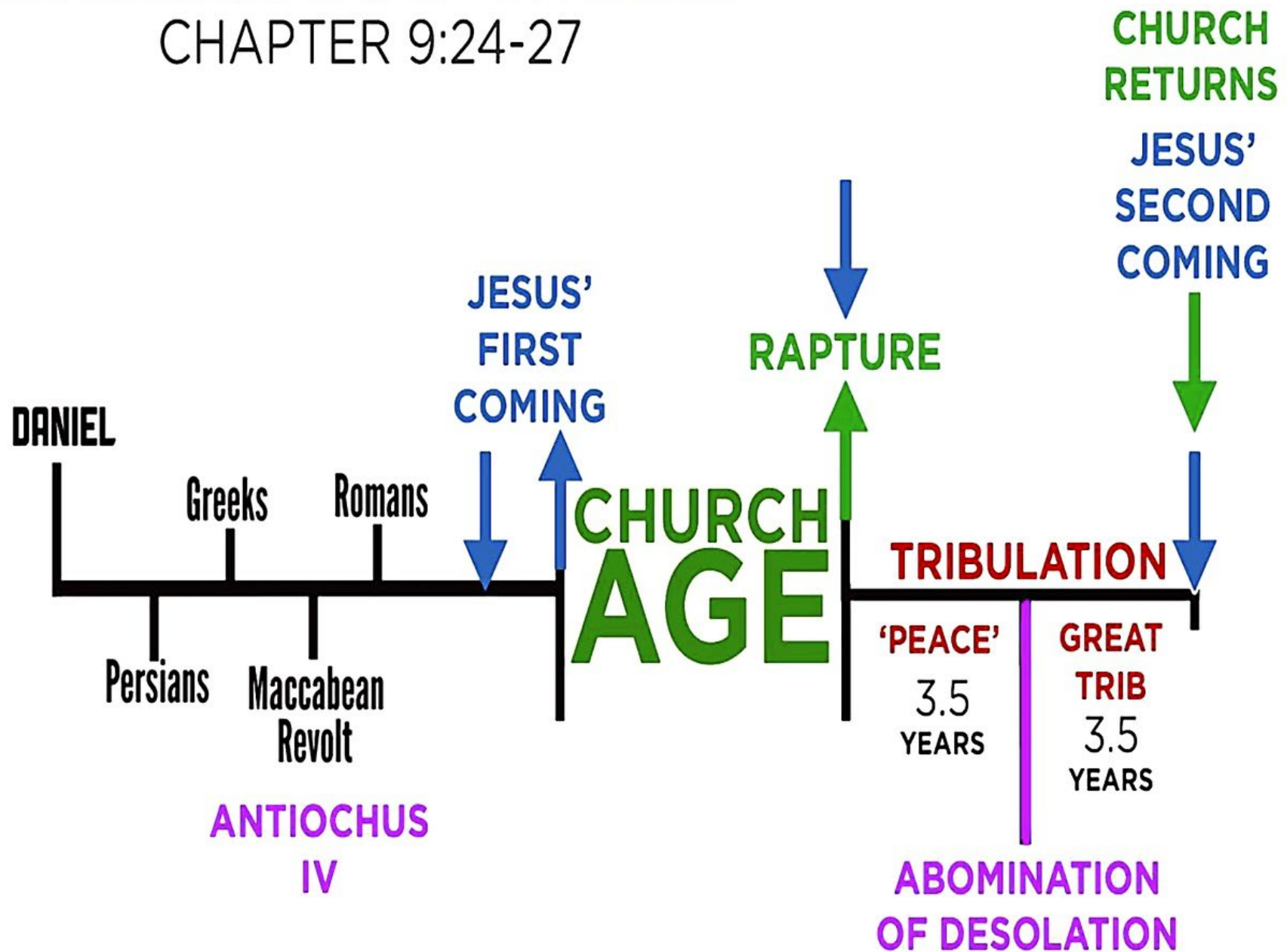
Chapter 2 THE IMAGE

Chapter 9 70 WEEKS



DANIEL'S 70 WEEKS

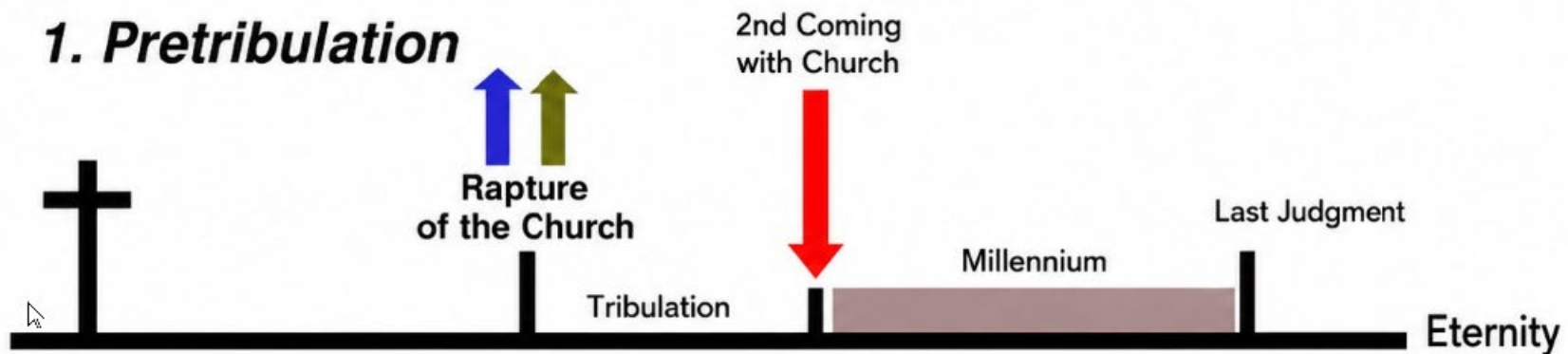
CHAPTER 9:24-27



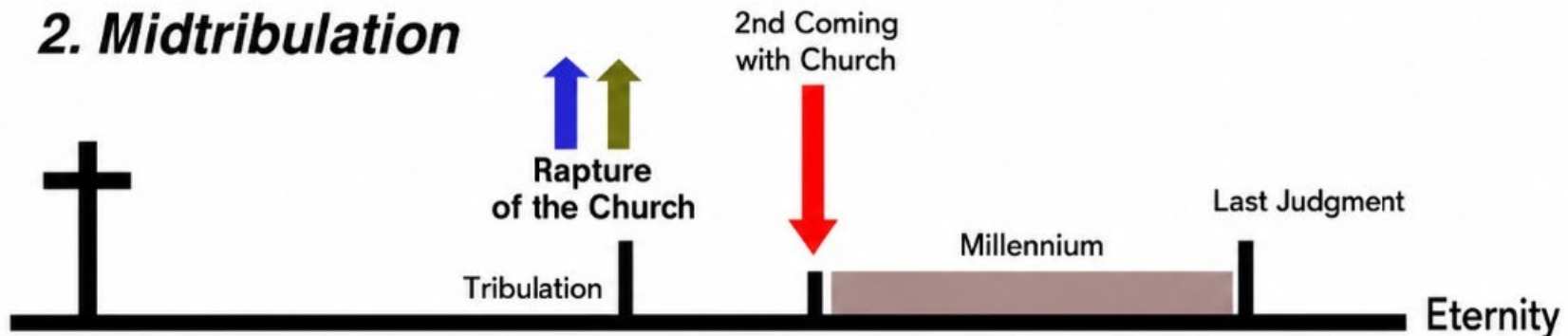
Comparison of Christian Tribulation Views

First Coming of Jesus

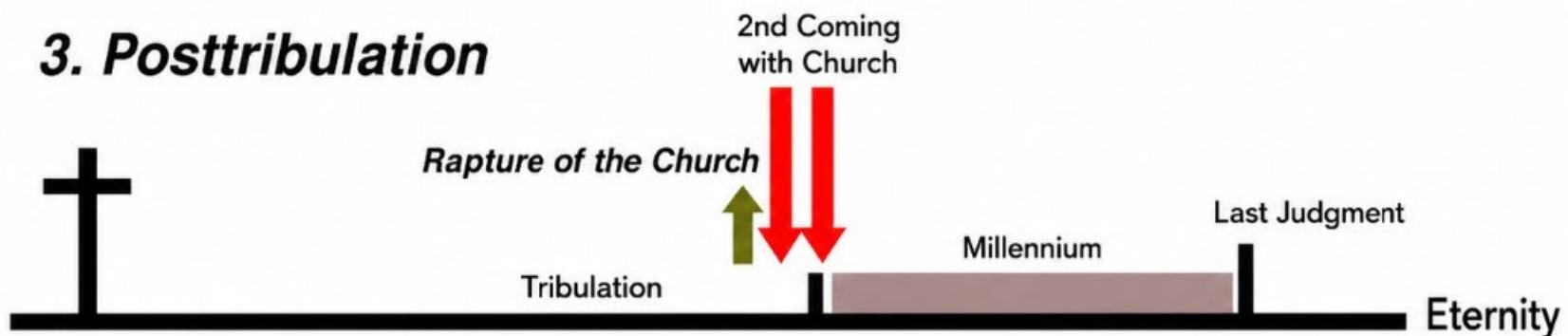
1. Pretribulation



2. Midtribulation



3. Posttribulation



Why do we believe in a Pre-tribulation Rapture?

- **The Israel-Church Distinction**

- The Church is mentioned in chapters 1-3 of Revelation.
- When the Tribulation starts, the church isn't mentioned again until the 2nd Coming of Christ with the church. (**Revelation 19:11** *And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.*
12 *His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.*
13 *And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.*
14 *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.*)
- Since the Tribulation constitutes Israel's seventieth week ([Daniel 9:27](#)) and is specifically determined upon them, the church has no reason to experience it.
- The church represents a "mystery" unveiled only at Pentecost, while the Old Testament prophecies address Israel exclusively.
- Consequently, the major tribulation passages—[Daniel 9:24–27](#) and [Jeremiah 30:7](#)—are understood as distinctly Jewish in character.

- **Imminency of Christ's Return**

- Numerous scriptures indicate Christians should anticipate the Lord's arrival at any moment without knowing when it will occur.
- If the church must endure the Tribulation, believers cannot genuinely expect His imminent return, since He could not come for at least seven years.

- **Deliverance from God's Wrath**

- Noah and His family.
- Lot and his family.
- Rahab and her family.
- Caleb and Joshua escaped the generation that died in the wilderness.
- Nineveh was willing to repent and God spared them from judgement.

ELEMENTS OF THE COVENANT

- ✦ Love involving specific obligations
- ✦ Living together as a single household and family
- ✦ Faithfulness to the marriage
- ✦ Provision for the wife by the husband
- ✦ Submission to the husband by the wife





∞ MARRIAGE ∞

A METAPHOR FOR THE COVENANT LOVE

BETWEEN GOD & ISRAEL

For as a man
hath married a wife,
so shall thy Maker
marry thee...

ISAIAH 54:5

I will betroth thee unto me for ever;
yea, I will betroth thee unto me
in righteousness, and in judgment,
and in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

Hosea 2:19



GOD AS THE HUSBAND

He loves, protects,
provides for, and remains
faithful to His people.
Isaiah 54:5



ISRAEL AS THE BRIDE

Chosen, cherished, and
called to be set apart
for Him alone.
Hosea 2:19-20



THE COVENANT

A sacred promise of
unfailing love and
faithfulness.
Jeremiah 31:32



LOVE & FAITHFULNESS

Though Israel was unfaithful,
God's love never failed.
Lamentations 3:22-23



THE ULTIMATE REUNION

One day, the Bride and
Bridegroom will be
forever united.
Revelation 21:2-3

JUST AS A MARRIAGE IS BUILT ON LOVE,
COMMITMENT, AND FAITHFULNESS,
SO IS GOD'S COVENANT WITH ISRAEL—
AN EVERLASTING LOVE STORY.

THE TEN COMMANDMENTS

Exodus 20:1-17

1

You shall have no other gods before Me.

Love and worship God alone.



2

You shall not make for yourself an idol.

Do not worship idols or anything other than God.



3

You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

Use God's name with reverence and respect.



4

Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.

Set aside time to rest and worship God.



5

Honor your father and your mother.

Respect and care for your parents.



6

You shall not murder.

Do not take another person's life.



7

You shall not commit adultery.

Be faithful in marriage; keep sexual purity.



8

You shall not steal.

Do not take what does not belong to you.



9

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

Do not lie or deceive others.



10

You shall not covet.

Do not desire or envy what belongs to others.



"Love the Lord your God... and love your neighbor as yourself."

Matthew 22:37-39

Scriptures – God Being Married to Israel

- **God is married to Israel**

- **God as the Husband**

Isaiah 54:5 For **thy Maker is thine husband**; The LORD of hosts *is* his name; And thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called.

- **Israel as the Bride**

Hosea 2:19 And I will betroth thee unto me for ever; Yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment, And in lovingkindness, and in mercies.

20 I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: And thou shalt know the LORD.

- **The Covenant**

Jeremiah 31:32 — God speaks of a covenant "which my covenant they brake, although I was an **husband** unto them, saith the LORD."

- **Love and Faithfulness**

Lamentations 3:22 *It is of* the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 *They are* new every morning: great *is* thy faithfulness.

- **The Ultimate Reunion**

Revelation 21:2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.

- **Scripture with Marriage Language**

- **Jeremiah 3:14** Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; **for I am married unto you**: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion:

15 And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding.

- **Ezekiel 16:8** Now when I passed by thee, and looked upon thee, behold, thy time *was* the time of love; and I spread my skirt over thee, and covered thy nakedness: yea, I swore unto thee, and entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord GOD, **and thou becamest mine**.

9 Then washed I thee with water; yea, I thoroughly washed away thy blood from thee, and I anointed thee with oil.

10 I clothed thee also with brodered work, and shod thee with badgers' skin, and I girded thee about with fine linen, and I covered thee with silk.

11 I decked thee also with ornaments, and I put bracelets upon thy hands, and a chain on thy neck.

12 And I put a jewel on thy forehead, and earrings in thine ears, and a beautiful crown upon thine head.

13 Thus wast thou decked with gold and silver; and thy raiment *was of* fine linen, and silk, and brodered work; thou didst eat fine flour, and honey, and oil: and thou wast exceeding beautiful, and thou didst prosper into a kingdom.

Scriptures – God Being Married to Israel

14 And thy renown went forth among the heathen for thy beauty: for it *was* perfect through my comeliness, which I had put upon thee, saith the Lord GOD.

15 But **thou didst trust in thine own beauty, and playedst the harlot** because of thy renown, and pouredst out thy fornications on every one that passed by; his it was.

16 And of thy garments thou didst take, and deckedst thy high places with divers colours, **and playedst the harlot thereupon: *the like things*** shall not come, neither shall it be so.

- **Warning about breaking the “marriage covenant”**

- The marriage metaphor captures the covenantal nature of God’s relationship with Israel, expressing both the intimacy of their bond and the gravity of Israel’s unfaithfulness.
- The symbolic depiction of the intimate covenant relationship between God and Israel as a “marriage” establishes a foundation for understanding Israel’s solemn commitment to Yahweh in terms of his demands for absolute loyalty and obedience in return for his love and protection.
- Unfaithfulness constitutes adultery.
- When Israel worshipped other gods, they were committing whoredom.
- **Exodus 34: 14** For **thou shalt worship no other god**: for the LORD, whose name *is* Jealous, **is a jealous God**:
15 Lest thou make a covenant with the inhabitants of the land, and they go a whoring after their gods, and do sacrifice unto their gods, and *one* call thee, and thou eat of his sacrifice;
16 And thou take of their daughters unto thy sons, and their daughters **go a whoring after their gods**, and make thy sons **go a whoring after their gods**.

- **God made a covenant with Israel (What was the covenant?)**

- **I will be your God, and you will be my people.**
- **Exodus 6:6** Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I *am* the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments:
7 And **I will take you to me for a people**, and **I will be to you a God**: and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD your God, which bringeth you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians.
8 And I will bring you in unto the land, concerning the which I did swear to give it to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob; and I will give it you for an heritage: I *am* the LORD.

THE BEMA SEAT JUDGMENT OF CHRIST

2 CORINTHIANS 5:10

WE MUST
ALL APPEAR
BEFORE THE
JUDGMENT
SEAT OF
CHRIST

THAT EVERY ONE
MAY RECEIVE THE
THINGS DONE IN
HIS BODY,
ACCORDING TO
THAT HE HATH
DONE, WHETHER
IT BE GOOD
OR BAD.

THE WORKS
OF THE BELIEVER
FAITH
OBEDIENCE
LOVE
SERVICE
GOOD WORKS
SACRIFICE
ENDURANCE

MOTIVES WILL
BE REVEALED
DONE FOR GOD'S GLORY
DONE IN LOVE
DONE IN OBEDIENCE
DONE SELFISHLY
DONE FOR PRAISE
DONE IN THE FLESH

WOOD, HAY, STUBBLE
WILL BE BURNED
(1 CORINTHIANS 3:12-15)

WELL DONE, GOOD AND FAITHFUL SERVANT
ENTER THOU INTO THE JOY OF THY LORD'

MATTHEW 25:21

REWARDS
ACCORDING TO
FAITHFULNESS

ACCORDING TO
FAITHFULNESS

THE CROWNS (REWARDS)

A BELIEVER WILL RECEIVE

"Well done, good and faithful servant... enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." — Matthew 25:21

1. THE INCORRUPTIBLE CROWN

1 Corinthians 9:25

"Now they that run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize... Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible."

Associated with self-discipline and finishing the race of faith.

2. THE CROWN OF REJOICING (SOUL-WINNER'S CROWN)

1 Thessalonians 2:19

"For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Are not even ye in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at his coming?"

Tied to those Paul led to Christ and discipled.

3. THE CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

2 Timothy 4:8

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness... unto all them also that love his appearing."

