

A large, open manuscript, likely a Bible, is displayed on a wooden stand. The manuscript features multiple columns of text written in a historical script, possibly Gothic or similar, with some text highlighted in red ink (rubrication). The pages are aged and slightly yellowed. The stand is made of dark wood and has a curved front. The background is dark and out of focus.

The Revelation of Jesus Christ

Chapters 1-5

Genesis

The commencement of Heaven
and earth (1:1)

The entrance of sin and the
curse (3)

The dawn of Satan & his
activities (3)

The tree of life is relinquished
(3:24)

Death makes its entrance (2:17;
5:5)

Sorrow begins (3:16)

Revelation

The consummation of Heaven
and earth (21:1)

The end of sin and the curse
(21:27, 22:3)

The doom of Satan and his
activities (20:10)

The tree of life is regained
(22:2)

Death makes its exit (21:4)

Sorrow is banished (21:4)



Different views of interpretation:

- 1) Preterist: from Latin *praeter* meaning past. So it views the prophecies as having been fulfilled in the past.
- 2) Historical: sees the book as portraying a history of the church from the days of John until the end of time.
- 3) Idealist: sees the book as a pictorial unfolding of great principles in constant conflict.
- 4) Futurist: views most of the book (chaps 4-22) as prophecy yet to be fulfilled.


- ❖ Theme: The final triumph and eternal glory of the Lord Jesus Christ.
- ❖ Author: John (1:1,4,9:22:8) who wrote this letter while in exile on the Isle of Patmos.
- ❖ Date: 90's





Outline taken from 1:19

"Write therefore the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which shall take place after these things."

- I. The things which you have seen, Chapter I (The vision of the glorified Christ which John saw.)
 - II. The things which are, Chapters 2 & 3 (The message to the 7 churches present when John wrote.)
 - III. The things which shall take place after these things.
(Things future that are seen in Chapters 4-22.)
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I. The things which you have seen: Chapter 1



A. Introduction 1:1-3 “The Revelation of Jesus Christ.”


“Blessed is he who reads and those who hear the words of the prophecy and heed the things which are written in it; for the time is near.”

22:7 “And behold I am coming quickly. Blessed is he who heeds the words of the prophecy of this book.”



B. Salutation 1:4-8 “John to the seven churches that are in Asia...”

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- 7 churches (1:4)
 - 7 spirits (1:12)
 - 7 lampstands (1:16)
 - 7 stars (1:16)
 - 7 seals on the scroll (5:1)
 - 7 horns and 7 eyes of the Lamb (5:6)
 - 7 angels (8:2)
 - 7 trumpets (8:2)
 - 7 thunders (10:3)
 - 7 heads of the dragon (12:3)
 - 7 heads of the beast (13:1)
 - 7 golden bowls (15:7)
 - 7 kings (17:10)



B. Salutation 1:4-8 “John to the seven churches that are in Asia...”
vs 5 “and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the first-born of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him who loves us, and released us from our sins by His blood...”

Vs 6b to Him be the glory and the dominion forever and ever.

vs 7 Behold, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him...

vs 8 I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.”



C. Vision of Christ 1:9-20





II. "The things which are" Chapters 2 & 3

Different ways of looking at the 7 churches:


- ☐ Historical
 - ☐ Spiritual
 - ☐ Prophetic
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The 7 churches of Rev in modern day Turkey





Ephesus: Apostolic church (2:1-7)

- Christ seen as: “The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, ...who walks among the seven golden lampstands”
 - Commendation: service, perseverance, discernment , hated the deeds of the Nicolaitans
 - Criticism: “you have left your first love.”
 - Satan’s tactic: COOL IT
 - Counsel/admonition: “Remember from where you have fallen, repent and do the deeds you did at first...”
 - Promise to overcomers: “I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the Paradise of God.”
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Who are the overcomers?

1 John 5:4,5: “For whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is the victory that has overcome the world-- our faith.


And who is the one who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?”



There is only One Perfect Overcomer, the Lord Jesus Christ, John 16:33. We are overcomers because of our position in Him.



Smyrna: Bitter (2:8-11)


- Christ seen as: The first and the last, who was dead, and has come to life
 - Commendation: They endured tribulation, poverty and blasphemy.
 - Criticism: None
 - Satan's tactic: CRUSH IT
 - Counsel: "Do not fear what you are about to suffer... Be faithful until death and I will give you the crown of life"
 - Promise to overcomers: "He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death."
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Pergamum: Thoroughly married (2:12-17)

- Christ seen as: The One who has the sharp two-edged sword
- Commendation: Held fast in the midst of satanic opposition.
- Criticism: Some held to the teaching of Balaam and to the teaching of the Nicolaitans.
- Satan's tactic: COMPROMISE IT
- Counsel: "Repent therefore; or else I am coming to you quickly, and I will make war against them with the sword of My mouth."
- Promise to overcomers: "I will give *some* of the hidden manna, and... a white stone, and a new name written on the stone which no one knows but he who receives it."



Thyatira: Continual sacrifice (2:18–29)

- Christ seen as: The Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire...feet are like burnished bronze
 - Commendation: Their deeds, love, faith, service and perseverance.
 - Criticism: They tolerate “Jezebel”
 - Satan’s tactic : CORRUPT IT.
 - Counsel: What you have, hold fast until I come.
 - Promise to overcomers: he who keeps My deeds until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations... and I will give him the morning star.
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Sardis: The dead church (3:1–6)


- Christ seen as: He who has the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars,
- Commendation: There were a few who remained faithful to Christ.
- Criticism: You have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Their deeds were not complete
- Satan's tactic: CADAVERIZE IT
- Counsel: Wake up and strengthen the things that remain, which were about to die. Remember therefore what you have received and heard; and keep *it*, and repent.
- Promise to overcomers: shall be clothed in white garments; and I will not erase his name from the book of life, and I will confess his name before My Father, and before His angels.

Philadelphia: Brotherly Love (3:7–13)

- Christ seen as: Holy, true, who has the key of David, who opens and no one will shut, and who shuts and no one opens...
- Commendation: 3:8 “because you have a little power, and have kept My word, and have not denied My name...”
3:10 “I also will keep you from the hour of testing, that hour which is about to come upon the whole world...”
- Criticism: None
- Satan’s strategy: CUT IT UP
- Counsel: I am coming quickly; hold fast what you have...
- Promise to overcomers: I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God...




Laodicea: The lukewarm church. (3:14-22)

- Christ seen as: The Amen, the faithful and true Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God,
 - Commendation: None
 - Criticism: "...because you are lukewarm... I will spit you out of My mouth." They were rich materially, but spiritually poor, wretched, blind and naked.
 - Satan's strategy : CANCEL IT
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Laodicea: The lukewarm church. (3:14-22)

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- Counsel: “I advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire... and white garments, and eye salve to anoint your eyes, that you may see. Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline; be zealous therefore, and repent. 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him, and will dine with him, and he with Me.’”
 - Promise to overcomers: “I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.”