Given to those who eagerly anticipate Christ's return and live accordingly.

4. THE CROWN OF LIFE

James 1:12 | Revelation 2:10

"Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him." (James 1:12)

"Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." (Revelation 2:10)

Associated with enduring trial and persecution.

5. THE CROWN OF GLORY

1 Peter 5:2-4

"Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof... And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away."

Tied to faithful shepherding of God's people.

These crowns do not exalt the believer above others, but honor faithful service to our King.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Together,
these Scriptures
reveal what
**GOD
VALUES**
and
REWARDS
in the lives of
His people.



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Scriptures – The Bema Seat

1 Corinthians 4:1 Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God.

2 Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

3 But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man's judgment: yea, I judge not mine own self.

4 For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.

5 Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, whether *it be* good or bad.

Matthew 16:27 For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works.

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

11 For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.

12 So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

2 Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

12 Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.

14 If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

THE PHASES OF THE JEWISH WEDDING

1 SELECTION OF THE BRIDE



The Father chooses a bride.

2 BETROTHAL



The groom offers the bride a glass of wine to the bride. The groom's family pays a dowry to the bride's family, securing the bride and establishing a covenant.

3 GROOM RETURNS TO FATHER'S HOUSE



The groom returns to his father's house to build or prepare a home where he and his bride will live together.

4 GROOM ESCORTS BRIDE TO THE MARRIAGE SUPPER



When the groom and his groomsmen arrived at the bride's home, the bride and her bridesmaids would be waiting, and then they would parade through the streets to announce the wedding feast.

5 MARRIAGE SUPPER



A great feast is held in honor of the couple. The bride is honored as a queen, and there is rejoicing with family and friends.

6 CONSUMMATION



The bride is brought to the groom's house, and the marriage is consummated. They now become one flesh.

7 PROOF OF THE BRIDE'S PURITY



The bride's mother retains a blood-stained cloth to prove the daughter's purity.

BRIDE BRINGS JOY TO THE GROOM'S HOUSE



The bride becomes part of the groom's household, bringing joy and building a life together.



AND I SAW HEAVEN OPENED,
AND BEHOLD A WHITE HORSE;
AND HE THAT SAT UPON HIM
WAS CALLED

FAITHFUL AND TRUE,
AND IN RIGHTEOUSNESS
HE DOTH JUDGE
AND MAKE WAR.

– REVELATION 19:11

KING OF KINGS
AND
LORD OF LORDS

AND HE WAS CLOTHED
WITH A VESTURE DIPPED
IN BLOOD: AND HIS NAME
IS CALLED

THE WORD OF GOD.

– REVELATION 19:13

Sheva Brachot (שבע ברכות) literally means "**Seven Blessings**."

These are the seven traditional blessings recited over a cup of wine during a Jewish wedding ceremony under the chuppah. They are also repeated at festive meals during the **seven days following the wedding**, provided a minyan (ten Jewish men in Orthodox tradition; practices vary in other branches of Judaism) and at least one new guest are present.

The seven blessings celebrate:

1. **Praise to God**, the Creator of the fruit of the vine.
2. **Praise to God**, the Creator of all things for His glory.
3. **Praise to God**, the Creator of mankind.
4. **Praise to God**, who created humanity in His image and established marriage.
5. **Prayer for the restoration of Jerusalem** and the future joy of Zion.
6. **Prayer that the bride and groom rejoice** together as Adam and Eve rejoiced in Eden.
7. **A climactic blessing** celebrating joy, gladness, love, peace, and the union of bride and groom, concluding with:

"Blessed are You, LORD, who gladdens the bridegroom together with the bride."

Significance

The Sheva Brachot emphasize that marriage is:

- A **divine institution** established by God.
- A source of **joy** for the couple, their families, and the entire community.
- Connected to God's **creation**, the Garden of Eden, and ultimately the **future redemption of Israel** and the restoration of Jerusalem.

Connection to your Jewish Wedding study

If you're presenting the phases of the Jewish wedding, the **Sheva Brachot** fit most naturally with **Phase 5 – The Marriage Supper**, because they are recited during the wedding feast under the chuppah and continue to be celebrated during the week of wedding festivities.

The Seven Blessings of the Jewish Wedding

(SHEVA BRACHOT)

1

BLESSING OVER WINE



We praise God for the fruit of the vine, a symbol of joy and celebration.

2

GOD WHO CREATED EVERYTHING FOR HIS GLORY



We thank God, the Creator of all, who brings joy and meaning to His world.

3

CREATOR OF HUMANITY



We bless God, who formed human beings in His image and created partner for partner.

4

JOY OF ZION AND JERUSALEM



We ask God to bring joy back to Zion and Jerusalem and rebuild her forever.

5

JOY OF GROOM AND BRIDE LIKE EDEN



We pray that the couple share a life of love, harmony, and blessing, like the Garden of Eden.

6

JOY AND GLADNESS: VOICES OF GROOM AND BRIDE IN JERUSALEM



We rejoice in their happiness and pray their voices are heard with joy in Jerusalem.

7

FRUIT OF THE VINE



We ask God to bless the couple with a life of goodness and the sweetness of the fruit of the vine.

THE 7 CHURCHES OF REVELATION

REVELATION 2-3

- 1 EPHESUS** – Revelation 2:1-7
Loving but lost its first love.
- 2 SMYRNA** – Revelation 2:8-11
Suffering and persecuted church.
- 3 PERGAMOS** – Revelation 2:12-17
Holding fast in a compromised environment.
- 4 THYATIRA** – Revelation 2:18-29
Tolerating false teaching and moral compromise.
- 5 SARDIS** – Revelation 3:1-6
Had a name of being alive, but was dead.
- 6 PHILADELPHIA** – Revelation 3:7-13
Faithful church with an open door.
- 7 LAODICEA** – Revelation 3:14-22
Lukewarm and self-sufficient church.

ISLE OF PATMOS



Where John was exiled and received the revelation.

Revelation 1:9

DISTANCE FROM PATMOS TO THE CHURCHES

Patmos to Ephesus	~55 miles (88 km)
Patmos to Smyrna	~70 miles (113 km)
Patmos to Pergamos	~95 miles (153 km)
Patmos to Thyatira	~100 miles (161 km)
Patmos to Sardis	~110 miles (177 km)
Patmos to Philadelphia	~120 miles (193 km)
Patmos to Laodicea	~130 miles (209 km)

ASIA (MINOR)



- Ancient City Location
- Likely Ancient Mail Route

John wrote to these seven churches in Asia (Revelation 1:11). The letters were likely carried by a courier, following the main Roman roads and mail routes throughout the region.

In Greek, the word for "revelation" is ἀποκάλυψις (*apokalupsis*). The scary English word "apocalypse" comes from this Greek word. Contrary to its negative connotations, this word has nothing to do with ominous catastrophes or disasters of any sort. **It carries no connotations of doom or the end of the world.** In Hebrew it is התגלות (*hitgalut*). It simply means to "uncover something that was hidden."

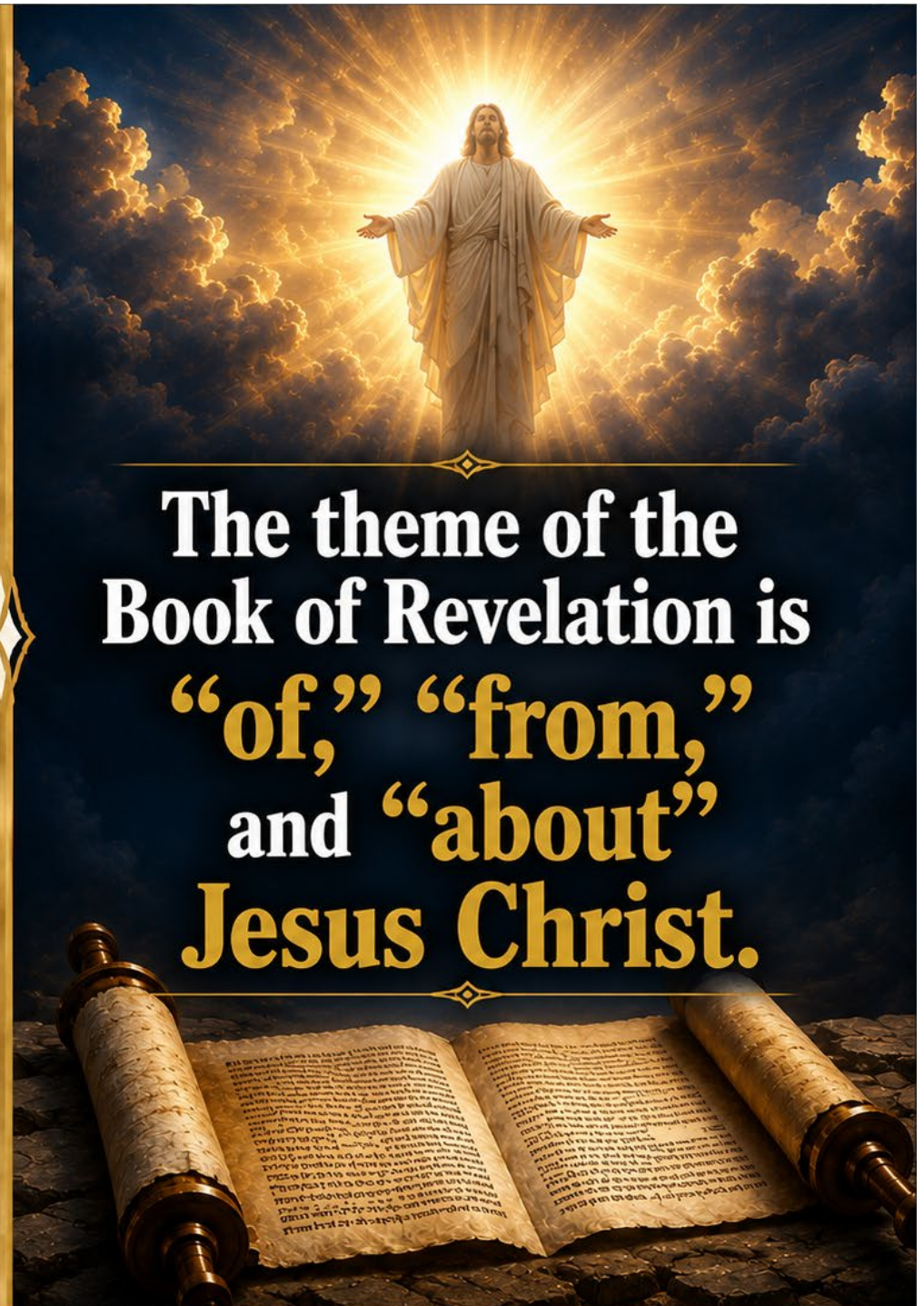


“Jesus Christ” is a thoroughly Jewish name and a Jewish title.

Jesus is *Yeshua* (יֵשׁוּעַ, *yeshua*) a first-century shortened version of the name *Joshua* or *Yehoshua* (יְהוֹשֻׁעַ).

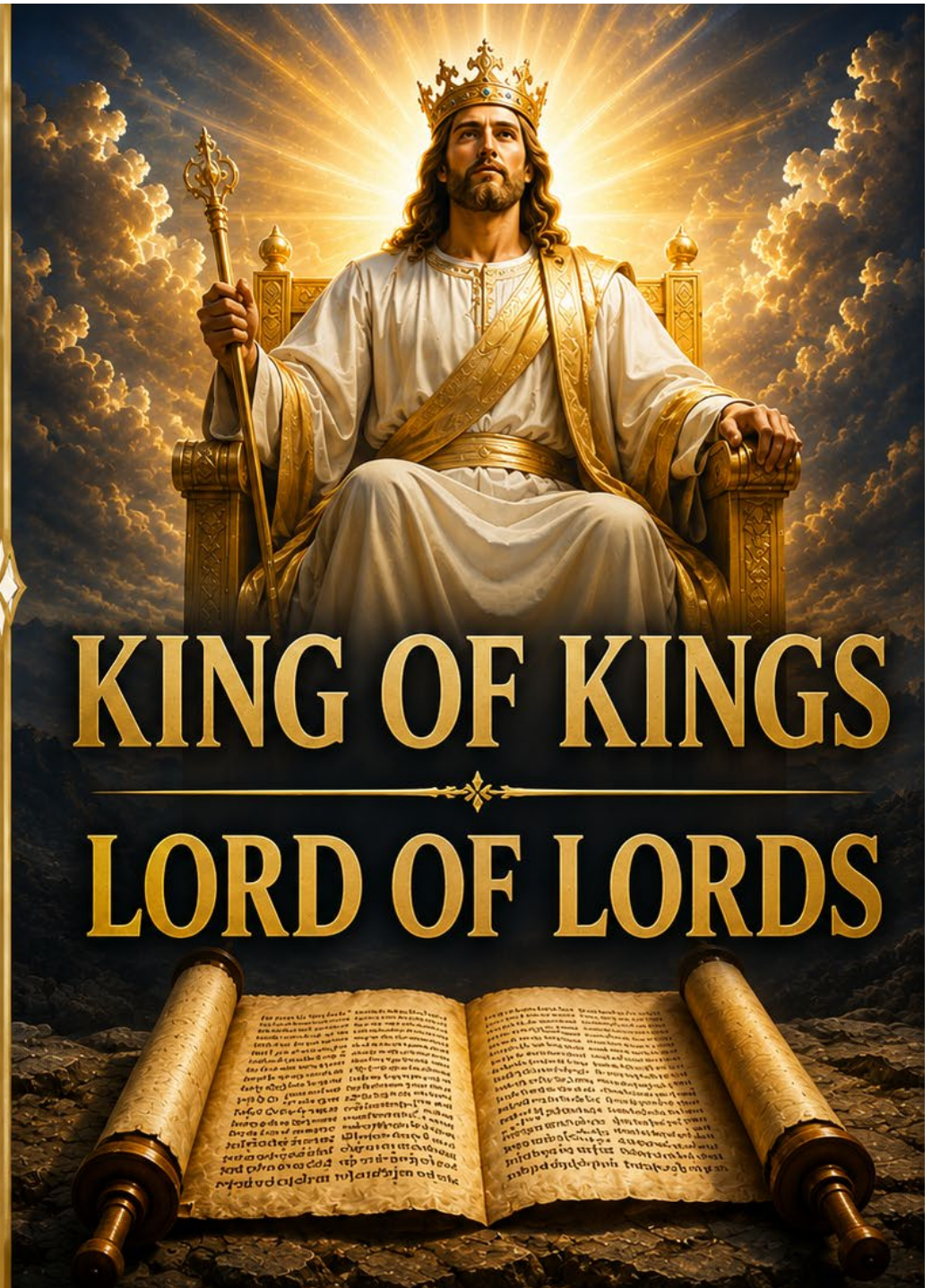
That is Jesus’ actual name, a name by which he was known to his parents, friends, and to his followers.

It comes from the Hebrew verb “to save” (לְהוֹשִׁיעַ, *lehoshiah*).



The theme of the Book of Revelation is “of,” “from,” and “about” Jesus Christ.

The purpose
of the book of
Revelation is
convince the
early church
that *Jesus* is the
King of Kings
and
Lord of Lords



The Old Testament extensively anticipates themes central to Revelation, establishing theological foundations for the New Testament's apocalyptic vision.



- **Cosmic Disturbances and Divine Judgment**

- Isa 13:6–13; Joel 2:28–32; Isa 34:1–10



- **The Day of the Lord**

- Joel 2:1–11; Zeph 1:14–18; Amos 5:18–20



- **Judgment of Nations and Final Restoration**

- Joel 3:9–16; Zech 14:1–9; Isa 65:17–25



- **Resurrection and Vindication**

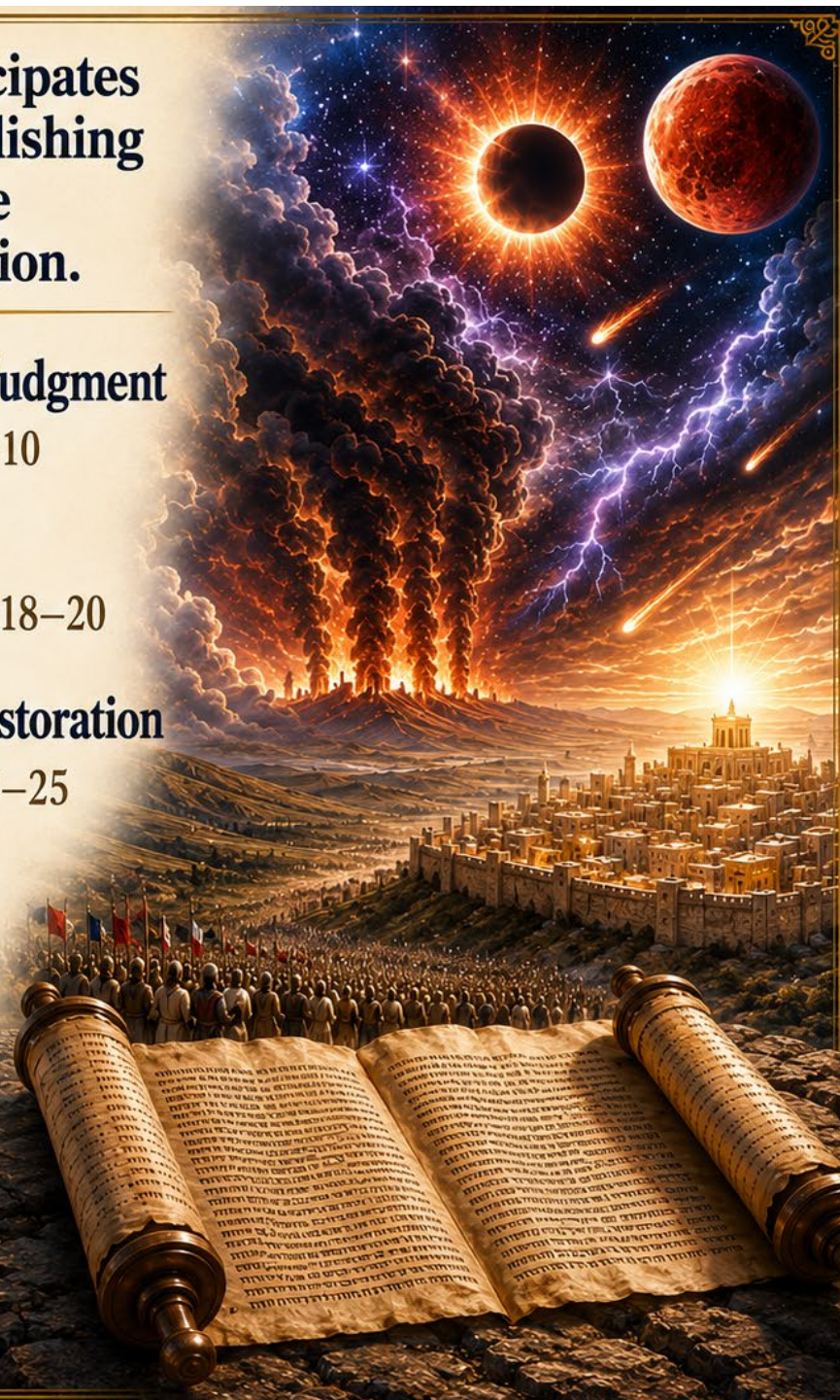
- Dan 12:1–3; Isa 26:19–21



- **Messianic Rule**

- Ps 2; Ezek 37:21–39:29

➤ These Old Testament passages form the prophetic bedrock upon which Revelation builds its vision of divine vindication, judgment, and restoration.



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- **Cosmic Disturbances and Divine Judgment**

Cosmic upheaval marks God's judgment—the stars cease shining, the sun darkens, the moon loses its light, and the heavens shake in God's wrath. ([Isa 13:6–13](#)) Wonders appear in the heavens and earth, including blood, fire, and pillars of smoke, with the sun turning to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and terrible day of the Lord. ([Joel 2:28–32](#)) The heavens dissolve like a scroll, and all their host falls as leaves from a vine. ([Isa 34:1–10](#))

- **The Day of the Lord**

The day of the Lord arrives as a day of darkness and gloominess, clouds and thick darkness, bringing a great and unprecedented people. ([Joel 2:1–11](#)) That day involves wrath, trouble, distress, wasteness, desolation, darkness, and the sound of trumpet and alarm. ([Zeph 1:14–18](#)) The day of the Lord represents darkness rather than light. ([Amos 5:18–20](#))

- **Judgment of Nations and Final Restoration**

Nations gather in the valley of Jehoshaphat for judgment, with multitudes assembling in the valley of decision as the day of the Lord approaches. ([Joel 3:9–16](#)) All nations gather against Jerusalem for battle, but the Lord fights against those nations. ([Zech 14:1–9](#)) God creates new heavens and a new earth, establishing Jerusalem as a rejoicing and her people as a joy. ([Isa 65:17–25](#))

- **Resurrection and Vindication**

Many sleeping in the dust awake—some to everlasting life and some to shame and everlasting contempt. ([Dan 12:1–3](#)) The dead live and arise, awakening and singing those dwelling in dust as the earth casts out the dead. ([Isa 26:19–21](#))

- **Messianic Rule**

Kings and rulers set themselves against the Lord and His anointed, but He speaks to them in wrath and sets His king upon His holy hill of Zion. ([Ps 2](#)) David's servant becomes king over a unified people, dwelling in the land forever with an everlasting covenant of peace. ([Ezek 37:21–39:29](#))

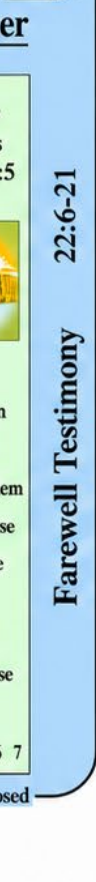
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Other Jewish Writings from the Second Temple Period

- 1 Enoch
- 2 Enoch
- 3 Enoch (later Jewish mystical work)
- Jubilees
- Testament of the Twelve Patriarchs
- Psalms of Solomon
- Life of Adam and Eve
- 3 Maccabees
- 4 Maccabees
- Prayer of Manasseh
- 2 Esdras (also called 4 Ezra)
- 1 Esdras
- Book of the Giants (among the Dead Sea Scrolls)

The Main Jewish Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books

- Tobit
- Judith
- Wisdom of Solomon
- Sirach (Ecclesiasticus)
- Baruch
- Letter of Jeremiah
- 1 Maccabees
- 2 Maccabees
- Additions to Esther
- Additions to Daniel



VERY LOUD SOUNDS IN BIBLE TIMES

Sounds That Shook the Earth, Announced God's Power,
and Will Resound in Eternity



1 THE TRUMPET (SHOFAR)

Used for announcements, warnings, worship, battle, and divine intervention.
(Exodus 19:16, 19; Joshua 6:4–20; 1 Thess. 4:16; Rev. 8–11)



2 THUNDER

A common symbol of God's majestic voice.
(Psalm 29; Exodus 19:16; Revelation 10:3–4)



3 THE VOICE OF GOD

Often described as overwhelming, like many waters or like thunder.
(Ezekiel 43:2; Revelation 1:15; John 12:28–29)



4 A GREAT MULTITUDE PRAISING GOD

Heaven's worship is portrayed as deafening, like many waters and mighty thunderings.
(Revelation 19:6)



5 MANY WATERS

Large waterfalls or crashing seas are used to describe tremendous volume.
(Revelation 1:15; Ezekiel 43:2; Psalm 93:4)



6 BATTLE CRIES

Armies often shouted before battle.
(Joshua 6:20; Judges 7:20)

THE LOUDEST SOUNDS SPECIFICALLY DESCRIBED

SOUND	SCRIPTURE	DESCRIPTION
 Trumpet at Sinai	Exodus 19:19	The trumpet waxed exceeding loud.
 God's Voice	Revelation 1:15	His voice was as the sound of many waters.
 Heavenly Worship	Revelation 19:6	Like the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings.
 Thunder	Psalm 29:3	The voice of the LORD is upon the waters.
 Seven Trumpets	Revelation 8–11	Seven angels sound seven trumpets, bringing world-changing judgments.
 Shout at Jericho	Joshua 6:20	The people shouted with a great shout, and the walls fell down.
 Lion's Roar	Revelation 10:3	He cried mightily with a loud voice, as when a lion roareth.
 Last Trump	1 Corinthians 15:52	At the last trump, the dead shall be raised.
 Mighty Waters	Psalm 93:4	Mighty waters which break the cedars.



From the thunder of Sinai to the final trumpet, the Bible reveals God's power through sounds that shake the earth—and will herald eternity.



CHRIST'S 3 TITLES FROM REVELATION 1

1 THE FAITHFUL WITNESS

- He came to bear witness of the truth.



JOHN 18:37

Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.

2 THE FIRST BEGOTTEN OF THE DEAD



1 CORINTHIANS 15:20

But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

3 THE PRINCE OF THE KINGS OF THE EARTH



EPHESIANS 1:20–22

- 20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,
21 Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come:
22 And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church,



CHRIST'S AFFIRMATION

HIS COSMIC AUTHORITY IS CEMENTED IN THAT:



- HIM THAT LOVED US,



- WASHED US FROM OUR SINS IN HIS OWN BLOOD,



- THIS ASSURES THE CHURCHES THAT THEIR SOVEREIGN JUDGE REMAINS THEIR DEVOTED REDEEMER.

He is both our Judge and our Savior —
enthroned in glory, yet marked
by love and sacrifice.



Revelation 1:5

And from Jesus Christ,
who is the faithful
witness, and the
first begotten of
the dead, and the
prince of the kings
of the earth.

WHAT JOHN SAW

7 Stars in His Right Hand

— Angels/Messengers
of the 7 Churches

Son of Man

— In the Midst

Eyes of Fire

— Holy Discernment

Sharp Two-Edged Sword

— His Truth

7 Golden Candlesticks

— The 7 Churches

**Long Robe &
Golden Girdle**

— Majesty, Priesthood
& Kingship

Voice of Many Waters

— Divine Authority

Feet of Fine Brass

— Steadfast Judgment

Revelation 1:12–20 · KJV

Revelation Handout 0028

REVELATION 1:10–16 (KJV)

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 it unto the seven churches which are in Asia...

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 one 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 his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire;

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 two edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.



7 THE NUMBER SEVEN

In the Bible, 7 symbolizes **COMPLETENESS, FULLNESS,** or **PERFECTION**— the completion of God's work or purposes.

"On the seventh day
God ended His work
which He had made;
and He rested on the seventh day
from all His work which
He had made."

GENESIS 2:2



1

CREATION COMPLETE



- God created in six days.
- On the seventh day He rested—His work was complete.

GENESIS 2:2-3

2

THE SABBATH PATTERN



- 7th day – Sabbath
- 7th year – Sabbath year
- 7 x 7 years – Jubilee

EXODUS 20:8-11
LEVITICUS 25:1-10

3

WORSHIP & CEREMONY



- Blood sprinkled seven times on the Day of Atonement.
- Symbol of complete at-one-ment.

LEVITICUS 16:14, 19

4

GOD'S PLAN IN ACTION



- 7 priests, 7 trumpets.
- On the 7th day they marched around Jericho 7 times.
- The walls fell.

JOSHUA 6:4-16

5

SYMBOL OF FULLNESS



- Seven represents **completeness, fullness,** and the appointed time of God.

6

SEVEN IN REVELATION



- 7 Churches, 7 Seals, 7 Trumpets, 7 Bowls, 7 Spirits, 7 Stars, and many more.

REVELATION 1-22

7

GOD'S PURPOSE COMPLETE



- Seven declares that God's plan in history will reach its full and final completion.

REVELATION 21:1-5



SEVEN POINTS TO ONE TRUTH:
GOD BRINGS WHAT HE
BEGINS TO COMPLETION.



7 IN REVELATION

THE NUMBER OF COMPLETENESS

Revelation is filled with sevens—a deliberate pattern that declares **GOD'S PURPOSE IS COMPLETE** and moving toward its final fulfillment.



7 MEANS COMPLETENESS

It signifies fullness, totality, and the completion of God's appointed work or perfect purpose.

It is not about the number itself, but about what God completes.



WHY IT MATTERS

The repetition of seven in Revelation assures us that everything God reveals is under His complete authority and will reach its appointed end.

**GOD BEGAN IT.
GOD CONTROLS IT.
GOD WILL
COMPLETE IT.**



SEVEN DECLARES: GOD'S PLAN IS COMPLETE, PERFECT, AND SURE.
FROM SEVEN... TO THE FULLNESS OF HIS KINGDOM.



Letter from Pliny the Younger to Emperor Trajan

(Pliny the Younger, whose Latin name was Gaius Plinius Caecilius Secundus, was a Roman senator, lawyer, author, and provincial governor. Around AD 111–113, Emperor Trajan appointed him governor of Bithynia-Pontus, in northern Asia Minor)

Meanwhile, in the case of those who were denounced to me as Christians, I have observed the following procedure: I interrogated these as to whether they were Christians; those who confessed I interrogated a second and a third time, threatening them with punishment; those who persisted I ordered executed . . .

They asserted, however, that the sum and substance of their fault or error had been that they were accustomed to meet on a fixed day before dawn and sing responsively a hymn to Christ as to a god, and to bind themselves by oath, not to some crime, but not to commit fraud, theft, or adultery, not falsify their trust, nor to refuse to return a trust when called upon to do so. When this was over, it was their custom to depart and to assemble again to partake of food — but ordinary and innocent food. Even this, they affirmed, they had ceased to do after my edict by which, in accordance with your instructions, I had forbidden political associations. Accordingly, I judged it all the more necessary to find out what the truth was by torturing two female slaves who were called deaconesses. But I discovered nothing else but depraved, excessive superstition.

I therefore postponed the investigation and hastened to consult you. For the matter seemed to me to warrant consulting you, especially because of the number involved. For many persons of every age, every rank, and also of both sexes are and will be endangered. For the contagion of this superstition has spread not only to the cities but also to the villages and farms. But it seems possible to check and cure it. It is certainly quite clear that the temples, which had been almost deserted, have begun to be frequented, that the established religious rites, long neglected, are being resumed, and that from everywhere sacrificial animals are coming, for which until now very few purchasers could be found. Hence it is easy to imagine what a multitude of people can be reformed if an opportunity for repentance is afforded.

Emperor Trajan replied as follows:

You observed proper procedure, my dear Pliny, in sifting the cases of those who had been denounced to you as Christians. For it is not possible to lay down any general rule to serve as a kind of fixed standard. They are not to be sought out; if they are denounced and proved guilty, they are to be punished, with this reservation, that whoever denies that he is a Christian and really proves it — that is, by worshiping our gods — even though he was under suspicion in the past, shall obtain pardon through repentance. But anonymously posted accusations ought to have no place in any prosecution. For this is both a dangerous kind of precedent and out of keeping with the spirit of our age.

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH AT EPHESUS

REVELATION 2:1-7



RECIPIENT:

angel of the church of Ephesus.



SENDER:

"The words of him who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks among the seven golden lampstands."



APPRAISAL – POSITIVE:

"I know your works,"

- ✓ your toil and your patient endurance, and how you cannot bear with those who are evil
- ✓ but have tested those who call themselves apostles and are not and found them to be false.
- ✓ I know you are enduring patiently and bearing up for my name's sake, and you have not grown weary.



ANOTHER POSITIVE:

"Yet this you have: you hate the works of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate."



A CALL TO RESPOND:

"Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first."



CONSEQUENCE:

If not, I will come to you and remove your candlestick (lampstand) from its place, unless you repent.



Matthew 5:14-16

¹⁴ Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵ Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. ¹⁶ Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.



APPRAISAL – NEGATIVE:

"But I have this against you, that you have abandoned the love you had at first. . . ."



AGAPĒ (LOVE) –

- Self-giving
- Committed love
- They had lost their passion
- Whole-hearted love



Matthew 22:37

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. ³⁸ This is the first and great commandment.



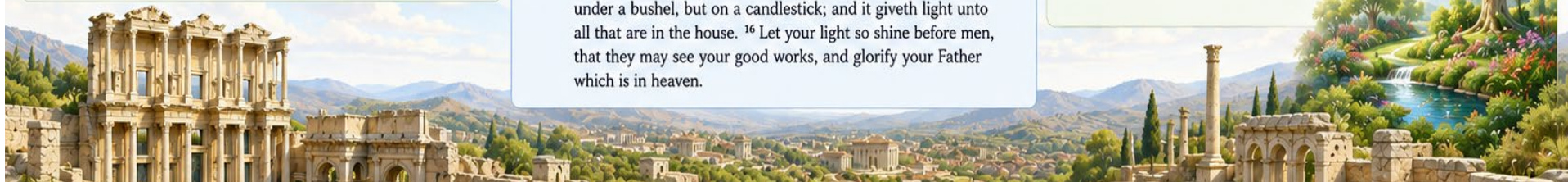
THE INJUNCTION:

"He who has an ear, let him hear. . . ."



A PROMISE:

"To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God."



SMYRNA

A PROSPEROUS CITY IN THE FIRST CENTURY A.D.



A STRATEGIC SEAPORT

- A large, beautiful and wealthy city, proud of its splendor.
- Crucial seaport of Asia Minor, terminus of trade routes extending eastward.
- Surpassed Ephesus and Pergamum in physical beauty.



ARCHITECTURAL SPLENDOR

- Crowned with temples and buildings forming an ideal acropolis—“the crown of Smyrna.”
- Famous Street of Gold ran west to east, curving around the hill with temples at each end.
- Boasted gymnasia, forums, theaters, odeons, and temples.



LOYAL TO ROME

- Built a temple honoring Roma in 195 BC—remarkably early for the region.
- In A.D. 26 secured the privilege of erecting a temple to Tiberius, Livia, and the Senate.
- Loyalty to Rome distinguished Smyrna's orientation to the West.



RELIGIOUS LANDSCAPE

- Decidedly pagan.
- Protecting divinity was a local variety of Cybele, the Sipylene Mother.
- After Jerusalem's destruction in A.D. 70, Jews became a favored and powerful settlement in the city.

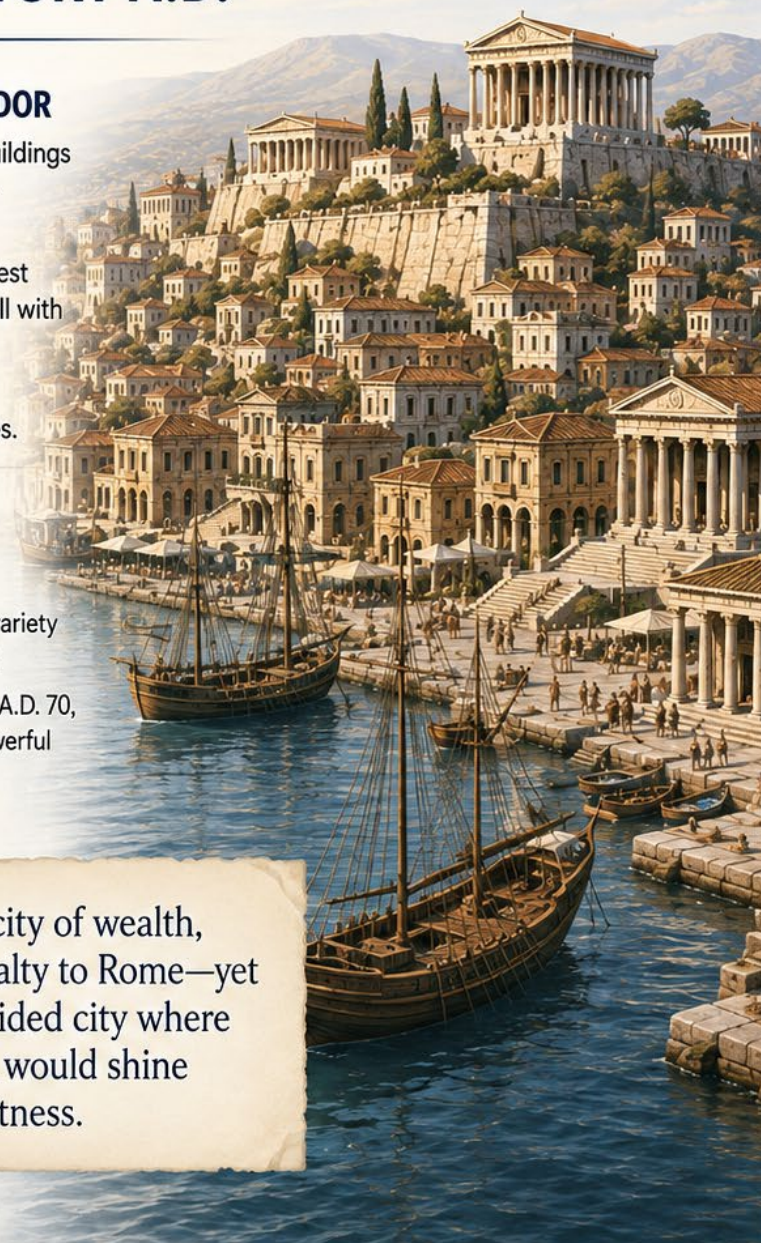


A JEWISH PRESENCE

- After A.D. 70, Jews grew powerful in Smyrna.
- Their presence created tension with the emerging Christian community.
- Jews in Smyrna proved especially hostile to Christians and informed against them before Roman officials.



Smyrna was a city of wealth, beauty, and loyalty to Rome—yet a spiritually divided city where Christ's church would shine with faithful witness.



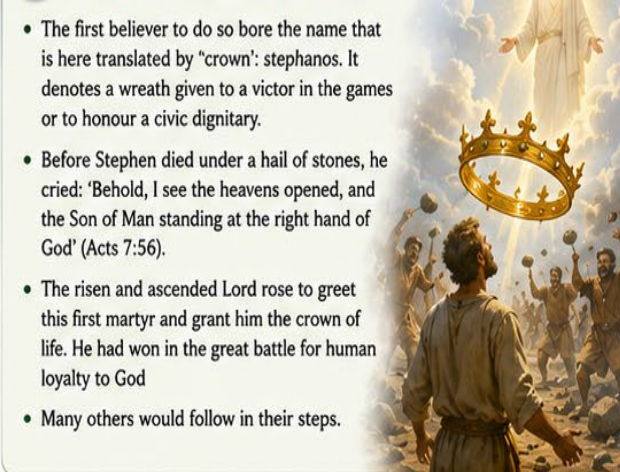
THE EVILS CHRISTIANS FACE

1 SCRIPTURE IS VERY CLEAR ON THE EXISTENCE OF THE DEVIL.



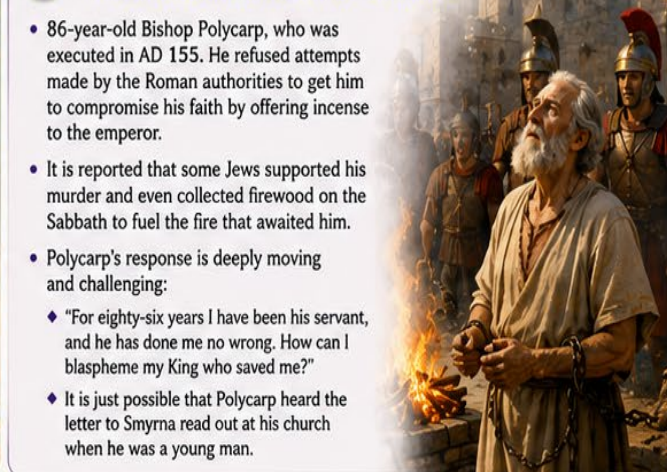
- Jesus and his apostles spoke of the devil as an evil and dangerous reality,
- a Dark Power, who is the Ruler of the World (John 14), the Prince of the power of the air (Ephesians 2.2).
- The temptation in Genesis 3 is attributed to a serpent — which then becomes a symbol of Satan in the book of Revelation

2 HOW CAN ONE FIND COURAGE TO BE FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH?



- The first believer to do so bore the name that is here translated by "crown": stephanos. It denotes a wreath given to a victor in the games or to honour a civic dignitary.
- Before Stephen died under a hail of stones, he cried: 'Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God' (Acts 7:56).
- The risen and ascended Lord rose to greet this first martyr and grant him the crown of life. He had won in the great battle for human loyalty to God
- Many others would follow in their steps.

3 ONE OF THESE MARTYRS WAS A FAMOUS INHABITANT OF SMYRNA.



- 86-year-old Bishop Polycarp, who was executed in AD 155. He refused attempts made by the Roman authorities to get him to compromise his faith by offering incense to the emperor.
- It is reported that some Jews supported his murder and even collected firewood on the Sabbath to fuel the fire that awaited him.
- Polycarp's response is deeply moving and challenging:
 - ♦ "For eighty-six years I have been his servant, and he has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"
 - ♦ It is just possible that Polycarp heard the letter to Smyrna read out at his church when he was a young man.

4 Somewhere in the world, our brothers and sisters, who are about to die for their faith in Christ and who will be with him today.



It has been calculated that **every six minutes** someone dies for their faith in Christ.



5 THE OPEN DOORS ORGANISATION RECKONED



- in 2022 that **360 million** Christians were living in countries where persecution was "significant" and
- that "roughly **5,600** Christians were murdered,
- more than **6,000** detained or imprisoned, and
- another **4,000-plus** were kidnapped.
- In addition, more than **5,000** churches and other religious facilities were destroyed'.

6 JOHN LENNOX ONCE MET A SIBERIAN BELIEVER WHO HAD BEEN INCARCERATED FOR SEVEN YEARS IN THE SOVIET GULAG FOR THE 'CRIME' OF TEACHING YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT THE CHRISTIAN FAITH.



- After telling him about some of the privations he had endured and the awful things he had seen,
- He, a man short in stature, suddenly looked up at me towering above him and said: "You couldn't have faced that, could you?"
- John was embarrassed and felt very small.
- He then said with an unforgettable smile: 'Neither could I.
- ♦ I was so fearful by nature that I would faint at the sight of my own blood if I cut myself when shaving.
- ♦ Yet the Lord brought me through the most awful of circumstances.
- ♦ For I discovered that the Lord does not help us to face such situations theoretically in advance.
- ♦ It is only when we are actually directly faced with the situations themselves that he will draw near to help, as he promised:

"Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues, and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles. When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you." Matthew 10:17-20

THE MESSAGE TO THE CHURCH IN — SMYRNA —

REVELATION 2:8–11



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**.



TO THE FAITHFUL CHURCH IN SMYRNA



Christ's eternal authority and victory
(First and Last, dead and alive)



Known and understood by Christ
(tribulation, poverty, yet spiritually rich)



Expose spiritual opposition
(the synagogue of Satan)



Encouragement in persecution
(fear none; be faithful unto death)



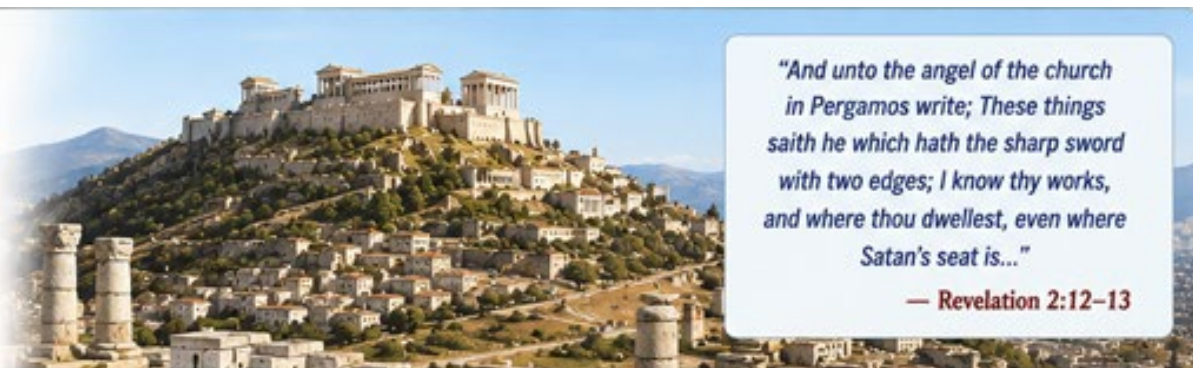
Promise of the reward
(the crown of life; no second death)

“BE THOU FAITHFUL UNTO DEATH, AND I WILL GIVE THEE A CROWN OF LIFE.”

— REVELATION 2:10 —

LIFE IN PERGAMOS

A CITY OF WEALTH, KNOWLEDGE, AND PAGAN INFLUENCE



"And unto the angel of the church in Pergamos write; These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges; I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan's seat is..."

— Revelation 2:12-13



STRATEGIC LOCATION

Pergamos stood 20 miles inland from the Aegean Sea on a river bank, approximately 50 miles north of Smyrna. [1]



WEALTH & INNOVATION

In the first century, Pergamos was a wealthy city. [1] Its prosperity rooted in intellectual and economic innovation.

When an Egyptian pharaoh banned papyrus exports, King Eumenes II is traditionally associated with the development and large-scale production of parchment—a durable writing material made by preparing animal skins, not wood. The name parchment is derived from Pergamum (Latin *pergamenum*), reflecting the city's importance as a manufacturing center.



LIBRARY & PRIDE

This prosperity bred cultural pride. The city was filled with arrogant, self-centered people obsessed with knowledge through books, and its library contained more than 200,000 volumes, making it one of the largest of its day. [1] Egypt's concern over this rival library led to the development of parchment as an alternative writing material. [2] During Roman dominance, Pergamos became the capital of the Roman province of Asia. [2]



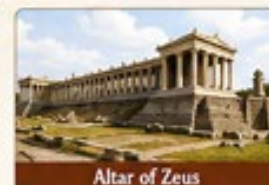
RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY

• Seleucus likely settled Jews in Thyatira, and Lydia had come within the synagogue's circle, possibly in her native city. [1]

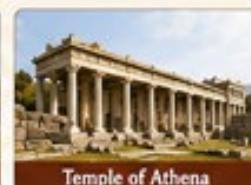


A MAJOR CENTER OF PAGAN RELIGION

• The acropolis featured an immense altar to **Zeus**, serving as the city's religious focal point, with the beautiful temple of Athena nearby. [3]



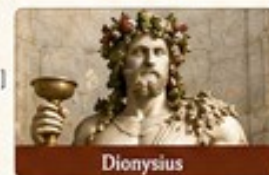
Altar of Zeus



Temple of Athena



• The people also worshipped **Dionysius** and **Asclepius**, the Greek god of medicine. [1]



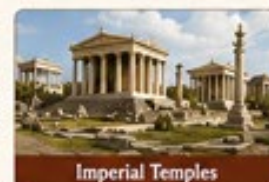
Dionysius



Asclepius



• Pergamos was not only a government center with three imperial temples but also the site of the temple of **Asklepios** and a medical center where the physician **Galen** worked around AD 160. [2]



Imperial Temples



Asclepion (Medical Center)



• Pergamos was a center where emperor worship—a form of loyalty pledged to the Roman emperor—was practiced. [2]



Emperor Worship



A SPIRITUALLY HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT

This religious landscape made the city spiritually hostile to Christian faith, explaining why Christ identified it as the place "where Satan dwells."

[1] John MacArthur, *Twelve Ordinary Men* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2004). [2] Nelson's *Illustrated Bible Dictionary*, Thomas Nelson, 1995. [3] William Smith, *Dictionary of Greek and Roman Antiquities*, 1875.

ANTIPAS THE MARTYR

THE FAITHFUL WITNESS OF PERGAMUM



LEADER OF THE CHURCH IN PERGAMUM

Antipas was undoubtedly a leader of the house churches in Pergamum. Like Jesus, who is called the “faithful witness” (Revelation 1:5), Antipas is called “my faithful witness”—both gave up their lives because of their witness.



WHY HE WAS PUT TO DEATH

Antipas was probably put to death for his refusal to acknowledge Caesar as Lord and to swear to the genius of Caesar—the same charge that would later claim other Christian leaders.

The governor of Asia, with his seat at Pergamum, had a direct role in ordering the death of Antipas.



WHAT THE BIBLE TELLS US

Beyond these details, the biblical text offers little about Antipas. Revelation 2:13 is the only mention of his name in Scripture.



“These things saith he which hath the sharp sword with two edges... I know thy works... and in those days there was a faithful martyr, Antipas.”

— Revelation 2:12–13

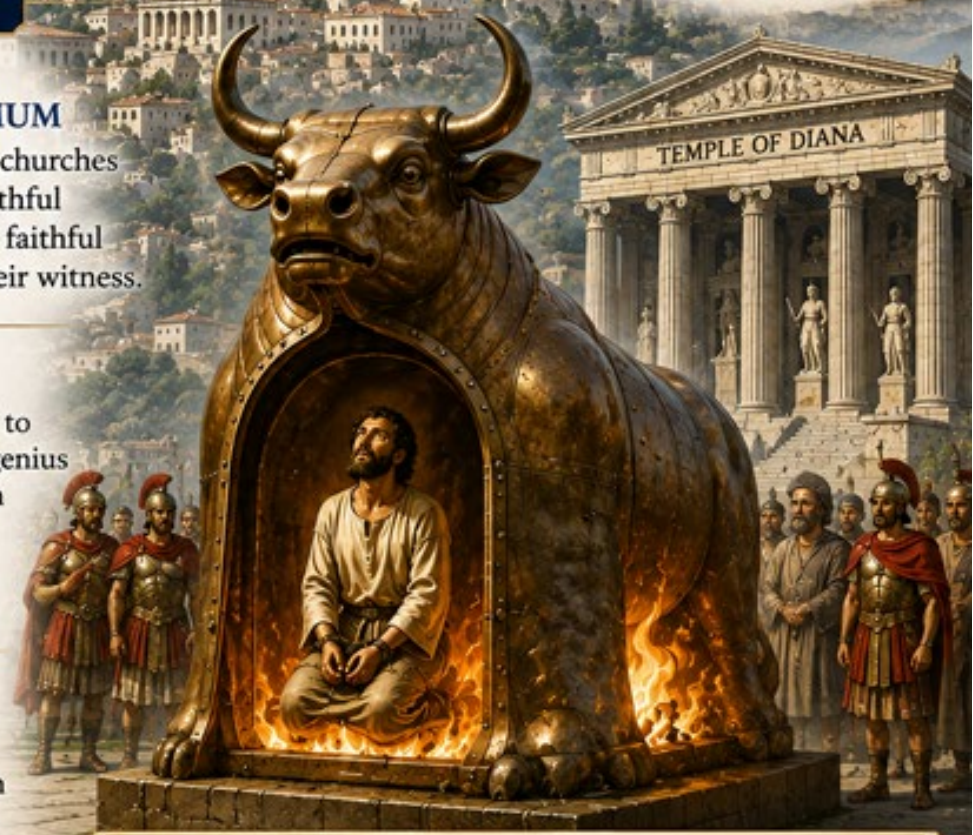
“And in those days there was a faithful martyr, Antipas, who was slain among you, where Satan dwelleth.”

— Revelation 2:13



LATER GREEK TRADITION

Greek tradition made him bishop of Pergamum, martyred under Domitian by being thrown into a brazen bull which stood at the temple of Diana, and so roasted alive.



THE MESSAGE TO PERGAMOS

REVELATION 2:12-17

"These things saith he
which hath the sharp
sword with two edges."
— Revelation 2:12

12 HE WHO HAS THE SHARP SWORD WITH TWO EDGES

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



- The sword symbolized Jesus' power to judge and conquer his enemies.



- The Roman proconsul exercised the power of the sword from his judgment seat in Pergamum. He had the power of persecution, but not ultimate power.



- Only Christ is the ultimate wielder of power. What if Christ's enemies are found among those who profess his name but have actually turned astray to heresy? He will turn that same sword against them.

13 YOU DWELL WHERE SATAN'S SEAT IS

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.



- "Satan's seat" – Satan's throne.
- They lived where Satan has his throne. This may refer to the great temple of Asclepius, a pagan god of healing represented in the form of a serpent.



- Antipas – a faithful martyr.
 - Antipas was a faithful witness.
 - He stood up for Jesus and it cost him his life.
 - Greek tradition says he was the bishop of Pergamum.
 - He was thrown into a brazen bull and roasted alive at the temple of Diana.



14 THE DOCTRINE OF BALAAM

But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of **Balaam**, who taught **Balak** to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

- Balaam** had been guilty of counseling King **Balak** to cause Israel to sin through intermarriage with heathen women and through idol-worship (Num. 22-25; 31:15-16)



15 THE DOCTRINE OF THE NICOLAITANS

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



- Practiced immorality and idol worshiped and declared they could do it because of grace.
- Attitudes:
 - "All that matters is LOVE"
 - "Do it, you are free"
- 1 Timothy 6:5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.
- Jesus hated this doctrine.

16 REPENT, OR ELSE...

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



- Again, Jesus gives the opportunity to repent.

17 A PROMISE TO OVERCOMERS

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.



- He promises a reward.
- Hidden manna – Christ will provide our sustenance.
- A white stone with a new name written on it.
 - In ancient legal systems, black and white stones conveyed guilty or innocent verdicts, with jurors casting either stone into an urn, suggesting the white stone could symbolize divine acquittal.
 - Also, white stones functioned as admission tickets to theaters, banquets, and events, a view that fits well with the context of eating hidden manna, suggesting an admission ticket to the future messianic banquet with a new name written on it.
 - The name will indicate what God knows to be true of you, from your strengths and gifts to the problems you've overcome, with no inaccuracies, unlike earthly names our parents give us.
 - Names often indicated your character or your mission in life.



PERGAMOS – A CITY OF CONTRAST

- Magnificent temples, libraries, and wealth
- Center of emperor worship and pagan religion
- Yet, a church that held fast the name of Christ even in the midst of spiritual compromise



CHRIST'S AUTHORITY IS SUPREME

He sees everything. He knows the truth. He calls for repentance, warns of judgment, and promises eternal rewards to those who overcome.

"The one who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels."

— Revelation 3:5



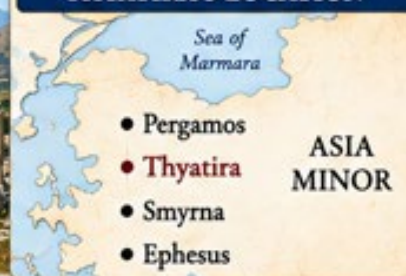
LIFE IN THYATIRA

A STRATEGIC CITY OF TRADE, CRAFT, AND COMPROMISE

"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." — Revelation 2:18



THYATIRA'S LOCATION



STRATEGIC LOCATION

- Thyatira occupied a valley connecting the Hermus and Caicus rivers, on the left bank of a stream flowing southward through this passage.
- An important road ran through this valley—the direct route between Constantinople and Smyrna, the same path the railway would later follow.
- The city was a station on the Imperial Post Road linking major centers from Brundisium through Constantinople to Alexandria.



FOUNDATION AS A MILITARY GARRISON

- Seleucus, founder of the Seleucid dynasty, established Thyatira between 300 and 282 BC as a military garrison, populating it with Macedonian soldiers to defend against Lysimachus's northern kingdom.
- Though positioned weakly, the city functioned as a garrison requiring careful fortification and deliberate cultivation of military values.



A MIXED POPULATION

- Seleucus likely settled Jews in Thyatira.
- Lydia, a seller of purple dyes in Philippi, had come within the synagogue's circle, possibly in her native city.

TYRIMNOS – THE CITY'S PROTECTING GOD

The hero Tyrimnos, depicted on coins as a mounted warrior with a battle-axe, was the city's protecting god and divine ancestor, identified with the sun-god and called Pythian Apollo—exemplifying the blend of Anatolian and Greek religious concepts common in Asia Minor.



Coin of Thyatira – Tyrimnos



GUILDS AND PAGAN RELIGION

- The guilds maintained close connections with local pagan religion.
- They sponsored feasts associated with immoral practices that fundamentally opposed Christian values.
- These pressures created constant tension for believers seeking to remain faithful in a culture of compromise.



A CITY OF CRAFTSMANSHIP AND TRADE

- Thyatira thrived through specialized craftsmanship, especially wool-dyeing processes.
- Established guilds included: bakers, dyers, tanners, textile workers, potters, wool merchants, slave traders, shoemakers, and coppersmiths.
- Trade guilds achieved their most complete organization here—every artisan belonged to one.
- Each guild operated as an incorporated entity, possessing property, making contracts, and wielding considerable influence.
- The dyers' guild was particularly powerful.
- Lydia, who sold purple dyes in Philippi, likely belonged to this organization.



DYEING
(PURPLE DYES)



TEXTILES
AND WEAVING



POTTERY



TANNER
WORKS



COPPERSMITH
WORKS



KEY TAKEAWAY

Thyatira was a prosperous and strategic city—but its wealth, guild system, and religious culture pressured believers to compromise. In this environment, Christ calls His church to hold fast His truth and not be seduced by the ways of the world.

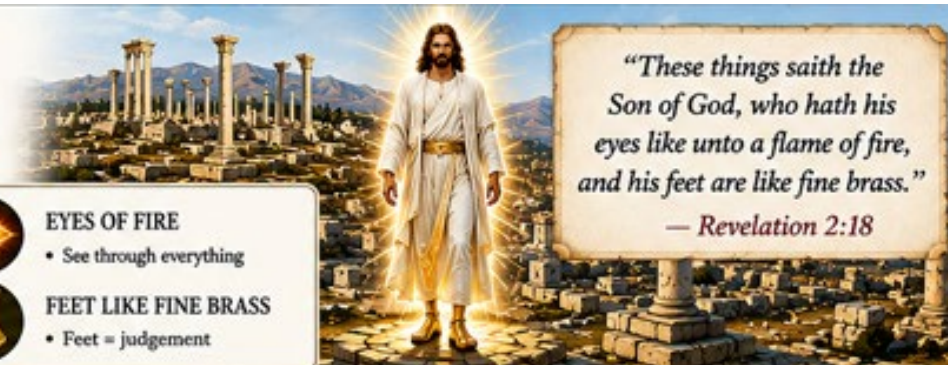


A CITY OF STRATEGY, SKILL, AND SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

Thyatira's story reminds us that faithfulness in a compromised culture requires courage, discernment, and devotion to Christ alone.

MESSAGE TO CHURCH AT THYATIRA

REVELATION 2:18-29



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**;



EYES OF FIRE

- See through everything



FEET LIKE FINE BRASS

- Feet = judgement

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.

- He didn't say they left their first love.

20



Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.

- Their Main Issue is Tolerance.
 - "because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols."
 - We can't imagine.
 - Churches are accepting gay lifestyle and making it "normal" – "OK"
 - They seek to cancel, ridicule, and even persecute those who don't endorse.



23



And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works.

- Note: It is future tense.
- "her children" – Her follows. The one who accepted her doctrine.
- "reins and hearts" – emotions & intellect.
- You will reap what you sow.



24



But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden.

- Not everyone in the church at Thyatira followed this teaching.
- "Depth of Satan" – This is the deepest, **ULTIMATE**, doctrine of Satan.
 - Immorality is an attack on God's plan.
 - It is idolatry at its core.



21



And I gave her space to repent of her fornication; and she repented not.

- Note: In this horrible sin... God gave space to repent.
- It doesn't matter the sin you carry, even if it is the depths of Satan, Our heavenly father wants us to repent.
- Tolerance is **NOT A VIRTUE**.
 - This doesn't mean we become the Gestapo against it.
 - But we should never condone it. We should always when asked to give an account, stand and **TELL THE TRUTH**.



22



Behold, I will cast her into a bed, and them that commit adultery with her into great tribulation, except they repent of their deeds.

- This "bed" can mean one of 2 things:
 - A bed of sickness
 - A funeral bier, a stand for a coffin.



25

But that which ye have already hold fast till I come.

- "I will put upon you none other burden" – If you are standing firm, just hold on, I am coming.



26



And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

27

And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

28

And I will give him the morning star.



PROMISE OF REWARDS

29



He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

- **LISTEN** – This is not a request.



KEY TAKEAWAY

Christ commends Thyatira for their love, service, faith, and endurance—but warns against tolerating false teaching and sin. He calls for repentance, truth, and faithfulness, and promises glorious eternal rewards to those who overcome.



THE HEART OF THE MESSAGE

- ✓ Christ knows everything—He sees, judges, and searches the heart.
- ✓ Tolerance of sin leads to judgement; repentance brings mercy.
- ✓ Stand firm in truth and good works.
- ✓ Faithful overcomers will share in Christ's authority and glory.

TOLERANCE DILUTES THE GOSPEL

Compromise today leads to confusion tomorrow
— Truth cannot be diluted without consequence.



TOLERANCE

- ✓ COMPROMISE
- ✓ RELATIVISM
- ✓ WORLDLY VALUES
- ✓ FALSE TEACHING



**TOLERANCE OF ERROR TODAY
LEADS TO A LOST TOMORROW**

Stand firm. Hold fast to the truth. Do not be seduced.

Revelation 2:20



REVELATION 2:20

Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idol



JOHN 14:6

Jesus saith unto him, **I am the way, the truth, and the life:** no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.



ACTS 4:12

Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is **none other name** under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.



1 TIMOTHY 2:5

For there is one God, and **one mediator** between God and men, the **man Christ Jesus;**



The Gospel is not a suggestion — it is the **only** way to the Father. Do not trade **eternal** truth for temporary acceptance.

I. Introduction and Personal Appeal

The speaker opens with a request for prayer regarding personal spiritual attacks and upcoming "drastic measures" planned for after September 8th. The session is identified as the eighth lesson in a broader study, transitioning from the church at Ephesus to the churches at Pergamus and Thyatira.

II. The Church at Pergamus: The Compromised Church

- **Historical Context:** Pergamus was a wealthy, intellectual center known for its library of 200,000 volumes and the invention of parchment. It was a hub for pagan worship (Zeus, Athena, Dionysus) and the cult of the Emperor.
- **The Character of Christ:** Jesus is presented as He who has the "sharp sword with two edges," representing both protection for the faithful and judgment for the wayward.
- **Commendation and Martyrdom:** The church is praised for holding fast to Christ's name in the place "where Satan dwells." The speaker highlights Antipas, a faithful martyr who, according to tradition, was roasted alive in a brazen bull.
- **The Rebukes:**
 - **Doctrine of Balaam:** Rebuked for stumbling blocks, specifically intermarriage with pagans and idol worship.
 - **Doctrine of the Nicolaitans:** Rebuked for abusing grace to justify immorality and dishonesty.
- **The Promise:** Overcomers are promised "hidden manna" and a "white stone" with a new name, symbolizing innocence and admission to the marriage supper of the Lamb.

III. The Church at Thyatira: The Tolerant Church

- **Historical Context:** A strategic military and commercial city famous for its trade guilds (bakers, tanners, and dyers of purple). Membership in these guilds often required participation in pagan festivals.
- **The Character of Christ:** Described with "eyes like a flame of fire" (omniscience) and "feet like fine brass" (divine judgment).
- **The Primary Conflict:** The church is rebuked for "suffering" (tolerating) a woman referred to as Jezebel, who led servants into fornication and idolatry.
- **The Danger of Tolerance:** The speaker argues that modern tolerance of lifestyles contrary to scripture (specifically LGBTQ+ identities) is a form of idol worship and a failure of the church's duty to stand for truth.
- **The Promise:** Those who hold fast and overcome are promised power over the nations and the "morning star."

Key Scripture References

- **Matthew 5:14-16:** "Ye are the light of the world... Let your light shine before men." (Used to illustrate the "candlestick" as a believer's testimony).
- **Revelation 2:12-17:** The message to the church in Pergamus.
- **Revelation 2:18-29:** The message to the church in Thyatira.
- **2 Corinthians 11:14:** "Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light." (Warning against deceptive ideologies).
- **John 14:6:** "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."
- **Acts 4:12:** "Neither is there salvation in any other."
- **1 Timothy 2:5:** "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."

Audience Reflection Section

- **The Cost of Faith:** Are you prepared for a day when standing for Jesus will cost you your reputation, your livelihood, or your life, as it did for Antipas?
- **The Trap of "Grace":** Do you use the concept of grace as a license to continue in dishonesty or immorality, or does it lead you to repentance?
- **The Definition of Tolerance:** The speaker distinguishes between *deference* (yielding to a brother on opinions) and *tolerance* (accepting sin). Where in your life have you mistaken the two?
- **The White Stone:** Reflect on the promise of a "new name" known only to God. What does it mean to be found "innocent" by the ultimate Judge?

Actionable Takeaways

1. **Protect the Testimony:** Repent of any loss of "first love" to ensure your "candlestick" (testimony) is not removed.
2. **Reject False Doctrines:** Withdraw from "perverse disputings" that suggest gain is godliness or that all paths lead to God.
3. **Practice Spiritual Discernment:** Be wary of "good labels" (like justice or love) being used to package ideologies that contradict the Word of God.
4. **Hold Fast:** For those already walking in truth, the command is simple: "that which ye have already hold fast till I come." No other burden is required than remaining faithful to the Word.

LIFE IN SARDIS

TRADE • PEOPLE • FAITH • CULTURE

A WEALTHY, COSMOPOLITAN
ROMAN CITY
AT THE CROSSROADS
OF THE ANCIENT WORLD

A CITY OF OPPORTUNITY

ACROPOLIS
(CITADEL)

THEATER
(20,000 SEATS)

GYMNASIUM
AND BATHS

ARTEMIS

GOODS
IDEAS
PEOPLES
FAITHS
A BRIGHTER
TOMORROW

TO EPHEBUS →
TO THE AEGEAN →
TO ANATOLIA →
TO ROME →



TEXTILES & DYE WORKS

Famed for its crimson wool and fine textiles, traded throughout the region.



TRADE HUB

At the crossroads between the Aegean coast and inland Anatolia.



GRAND PUBLIC BUILDINGS

Theater, stadium, gymnasium-baths, aqueducts, and temples, including the Temple of Artemis.



A DIVERSE POPULATION

Pagan, Jewish, and Christian communities lived side by side in a cosmopolitan city.



REBUILT AFTER AD 17

A devastating earthquake damaged the city, but it was rebuilt with imperial support.



DAILY LIFE

Homes, workshops, and markets bustling with residents, merchants, travelers, and officials.

The Message to the Church at **SARDIS**

A NAME TO LIVE | A CALL TO WAKE | A PROMISE TO OVERCOMERS

"These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars..."

Revelation 3:1

"He that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars."

Revelation 3:1



1. CHRIST'S IDENTIFICATION (v. 1)



- These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars.
- I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.

2. THE WARNING (v. 2)



- Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die.
- For I have not found thy works perfect before God.

3. THE INSTRUCTION (v. 3)



- Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard.
- And hold fast, and repent.
- If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

4. THE FAITHFUL REMNANT (v. 4)



- Thou hast a few names even in Sardis which have not defiled their garments.
- And they shall walk with me in white: for they are worthy.

5. THE PROMISE (v. 5)



- He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment.
- I will not blot out his name out of the book of life.
- But I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

6. THE FINAL EXHORTATION (v. 6)



- He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

WAKE • REPENT • HOLD FAST • OVERCOME

REVELATION 3:1-6

LIFE IN PHILADELPHIA

A STRATEGIC CITY • A CULTURAL BRIDGE • A FAITHFUL REMNANT

"A city set on a hill cannot be hid."

Matthew 5:14

Temples and public buildings earned the name "Little Athens."

Towering cliffs and a volcanic setting

Philadelphia occupied a terrace 650 feet above sea level in ancient Lydia, positioned on the Cogamus River, about 105 miles from Smyrna.

Cogamus River



LOCATION

- On a terrace 650 feet above sea level in ancient Lydia
- Positioned on the Cogamus River
- About 105 miles from Smyrna



A CULTURAL BRIDGE

- Founded by Attalus II (159–138 BC) as a missionary city
- Promoted Greek language, customs, and loyalty throughout the region
- By AD 19, the native Lydian language had disappeared, replaced by Greek



FERTILE LAND

- Surrounded by exceptionally fertile land
- Renowned for its high-quality wine, praised by the Roman poet Virgil



FREQUENT EARTHQUAKES

- Regular tremors due to volcanic setting
- Many lived in huts outside the city rather than risk building collapse
- A major earthquake in AD 17 destroyed the city
- Rebuilt by Emperor Tiberius, who temporarily named it Neocaesarea

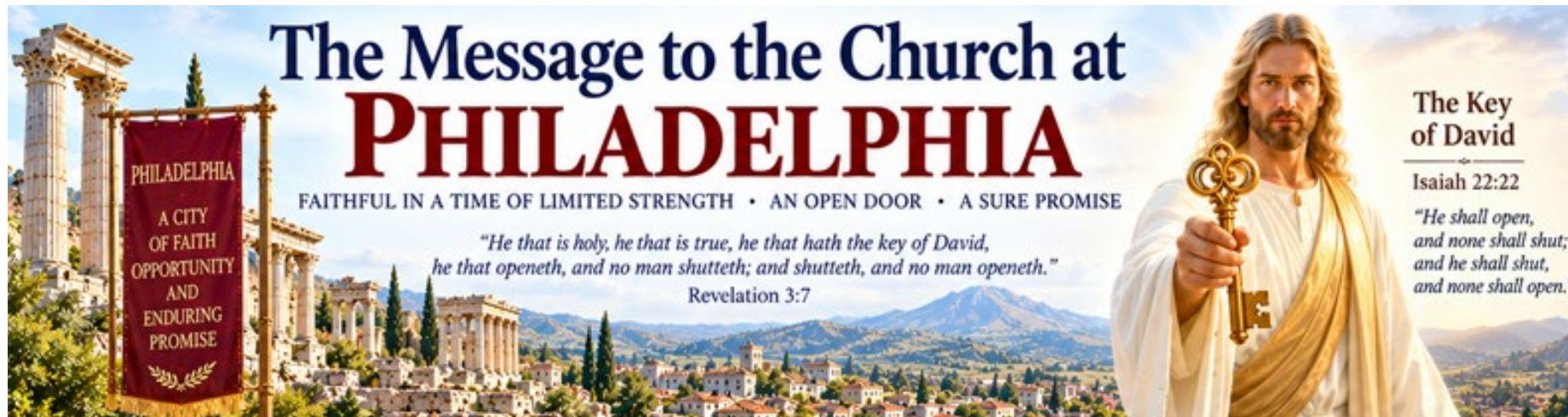


A DIVERSE POPULATION

- Greco-Roman and indigenous Anatolian religions blended
- Deities included Artemis, Zeus, Dionysus, Hecate, Apollo, Asclepius, Cybele, and Nike
- A Jewish community also lived in the city
- A center of trade, culture, and religious diversity



Philadelphia – Where Cultures Met, Faith Endured, and Opportunity Flourished.



The Message to the Church at PHILADELPHIA

FAITHFUL IN A TIME OF LIMITED STRENGTH • AN OPEN DOOR • A SURE PROMISE

*"He that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David,
he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth."*

Revelation 3:7

The Key of David

Isaiah 22:22

*"He shall open,
and none shall shut;
and he shall shut,
and none shall open."*

1. CHRIST'S IDENTIFICATION (v. 7)

- He that is holy
- He that is true
- He that hath the key of David
- He that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth.

Revelation 3:7 | Isaiah 22:22



2. COMMENDATION (v. 8)

- I know thy works.
- I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it.
- Thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Revelation 3:8



3. OPPOSITION AND VINDICATION (v. 9)

- I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie.
- I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

Revelation 3:9 | Isaiah 49:23



4. A PROMISE OF PROTECTION (v. 10)

- Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

Revelation 3:10



5. AN URGENT EXHORTATION (v. 11)

- Behold, I come quickly:
- Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Revelation 3:11



6. A GLORIOUS REWARD (v. 12)

- Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out:
- and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Revelation 3:12



7. A FINAL CALL (v. 13)



"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

Revelation 3:13

LISTEN

FAITHFUL TODAY • AN OPEN DOOR TOMORROW • ETERNITY FOREVER

REVELATION 3:7-13

Message to Philadelphia 47

Smyrna

A Faithful Church
in the Midst
of Suffering

*"Be thou faithful
unto death, and I will
give thee a crown of life."*
Revelation 2:10



Smyrna
Faithful in
Tribulation

Differences Between the Messages to SMYRNA and PHILADELPHIA

TWO FAITHFUL CHURCHES • NO CRITICISM • EXTERNAL OPPOSITION
DIFFERENT CHALLENGES • DIFFERENT PROMISES

SMYRNA (Revelation 2:8-11)	ASPECT	PHILADELPHIA (Revelation 3:7-13)
The first and the last, which was dead, and is alive (v. 8)	 CHRIST'S IDENTITY	He that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David (v. 7)
I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty (but thou art rich) (v. 9)	 COMMENDATION	I know thy works... thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name. (v. 8)
Active persecution, tribulation, poverty, and imprisonment (v. 9-10)	 MAJOR CHALLENGE	Opposition from the synagogue of Satan (v. 9); limited strength and exclusion from commerce
Those claiming to be Jews but are the synagogue of Satan (v. 9)	 OPPOSITION	Those claiming to be Jews but are the synagogue of Satan (v. 9)
Poverty (but spiritually rich) (v. 9)	 MATERIAL CONDITION	Little strength; economically marginalized (unable to buy or sell)
Fear none of those things... Be thou faithful unto death (v. 10)	 EXHORTATION	Hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. (v. 11)
A crown of life (v. 10-11); shall not be hurt of the second death (v. 11)	 PROMISE	An open door (v. 8); protection from the hour of temptation (v. 10); a pillar in the temple of God (v. 12)
Endurance through suffering	 FOCUS	Opportunity and authority for service
Martyrdom and reward	 ULTIMATE OUTCOME	Vindication, protection, and eternal stability

Philadelphia

A Faithful Church
with an Open Door

*"Behold, I have set
before thee an open door,
and no man can shut it."*
Revelation 3:8



Philadelphia
Faithful in
Opportunity

*Both Smyrna and Philadelphia remain faithful under pressure.
Smyrna receives comfort amid imminent suffering, while Philadelphia receives assurance of vindication and future exaltation.*

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
Revelation 3:13

Introduction: The Call to Remember

The speaker opens by adjusting the teaching schedule for the study of the Seven Churches of Revelation. The focus is shifted to two specific churches: Sardis and Philadelphia. A central theme is established: the necessity of remembering God's past faithfulness to maintain faith in His future promises.

I. The Church in Sardis: The Appearance of Life

- **Historical Context:** Sardis was a wealthy commercial hub famous for its textile industry and "crimson wool." Despite its prosperity and grand public buildings (theaters, stadiums, and temples), the city was significantly impacted by a devastating earthquake in A.D. 17.
- **The Spiritual Diagnosis:** Jesus describes Sardis as having a reputation for being alive while actually being "dead." The speaker likens them to "Christian Sadducees"—aristocratic, proper, and focused on "putting on a show" rather than spiritual vitality.
- **The Remedy:** The congregation is commanded to "be watchful," "remember," and "repent." The speaker emphasizes that if one cannot remember what God has done (e.g., the Exodus, the Red Sea), they cannot believe in what He will do.
- **The Promise:** A faithful remnant exists who have not "defiled their garments." They are promised white raiment and the assurance that their names will not be blotted out of the Lamb's Book of Life.

II. The Church in Philadelphia: The Open Door

- **Historical Context:** Located in a volcanic region, Philadelphia was established as a "missionary city" to spread Greek culture. Due to frequent tremors, many residents lived in huts outside the city for safety.
- **The Spiritual Commendation:** Unlike Sardis, Philadelphia receives no rebuke. Jesus presents Himself as the one holding the "Key of David," who opens doors that no man can shut.
- **The Mission:** Despite having "little strength," the church kept God's word and did not deny His name. They are promised protection from the "hour of temptation" coming upon the world.
- **The Promise:** Overcomers are promised to be made "pillars" in the temple of God, inscribed with the name of God and the New Jerusalem.

Conclusion: Courage in the Modern Day

The speaker concludes by contrasting the persecution faced by Smyrna with the "open door" of Philadelphia. The message transitions to a modern context, citing contemporary martyrs in Nigeria and local examples of faith under fire. The final call is for courage and faithfulness to the name of Jesus.

Key Scripture References

- **Revelation 3:1-6:** The message to the church in Sardis.
 - **Revelation 3:7-13:** The message to the church in Philadelphia.
 - **Deuteronomy 8:2:** The command to remember the forty years in the wilderness to humble and prove the heart.
 - **Isaiah 22:22:** The prophecy regarding the Key of the House of David.
 - **Revelation 20:12:** The opening of the books and the Book of Life at the final judgment.
 - **Philippians 4:11-13:** Paul's testimony on being content in all states through Christ's strength.
 - **Matthew 10:16-22:** Jesus' warning that believers will be hated and delivered up for His name's sake.
-

Audience Reflection Section

- **Diagnostic Question:** Does your spiritual life rely on a "reputation" or "show," or is there genuine vitality?
 - **Memory as Fuel:** Can you list three specific instances where God provided for you in the past? How does recalling these events change your perspective on your current anxieties?
 - **The Open Door:** Are you looking for the "open doors" of opportunity to share your faith, or are you focused on the "closed doors" of cultural opposition?
 - **The Book of Life:** Is your confidence for the future based on your own works (the "other books") or on your name being written in the Lamb's Book of Life?
-

Actionable Takeaways

- **Practice Active Remembrance:** When facing a new trial, intentionally recount past deliverances to bolster faith.
- **Hold Fast to the Word:** Prioritize the preservation of scripture in daily life, as this was the primary reason for Philadelphia's commendation.
- **Prepare for the "Hour of Temptation":** Maintain spiritual watchfulness, recognizing that faithfulness today builds the strength needed for future trials.
- **Reject Complacency:** Avoid the "Sardis condition" by seeking a spiritual awakening rather than settling for religious tradition or social acceptance.

LIFE IN LAODICEA

A WEALTHY CITY • A MAJOR TRADE CENTER • A PROUD AND INDEPENDENT PEOPLE

*"A city rich in goods,
yet in need of living water."*

— Revelation 3:17 —



*Monumental buildings
reflected the city's wealth
and Roman influence.*

*Strategically located
at the intersection of major
trade routes in Anatolia.*



A MAJOR FINANCIAL AND TRADE HUB

- Strategic location at the crossroads of major trade routes
- Commerce in marble, livestock, wine, and textiles
- Well-developed banking system (Cicero exchanged letters of credit here)



FAMOUS TEXTILE INDUSTRY

- Produced raven-black wool
- Made into sleeved tunics, hooded cloaks, and carpets
- Renowned throughout the Roman world



A CENTER FOR MEDICINE

- Renowned medical school, especially ophthalmology (eye care)
- Nearby temple of Mên Carus produced medical compounds for ear and eye treatment



NO NATURAL WATER SOURCE

- Water transported six miles through stone pipes from Denizli
- Arrived at the city as tepid (lukewarm) water
- Despite its wealth, the city lacked fresh, natural water sources



A DIVERSE POPULATION

- Sizable Jewish community (permitted to observe the Sabbath and maintain sacred rites)
- Jewish residents were likely less Torah-observant due to long-term separation and assimilation
- Worship of various pagan deities: Zeus, Dionysus, Helios, Hera, and Athena



RAVEN-BLACK WOOL
Laodicea's textiles were famous throughout the region.



BANKING AND COMMERCE
So developed that Cicero exchanged letters of credit here.



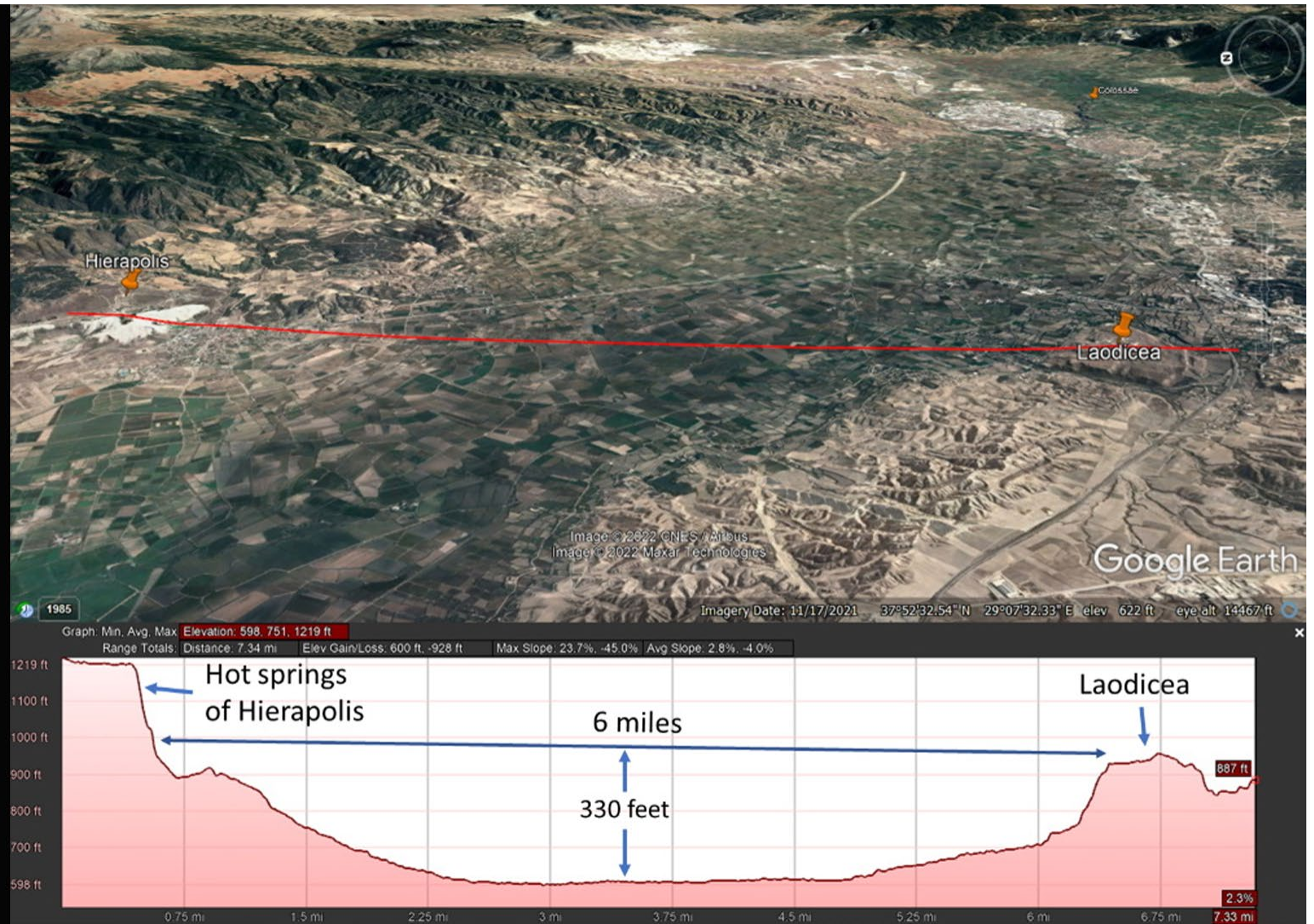
MEDICAL EXCELLENCE
A leading center for eye care and medicine.



TEPID WATER
Water traveled six miles, arriving lukewarm.

WEALTH • COMMERCE • CULTURE • YET SPIRITUALLY CHALLENGED

Water traveled
6 miles falling
and rising 330
feet. The
engineering
feat was a
marvel in its
day.



Terrain of Laodicean Water System 0051

Laodicean Water System



© 2014 Dr. David E. Graves

Laodicean Water System 0052

Laodicean Water System



Laodicean Water System (2) 0053

The Water for Laodicea

An ingenious but flawed system that delivered lukewarm water to the city.

SOUTH OF LAODICEA
Water springs
(Baspinar region)

Aqueduct / channel
Water flowed by gravity toward the city.

High point / header tank
Water collected at a high elevation before continuing down into the valley.

Pressurized stone pipes
(Roman "inverted siphon" system)

Stone pipes carried water under pressure across the valley and up the far side.

LAODICEA WATER DISTRIBUTION TANK
(*castellum aquae*)

Water arrived at the city and was stored in a distribution tank (*castellum aquae*) before being sent to different areas.

Homes and businesses



Supplied water to homes, shops, and businesses.

Baths and public sites



Provided water for bathhouses and public buildings.

Fountains and city facilities



Supplied water to fountains and other city facilities.

Like its water, the church at Laodicea was spiritually lukewarm, neither zealous nor refreshed, and so was found unacceptable to the Lord.

Revelation 3:16 (KJV)

Message to Laodicea

Revelation 3:14–22

SLIDE 06

A Church
That Had It All —
But Lacked Christ

Ruins of Laodicea

The Amen,
the faithful and true witness,
the beginning of the
creation of God.

Revelation 3:14

1 Christ Introduces Himself (v. 14)

"These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God."

- **The Amen** – Christ is the divine "Yes" to all of God's promises (Isa 65:16; 2 Cor 1:20).
- **The faithful and true witness** – Perfectly trustworthy, in contrast to Laodicea's unfaithfulness.
- **The beginning of the creation of God** – Christ's pre-existence and cosmic authority (Col 1:15–18).

2 Their Lukewarm Condition (v. 15–16)

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot... I will spue thee out of my mouth."

- Christ condemns their spiritual indifference.
- Lukewarm provokes His rejection.
- He would prefer outright opposition to half-hearted faith.

3 Self-Sufficiency and Spiritual Poverty (v. 17)

"Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"

- A prosperous city, but a self-reliant church.
- They functioned without daily dependence on the Lord.
- Start depending on God.

Proverbs 3:5–6 (KJV)

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;
And lean not unto thine own understanding.
6 In all thy ways acknowledge him,
And he shall direct thy paths.

Psalms 62:5–8 (KJV)

5 My soul, wait thou only upon God;
For my expectation is from him.
6 He only is my rock and my salvation.
7 In God is my salvation and my glory:
The rock of my strength, and my refuge,
is in God.
8 Trust in him at all times; ye people,
Pour out your heart before him:
God is a refuge for us. Selah.

7 The Promise to Overcomers (v. 21)

"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne."

- Believers will share His throne and authority.
- Not merely a reward, but participatory governance.
- A radical elevation of the redeemed into Christ's own position of cosmic authority.

8 A Command to Listen (v. 22)

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."

- **A COMMAND TO LISTEN!**

4 Christ's Counsel (v. 18)

"I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire... and white raiment... and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see."



Gold Tried in the Fire

Faith tested through trials proves more precious than gold.
1 Peter 1:7



White Raiment

Signifies holiness – a pure walk.



Eyesalve

Heal your eyes to see things the way God does.

The Water at Laodicea

Hierapolis Hot springs



Hot, mineral springs

Hot water could be useful for bathing and therapeutic purposes.

Colossae Cool water



Cooler water from the higher terrain

Cold water could be refreshing and life-giving.

Laodicea Lukewarm water



Imported, mineral-bearing water supply

Water could become unappealing and unsuitable for refreshing use.

Like its water, the church at Laodicea was spiritually lukewarm, neither zealous nor refreshed, and so was found unacceptable to the Lord.

5 Discipline from a Loving Christ (v. 19)

"As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent."

- Discipline does not mean He doesn't love them – it means He loves them.
- Hebrews 12:5–6 – "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth..."

6 Christ Still Stands at the Door (v. 20)

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

- Laodicea had shut Christ out.
- He still wants to come in, but He is not forcing His way in.
- He offers intimate fellowship to those who hear His voice and open to Him.



Will you open the door?

Laodicea's Lukewarm Water

Sourced from
Hot & Cold

Three Cities
Three Sources
One Message

*"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot:
I would thou wert cold or hot."*

Revelation 3:15 (KJV)

Ruins of Laodicea

Hierapolis Hot Springs



Well-known association
Hot, mineral springs

Teaching value

- Hot water could be useful for bathing and therapeutic purposes.

Colossae Cool Water



Well-known association
Cooler water from the higher terrain

Teaching value

- Cold water could be refreshing and life-giving.

Laodicea Lukewarm Water



Well-known association
Imported, mineral-bearing water supply

Teaching value

- Water could become unappealing and unsuitable for refreshing use.

Hot
(Hierapolis)

Cold
(Colossae)

Lukewarm
(Laodicea)

**Like its water, the church at Laodicea was spiritually lukewarm,
neither zealous nor refreshed, and so was found unacceptable to the Lord.**

Revelation 3:16 (KJV)

At a Glance Chart

Commendation, correction, and promise to the overcomer.

Church	Positive Message	Negative Message	Promise
Ephesus	Labour, patience, discernment, perseverance	Left first love; repent and return	Tree of life
Smyrna	Rich in faith amid tribulation and poverty	No rebuke; prepare for suffering	Crown of life; no second death
Pergamos	Held fast Christ's name under pressure	Tolerated Balaam and Nicolaitan error	Hidden manna; white stone.
Thyatira	Works, charity, service, faith, patience increasing	Tolerated Jezebel's corruption	Rule over nations; morning star.
Sardis	A few remained undefiled	Name alive, but dead; watch and repent	White raiment; name confessed.
Philadelphia	Kept Christ's word; did not deny His name	No rebuke; hold fast	Kept from trial; pillar in temple.
Laodicea	Love behind Christ's rebuke; invitation remains	Lukewarm, self-deceived, spiritually poor	Sit with Christ in His throne.

Timeless
Truths
for the Church
Then and Now

SUMMARY OF THE 7 CHURCHES

Revelation 2 – 3

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
Revelation 3:22 (KJV)

Seven Churches
One Lord
One Message
for Every Generation

EPHESUS Revelation 2:1–7	SMYRNA Revelation 2:8–11	PERGAMOS Revelation 2:12–17	THYATIRA Revelation 2:18–29	SARDIS Revelation 3:1–6	PHILADELPHIA Revelation 3:7–13	LAODICEA Revelation 3:14–22
						
Positive: - Good works - Patience and endurance - Cannot bear evil - Tested false teachers - Not grown weary Negative: - Left first love Call: - Remember, repent, and do the first works Promise: Tree of life	Positive: - Faithful under tribulation - Endured poverty (but rich) Negative: - None Call: - Be faithful unto death Promise: - Crown of life; not hurt by the second death	Positive: - Hold fast His name - Did not deny the faith - Antipas, faithful witness Negative: - Tolerates Balaam's doctrine (idols/fornication) - Tolerates the Nicolaitans Call: Repent, or He will fight with the sword of His mouth Promise: Hidden manna; white stone with a new name	Positive: - Works, charity, service, faith, patience - Last to be more than the first Negative: - Tolerates the Jezebel spirit (false teaching and immorality) Call: Repent Promise: Authority; - rule with Him; morning star	Positive: - A few have not defiled their garments Negative: - Dead works; spiritually dead (reputation alive, but actually dead) Call: Watch, strengthen what remains, repent Promise: Walk with Him in - white; name in the Book of Life; not blotted out	Positive: - Kept His word - Has a little strength - Not denied His name - Kept His patience Negative: - None Call: Hold fast Promise: Open door; kept from the hour of trial; pillar in the temple; new name	Positive: - None Negative: - Lukewarm; self-sufficient; spiritually blind, poor, naked Call: - Be zealous, repent, buy from Him Promise: Sup with Him; sit with Him on His throne

1 Why does Revelation start with the messages to the churches?

- Remember we are studying theology
 - Who is Jesus Christ.
- Revelation opens with Christ walking among the 7 candlesticks, the churches as the High Priest.

It begins with the Church because the book is ultimately about Christ—and His relationship with His people.

2 The Pictures

- He is Holy.
- He is Glorified.
- He has the authority to Judge & Reward.
 - Because He died on Calvary.



3 His address to the churches

- It is specific, not general.
- It is tailored to each church.
 - It is based on historical context.
 - It is based on their specific needs.
- 4 churches had positive and negative.
- 2 churches had no negatives.
- 1 church had no positive.

Christ knows His church. He speaks to real people in real situations.

4 In all this we see:

- Jesus loves the church (People in the church).
- He will judge.
- But He desires to restore.

Revelation's messages are not just criticism—they are a call to repentance, renewal, and restoration by a loving Lord.

Seven Churches. One Christ. A Message for Every Generation.

"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches."
Revelation 3:22 (KJV)

THE MESSAGE TO THE SEVEN CHURCHES

FROM REBUKE TO RESTORATION

SEVEN
CHURCHES
ONE LORD

ASIA
MINOR

LYDIA
PHRYGIA
PISIDIA
CILICIA

Ephesus

Smyrna

Pergamos

Thyatira

Sardis

Philadelphia

Laodicea

REBUKE

REPENT

RESTORATION

Christ corrects because He loves—and calls His church back to faithfulness.

Introduction: The Context of Laodicea

The session opens with an announcement regarding the new church website for First Baptist Church of Gold Hill (FirstBaptistChurchOfGoldHill.com), which hosts photo galleries and digital versions of the Revelation study series. The speaker transitions into the tenth lesson of the series, focusing on the seventh and final church of Asia Minor: Laodicea.

Main Point I: The Historical and Economic Profile of Laodicea

Laodicea was a prosperous Roman financial and textile hub. Key characteristics included:

- **Economic Independence:** After a devastating earthquake in 60 AD, the city rebuilt using its own wealth without Roman assistance.
- **Industries:** Renowned for "raven black" wool, banking, and a medical school specializing in ophthalmology (specifically an eye salve).
- **The Water Problem:** The city lacked a local water source. Water piped from hot springs arrived lukewarm, while water from distant cold springs also became lukewarm during transit. This physical reality serves as the metaphor for their spiritual state.

Main Point II: The Divine Titles of Christ (Revelation 3:14)

Jesus introduces himself using three titles to establish authority over a complacent church:

1. **The Amen:** The guarantor of God's promises and the ultimate truth.
2. **The Faithful and True Witness:** A sharp contrast to the unfaithfulness of the Laodiceans.
3. **The Beginning of God's Creation:** Establishing his cosmic presence and pre-existence, reminding the wealthy city that their prosperity depends on him, not their commerce.

Main Point III: The Indictment of Lukewarmness (Revelation 3:15-17)

The speaker clarifies that "lukewarm" does not mean "immature," but "compromised."

- **Spiritual Indifference:** The church was not persecuted; they "got along" with the world.
- **Self-Sufficiency:** Their wealth led to a delusion of needing nothing, while Christ identifies them as "wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked."

Main Point IV: The Counsel and Invitation (Revelation 3:18-22)

Christ offers three specific remedies tailored to Laodicea's local industries:

- **Gold tried in fire:** True faith rather than material banking wealth.
- **White raiment:** Holiness and purity to cover their spiritual nakedness.
- **Eye salve:** Spiritual vision to see things as God sees them.

Conclusion: The Knock at the Door

The sermon concludes with the famous imagery of Christ standing at the door. The speaker emphasizes that Christ is on the outside of this church, knocking and seeking entry. He calls for a "pivot to restoration" through repentance.

Key Scripture References

- Revelation 3:14-22: The primary text addressing the church at Laodicea.
- Isaiah 65:16: Context for the title "God of truth" (The Amen).
- Proverbs 3:5-6: The command to trust in the Lord and lean not on one's own understanding.
- Psalm 62:5-8: Encouragement to wait only upon God as a refuge and defense.
- 1 Peter 1:7: Faith being more precious than gold tried by fire.
- Hebrews 12:5-6: The explanation that God chastens those he loves.

Audience Reflection Section

- Self-Reliance vs. Dependence: Are we functioning daily without a sense of dependence on the Lord because of our relative comfort or abilities?
- Worldly Alignment: If the world is entirely "okay" with our actions, is that a sign of spiritual compromise?
- The Lukewarm State: Is your spiritual life "useful" (like hot water for cleansing or cold water for refreshing), or has it become "worthless" and indifferent?
- Expectation: What are you actually expecting from God this week, or are you just going through the motions of life?

Actionable Takeaways

1. Repent and Pivot: Move from a state of spiritual indifference to one of zeal. Repentance is defined here as a "change of mind" regarding self-sufficiency.
2. Anoint the Eyes: Seek "eye salve" from Christ to remove the clutter and blurriness of worldly distractions to see spiritual realities clearly.
3. Open the Door: Respond to the "knock" of Christ by inviting intimate fellowship back into the center of the church and individual life.
4. Study the Seven Churches: Utilize the provided summary chart in your handouts to review the messages to all seven churches, noting that Christ addresses each at their specific point of need.

Possible Titles for Revelation Chapter 4

*A Glimpse of Heaven ...
A Greater Reality Awaits*

*"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened
in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were
of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither ..."*

Revelation 4:1 (KJV)



Title	Emphasis
1 The Throne Above All	God's supreme authority
2 The Throne Room of Heaven	John's heavenly vision
3 A Door Opened in Heaven	John's invitation to see heaven
4 The One Who Sits on the Throne	The majesty of God
5 Worship Around the Throne	The elders and living creatures
6 Heaven's Central Reality	God's throne as ultimate reality
7 Thou Art Worthy, O Lord	The worship of Revelation 4:11
8 A Glimpse of Glory	The beauty and awe of heaven

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

Revelation 4:8 (KJV)

SAME JOURNEY – A DIFFERENT TIME

From Caesarea to Rome

“And so were we brought to Rome.” Acts 28:14 (KJV)



THE APOSTLE PAUL'S JOURNEY About 5–6 Months

*“In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often,
in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness ...”
2 Corinthians 11:27 (KJV)*

Stage	Approximate Duration
Caesarea to Crete, including adverse-weather delays	Several weeks
Crete to Malta, driven by the storm	14 nights
Wintering on Malta	3 months
Malta to Puteoli, then by road to Rome	About 2–3 weeks
Total	About 5–6 months



*“Many perils, in the sea, perils among false brethren,
in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often,
in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness ...”
2 Corinthians 11:26–27 (KJV)*

SAME
DESTINATION

DIFFERENT
TIMES

SAME
GOD

HIS
PURPOSE
PREVAELS



*“The steps
of a good man
are ordered
by the LORD ...”
Psalm 37:23 (KJV)*

MY JOURNEY TODAY About 7–9 Hours

*Modern transportation makes the same journey possible
in less than a day!*

Segment	Typical Time
Caesarea to Ben Gurion Airport	About 1–1½ hours
Airport arrival, security, and boarding	About 2–3 hours
Nonstop TLV–Rome flight	About 3 hours 25 minutes to 3 hours 45 minutes
Arrival formalities and travel into Rome	About 1–2 hours
Realistic door-to-door total	About 7–9 hours



*With modern transportation, what once took months
can now be done in a single day —
a reminder of how God works in every generation.*

Different methods. Different timelines. The same unchanging Lord.

A GLIMPSE OF HEAVEN

Revelation Chapter 4 Five Amazing Truths from Heaven

2 Worlds • 3 Doors • 24 Elders • 7 Spirits • 4 Creatures

"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither ..."

Revelation 4:1 (KJV)



2 TWO WORLDS The Visible and the Spiritual



The Visible World

- Physical
- Temporary
- What we see



The Spiritual World

- Unseen
- Eternal
- Greater reality

"For the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."

2 Corinthians 4:18 (KJV)

Live with the awareness that heaven is real.

3 THREE DOORS Opportunity • Invitation • Revelation



The Philadelphia Door

Revelation 3:7-8

Opportunity, service, and access.

"I have set before thee an open door ..."



The Laodicean Door

Revelation 3:20

Invitation, fellowship, and response.

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock ..."



The Heavenly Door

Revelation 4:1

Revelation, glory, and the throne.

"A door was opened in heaven: Come up hither ..."

Respond to Christ's door at every step.

24 TWENTY-FOUR ELDERS Representatives of God's Redeemed People



- Seated around the throne (Rev. 4:4)
- Clothed in white raiment (righteousness)
- Crowns of gold (overcomers)
- Likely representing the 12 patriarchs and 12 apostles
- A picture of the whole redeemed people of God (Old and New Testament)
- They cast their crowns before the throne in worship (Rev. 4:10)

"Thou hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth."

Revelation 5:10 (KJV)

You belong to the redeemed people of God.

7 SEVEN SPIRITS OF GOD The Sevenfold Fullness of the Holy Spirit



- 1 Spirit of the Lord
- 2 Spirit of Wisdom
- 3 Spirit of Understanding
- 4 Spirit of Counsel
- 5 Spirit of Might
- 6 Spirit of Knowledge
- 7 Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

"And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God."

Revelation 4:5 (KJV)

Let the fullness of the Spirit shine through your life.

4 FOUR LIVING CREATURES Worship Around the Throne



1. Eagle
The creatures of the sky
2. Calf
The domestic animals
3. Lion
The wild beasts
4. Man
Humanity

- Full of eyes before and behind (Rev. 4:6)
- Six wings (swiftness and obedience)
- Represent the whole created order
- Day and night they cry, "Holy, Holy, Holy ..." (Rev. 4:8)

All creation worships the King of Kings.

ALL CREATION WORSHIPS ♦ ALL AUTHORITY BELONGS TO HIM ♦ FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING

There Is Another World Called Heaven

Revelation 4:1–2 (KJV)

- ¹ After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.
- ² And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

A Real Place

- A glorious world
- The throne of God
- Angelic beings
- Beyond this world

A Real Invitation

- The door is open
- A voice calls, “Come up hither”
- We can know what is to come

*Not a myth.
A real destination.*

1

There is another world called heaven.

Revelation 4:1–2 reveals a real, glorious place beyond this world — the throne of God and His heavenly kingdom.

2

That world can be accessed from this world.

The door is open, and a voice calls, “Come up hither.” Through Christ, we can know what is to come.



Faith Looks Beyond the Visible.

“Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.” — Revelation 4:1

1 TO SAVE AND RECONCILE US

Humanity was separated from God by sin.

- Restored the broken relationship between God and man
- Healed the divine image in us
- Brought us into communion with God

"For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

Luke 19:10 (KJV)



WHY JESUS CAME IN THE FLESH

"The Word became flesh, and dwelt among us ..."

John 1:14 (KJV)

GOD WITH US
Matthew 1:23 (KJV)



2 TO REVEAL GOD'S LOVE

Jesus made God's love fully known.

- Revealed the heart of God in a way only dimly seen in the Old Testament
- By becoming human and suffering, He demonstrated solidarity with our condition
- The cross shows the depth of His love for us

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

Romans 5:8 (KJV)



3 TO MODEL AUTHENTIC HUMANITY

Jesus shows us how to live.

- His teachings and actions demonstrate a godly, obedient life
- Perfect example of love, humility, service, and righteousness
- Shows what true humanity looks like under God's will

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

1 Peter 2:21 (KJV)



4 TO MAKE US PARTICIPANTS OF THE DIVINE NATURE

Not just to fix what is broken, but to elevate us.

- Brings humanity into communion with His divine life
- Makes us God-like, not by nature, but by participation in Christ
- Transforms us into the image of His glory
- Our highest calling is to share in His life

"That ye might be partakers of the divine nature..."

2 Peter 1:4 (KJV)



GOD WAS NOT OBLIGATED

Divine freedom meant other redemptive paths were possible, yet He chose the Incarnation in His wisdom and love.

THE INCARNATION WAS WISEST

Because God is Wisdom itself, the Incarnation must represent the optimal way to accomplish salvation.

MORE THAN EXTERNAL RESCUE

Humanity needed not just external rescue, but internal transformation — a restoration and elevation that required God to enter fully into human experience.

From our brokenness to His fullness — this is why Jesus came.

Three Doors — Three Dimensions of Christ's Authority

Each door marks a threshold: opportunity, fellowship, and glory.

The Philadelphia Door

OPPORTUNITY · SERVICE · ACCESS



"Behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name."

REVELATION 3:8

CHRIST GRANTS OPPORTUNITY.

He openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth. (Rev 3:7-8)

This door represents Christ's exclusive power to grant and deny access and an opportunity for faithful service.

The Laodicean Door

FELLOWSHIP · INTIMACY · RESPONSE



"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

REVELATION 3:20

CHRIST INVITES FELLOWSHIP.

The door is opened by obedience and faith.

This door presents an intimate, personal invitation. Christ stands outside, waiting for someone to open the door so He may enter and dine with them.

The Heavenly Door

REVELATION · GLORY · THE THRONE



"After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."

REVELATION 4:1

CHRIST UNVEILS GLORY.

The opened door reveals the throne room and heavenly mysteries.

This door represents the special grace of looking into heaven—ordinarily closed to human sight—and signifies a particular divine revelation.

Three Doors. One Lord. Infinite Grace.

WHAT JOHN SAW

Revelation 4:1–6 (KJV)

- 1 Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.
- 2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.
- 3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

"Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter."
Revelation 4:1

- 4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.
- 5 And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God.
- 6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.



A THRONE OF GLORY
A Kingdom Beyond — A Future Revealed

One Spirit - Three Pairs - A Perfect Endowment

"The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him ..."
Isaiah 11:2 (KJV)

1 Spirit of Wisdom

*Gives a right perspective
and sees from God's viewpoint.*

Isaiah 11:2 | 1 Corinthians 2:6-16

2 Spirit of Counsel

*Gives godly guidance
and helps us choose what is right.*

Isaiah 11:2 | Proverbs 3:5-6

3 Spirit of Knowledge

*Reveals truth and brings
clear understanding.*

Isaiah 11:2 | Hosea 4:6

4 Spirit of Understanding

*Gives discernment to grasp
spiritual truths and their meaning.*

Isaiah 11:2 | Ephesians 1:17-18

5 Spirit of Might

*Provides divine strength
to accomplish God's will.*

Isaiah 11:2 | Zechariah 4:6

6 Spirit of the Fear of the Lord

*Produces reverence, humility,
and obedience.*

Isaiah 11:2 | Proverbs 9:10

The Sevenfold Spirit of the Lord

"The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him ..."
Isaiah 11:2 (KJV)

WISDOM
COUNSEL
KNOWLEDGE
UNDERSTANDING
MIGHT
FEAR OF THE LORD

Isaiah 11:2
*The Spirit of the LORD
shall rest upon him ...*

THE SAME SPIRIT • THE SAME SOURCE • A PERFECT ENDOWMENT • FOR GOD'S PURPOSE

THE FOUR LIVING CREATURES

WORSHIP BEFORE THE THRONE

"And the four beasts had 6 wings about them; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come."

Revelation 4:8 (KJV)

"And round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind."
Revelation 4:6 (KJV)

The four forms suggest whatever is noblest, strongest, wisest, and swiftest in animate Nature. Nature, including Man, is represented before the Throne, taking its part in the fulfillment of the Divine Will, and the worship of the Divine Majesty.



1. LIKE A FLYING EAGLE

The mightiest among the birds.

2. LIKE A CALF

The mightiest among the domestic animals.

3. LIKE A LION

The mightiest among the wild beasts.

4. FACE OF A MAN

The mightiest among all is man.

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY,
LORD GOD ALMIGHTY,**
... which was, and is, and is to come."
Revelation 4:8 (KJV)

ALL CREATION WORSHIPS • ALL AUTHORITY BELONGS TO HIM • FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING

Date Time: 09-23-2026

This lesson offers an in-depth analysis of Revelation chapter four, centering on John's vision of heaven's throne room. The speaker underscores God's supreme authority, the reality of the unseen spiritual realm, and the overwhelming beauty and order of heaven as perceived by John. Key elements include the throne's significance, God's description using precious stones, the 24 elders symbolizing the complete church, the seven spirits of God, the sea of glass, and the four living creatures. The lesson contrasts heaven's order with the chaos of an atheistic worldview and the sin-corrupted earthly realm, affirming that Jesus's work reconciles humanity to God's divine nature and promises a future free from suffering.

Knowledge Points

1. Introduction to Revelation Chapter 4

- **Title and Study Approach**
 - The primary title for the lesson on Revelation chapter four is "The throne above all, God's supreme authority."
 - The speaker listed alternative titles: "The throne room of heaven," "John's heavenly vision," "A door opened in heaven," and "The majesty of God."
 - Devotional practice: read Revelation chapter four multiple times, each preceded by prayer, focusing on one suggested title per reading to gain deeper insight.
- **Frame of Reference and Numbers to Remember**
 - John recorded his vision from his own frame of reference. The speaker illustrates this by comparing the 5–6 months it took the Apostle Paul to travel from Caesarea to Rome with the 7–9 hours it would take today.
 - Remember the numbers two, three, twenty-four, seven, and four, corresponding to key elements in the chapter.

2. The Two Worlds and the Three Doors

- **The Reality of Two Worlds**
 - Two worlds exist: the physical world we inhabit and the spiritual world, which is real, pervasive, and unseen.
 - John was on Patmos as a prisoner because Rome failed to execute him by boiling him in oil. God protected him so he could write Revelation.
 - Sin's entry into the world (in Eden) altered the physical realm, introducing death and ferocity.
- **The Purpose of Jesus's Coming**
 - Jesus came from spiritual reality into this world to:
 - Reconcile us to God.
 - Reveal God's love.
 - Model authentic humanity as it was meant to be.
 - Make believers participants in His divine nature.
- **The Three Doors in Revelation**

- **Door 1 (Church of Philadelphia):** A door of opportunity, service, and access, set open by God so no one can shut it.
- **Door 2 (Church of Laodicea):** A door of invitation, fellowship, and intimacy, where Christ knocks at the church's door, seeking entry.
- **Door 3 (Heavenly Door — Revelation 4:1):** A door opened in heaven inviting John to see future events, unveiling Christ's glory and the revelation of the throne.

3. The Throne Room of Heaven

- **The Centrality of the Throne**

- When John was in the Spirit, his attention was immediately drawn to a throne in heaven with "one" sitting on it.
- "One" is used because God transcends description; He is "I am," the eternal, living being.
- The throne signifies government, order, and a divine plan—God's control over creation.
- This contrasts with atheism, which acknowledges no throne, attributing the universe to mindless, random, misguided forces. The speaker cites Psalm 14:1: "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God."

- **Description of the One on the Throne**

- The One on the throne appeared like jasper and sardine stone, radiating vivid, beautiful light, aligning with 1 John 1:5: "God is light, and in him is no darkness at all."
- An emerald-like rainbow encircled the throne, signifying God's promise never again to judge the world with a flood (a sign of salvation). The speaker critiques the "Pride group" for hijacking this symbol.
- Ezekiel 1:26–28 parallels this vision, describing sapphire, amber, fire, and a rainbow—"the appearance of the likeness of the glory of the Lord."

- **The Beauty of God and Spiritual Renewal**

- Visions of God are marked by overwhelming beauty, light, and glory.
- A heart shaped by God learns to recognize beauty that is pure, gracious, and enduring.
- Spiritual renewal (rebirth) grants a new capacity to perceive beauty previously invisible.

4. Beings Around the Throne

- **The Twenty-Four Elders (Rev 4:4)**

- John saw 24 elders on 24 seats around the throne.
- They were clothed in white raiment, symbolizing righteousness and holiness.
- They wore crowns of gold, promised to believers, not angels.
- The speaker identifies them as redeemed believers because in Revelation 5 they sing a new song: "Thou wast slain and hast redeemed us."
- The number 24 likely represents the 12 patriarchs (Old Testament) and the 12 apostles (New Testament), symbolizing the complete, unified church of all ages.

- **The Seven Spirits of God (Rev 4:5)**

- From the throne came lightnings, thunderings, and voices.

- Seven lamps of fire burned before the throne, identified as the seven spirits of God.
- These lamps are compared to the temple Menorah, built as a representation of heavenly realities.
- Isaiah 11:2 identifies the seven spirits: the Spirit of the Lord, wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge, and the fear of the Lord.
- **The Sea of Glass (Rev 4:6)**
 - Before the throne was a “sea of glass like crystal.”
 - This calm, crystalline sea signifies chaos and evil subdued and stilled by God’s sovereign power.
 - It contrasts with the “troubled sea” of the wicked, who lack peace (Isaiah 57:20).
- **The Four Living Creatures (Rev 4:6–9)**
 - Four living creatures were in and around the throne, full of eyes in front and behind.
 - Their features reflect creation’s aspects:
 - **Swiftness:** Wings enabling flight.
 - **Intelligence/Discernment:** Bodies covered with eyes.
 - **Faces:** Four faces—a lion (wild animals), a bull calf (domestic animals), a man (humanity), and an eagle (birds of the sky)—representing the entire created order.

5. Worship in Heaven

- **The Act of Worship**
 - The 24 elders fall down and cast their golden crowns before the throne.
 - They proclaim God’s worthiness to receive glory, honor, and power.
- **The Reason for Worship**
 - God is worshiped because He created all things, and all things exist for His pleasure.
 - The speaker concludes: “Our God is a holy God” and “an awesome God.”

Assignments

1. ☐ For deeper devotional study, read Revelation chapter four multiple times, each time focusing on a different suggested title for the chapter.
2. ☐ Read and study the slide created by the speaker about why Jesus came to Earth (reconciliation, revealing God’s love, modeling humanity, and making us participants in the divine nature).
3. ☐ Reflect on how God’s plan provides order, contrasting it with the idea of a chaotic, random universe proposed by atheism.
4. ☐ Consider how spiritual renewal enables a person to perceive beauty that was previously invisible.

Titles of Christ in the Book of Revelation

Title of Christ	Scripture reference (KJV)
Jesus Christ	Revelation 1:1, 1:2, 1:5
Jesus	Revelation 1:9; 12:17; 14:12; 17:6; 19:10; 20:4; 22:16
Christ	Revelation 11:15; 12:10; 20:4, 6
Lord Jesus Christ	Revelation 22:21
Lord Jesus	Revelation 22:20
Son of God	Revelation 2:18
Son of man	Revelation 1:13; 14:14
Alpha and Omega	Revelation 1:8; 21:6; 22:13
The First and the Last	Revelation 1:17; 2:8; 22:13
The Beginning and the Ending	Revelation 1:8
The Beginning and the End	Revelation 21:6; 22:13
The Almighty	Revelation 1:8
The Faithful Witness	Revelation 1:5
The First Begotten of the Dead	Revelation 1:5
The Prince of the Kings of the Earth	Revelation 1:5
The Living One / “he that liveth”	Revelation 1:18
The Amen	Revelation 3:14

Titles of Christ in the Book of Revelation

Title of Christ	Scripture reference (KJV)
The Faithful and True Witness	Revelation 3:14
The Beginning of the Creation of God	Revelation 3:14
The Holy One	Revelation 3:7
The True One	Revelation 3:7
Lion of the tribe of Juda	Revelation 5:5
The Root of David	Revelation 5:5; 22:16
The Root and the Offspring of David	Revelation 22:16
The Bright and Morning Star	Revelation 22:16
The Word of God	Revelation 19:13
Faithful and True	Revelation 19:11
KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS	Revelation 17:14; 19:16
The Lamb	Revelation 5:6 and throughout Revelation
The Lamb that was slain	Revelation 5:12; 13:8
The Lamb in the midst of the throne	Revelation 7:17
The Bridegroom / the Lamb at His marriage	Revelation 19:7–9

Main Differences between Rev Chapter 4 & 5

Feature	Revelation 4	Revelation 5
Central focus	The throne of God and the worship of the Creator	The sealed book and the Lamb's worthiness to open it
Main person emphasized	"Him that sat on the throne"	The Lamb "as it had been slain"
Main reason for worship	God created all things	The Lamb was slain and redeemed people by His blood
New object introduced	The throne-room scene	A book/scroll with seven seals in God's right hand
Main question	No question is asked; John sees heaven's worship	"Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof?"
Emotional response	Awe, worship, glory, and praise	John weeps because no one is found worthy—then receives comfort
Role of the elders	They sit on twenty-four seats, wear white raiment and golden crowns, then cast their crowns before the throne	They hold harps and golden vials of odours, "which are the prayers of saints," and worship the Lamb
Role of the four beasts	Their appearance and continuous praise are described	They fall before the Lamb along with the elders
Worship language	"Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty" and "Thou art worthy... for thou hast created all things"	"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain" and praise for redemption, power, riches, wisdom, strength, honour, glory, and blessing
Scope of worship	Four beasts and twenty-four elders are chiefly in view	Worship expands to innumerable angels and finally "every creature" in heaven, earth, under the earth, and sea
Christ's titles	Christ is not named directly in the chapter	"The Lion of the tribe of Juda," "the Root of David," and "a Lamb as it had been slain"
Seven Spirits	Seven lamps of fire burn before the throne	The Lamb has seven eyes, identified as "the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth"

Feature	Revelation 4	Revelation 5
Action or movement	The scene is largely descriptive: throne, elders, beasts, and worship	The scene moves forward: the Lamb comes, takes the book, and prepares the way for its seals to be opened
Number of angels	No number is given	“Ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands”
Ending	The elders worship God and cast their crowns before Him	The beasts say “Amen,” and the elders worship Him “that liveth for ever and ever”

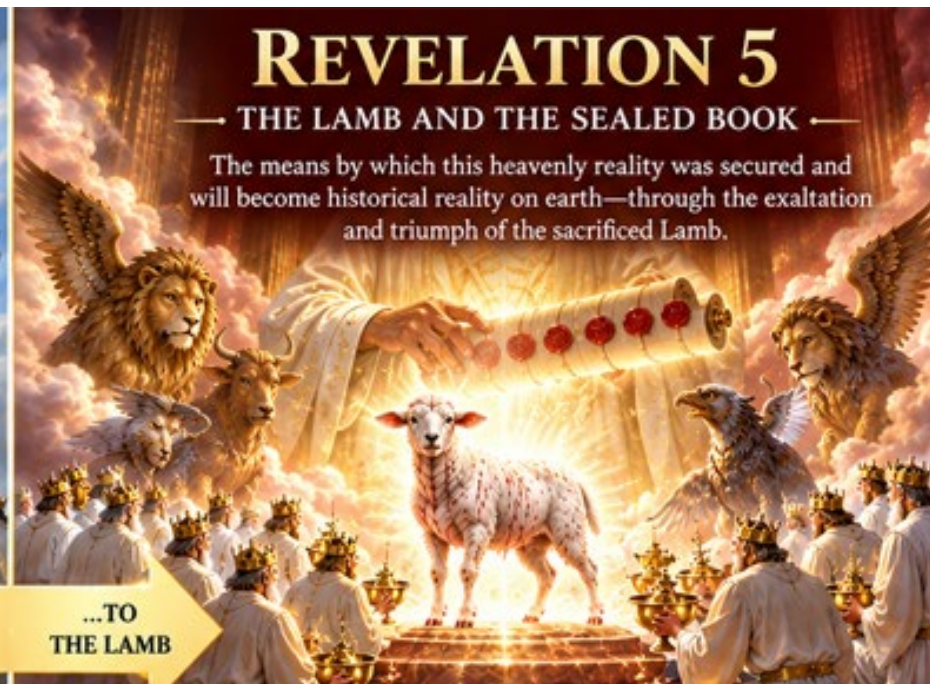


REVELATION 4

THE THRONE OF GOD

The heavenly sovereignty of God, shared by representatives of the elect, in a vision of eternal worship.

FROM THE
THRONE ...



REVELATION 5

THE LAMB AND THE SEALED BOOK

The means by which this heavenly reality was secured and will become historical reality on earth—through the exaltation and triumph of the sacrificed Lamb.

...TO
THE LAMB



FOCUS: The throne of God.



REPRESENTATIVES: Twenty-four elders in white, with golden crowns.



GOD'S SPIRIT: Seven lamps of fire before the throne (the seven Spirits of God).



SETTING: A sea of glass before the throne.



CREATURES: Four living creatures (beasts) around the throne.



WORSHIP: Continuous praise of God's eternal nature (holy, holy, holy).



THEME: God's cosmic authority and eternal sovereignty.



FOCUS: A sealed book in the hand of the one on the throne.



THE LAMB: A Lamb standing as if it had been slaughtered—already slain and victorious.



AUTHORITY: The Lamb alone is worthy to open the sealed book.



EXPANDED WORSHIP: All creation worships both the one on the throne and the Lamb (Rev. 5:13–14).



REDEMPTION: The Lamb's sacrificial work secures the fulfillment of God's purposes.



OUTCOME: Reveals how the heavenly reality will become historical reality on earth.



THEME: Christ's redemptive triumph and the means of God's eschatological plan.

CHAPTER 4 ESTABLISHES GOD'S AUTHORITY

The vision of God's throne and eternal worship.

CHAPTER 5 REVEALS THE MEANS

The Lamb's redemptive work that secures and will fulfill God's purposes.

THE LION AND THE LAMB



He conquered by being slain.

Revelation 5:4-6 (KJV)

YOUR PRAYERS ARE THERE

— ♦ Worship ♦ Praise ♦ The prayers of saints ♦ —



WORTHY IS THE LAMB

Slain for us. Redeemed us by His blood.
His sacrificial death qualifies Him
for cosmic authority.

Revelation 5:8–9

PRAYERS RISE AS INCENSE

“Golden vials full of odours, which are
the prayers of saints.”

Revelation 5:8 (KJV)

“A perpetual incense before the LORD”

Exodus 30:7–8

Worship, praise, and prayer are sweet to God.

Your prayers are there.

Prayers that praise and glorify God.

— ♦ *“I praise thee for all things, I bless thee, I glorify thee.” — Polycarp’s prayer* ♦ —

POLYCARP'S PRAYER AND TESTIMONY

Polycarp's Prayer

“O Lord God Almighty, the Father of thy beloved and blessed Son Jesus Christ, by whom we have received the knowledge of thee, the God of angels and powers, and of every creature, and of the whole race of the righteous who live before thee, I give thee thanks that thou hast counted me worthy of this day and this hour, that I should have a part in the number of thy martyrs, in the cup of thy Christ, unto the resurrection of eternal life, both of soul and body, through the incorruption imparted by the Holy Ghost.

“Among whom may I be received this day before thee as a fat and acceptable sacrifice, according as thou, the ever-truthful God, hast foreordained, hast revealed beforehand to me, and now hast fulfilled.

“Wherefore also I praise thee for all things, I bless thee, I glorify thee, along with the everlasting and heavenly Jesus Christ, thy beloved Son, with whom, to thee, and the Holy Ghost, be glory both now and to all coming ages. Amen.”



Faithful unto death

His Testimony at Martyrdom

“For eighty and six years have I served him, and he hath done me no wrong: how then can I blaspheme my King and Saviour?”

THE LORD'S PRAYER

STEPS OF ACTION

Matthew 6:9-13

1

**Our Father
which art
in heaven,**
Matthew 6:9



- Acknowledge the Father first and that we know where He is.

2

**Hallowed be
thy name.**
Matthew 6:9



- Holy, Holy, Holy
- WORSHIP

3

**Thy kingdom
come.**
Matthew 6:10



- Acknowledge God's Kingdom and authority.

4

**Thy will be done
in earth, as it is
in heaven.**
Matthew 6:10



- Submit to God's will.
- Pray that the earth will function as His kingdom.

5

**Give us this day
our daily bread.**
Matthew 6:11



- We ask for needs not wants.
- Not a week's worth of bread.

6

**And forgive us
our debts,**
Matthew 6:12



- Worship by acknowledging we are sinners and in need of forgiveness.

7

**as we forgive
our debtors.**
Matthew 6:12



- Let God know that you will do for others what you have asked Him to do for you.

8

**And lead us not
into temptation,
but deliver us
from evil:**
Matthew 6:13



- Acknowledge we are in a warzone, ask for directions away from mine traps of the enemy.
- Ask to be kept pure and holy as we walk.

9

**For thine is the
kingdom, and the
power, and the
glory, for ever.**
Matthew 6:13



- Turn our attention back to God, His kingdom, His power, and His glory.

1

RECOGNIZE
THE FATHER

2

WORSHIP
HIS HOLY NAME

3

ACKNOWLEDGE
HIS KINGDOM

4

SUBMIT
TO HIS WILL

5

ASK FOR
OUR NEEDS

6

RECEIVE
FORGIVENESS

7

FORGIVE
OTHERS

8

SEEK PROTECTION
AND GUIDANCE

9

GIVE HIM
THE GLORY

FROM PRAYER ... TO A LIFE THAT REFLECTS HIS KINGDOM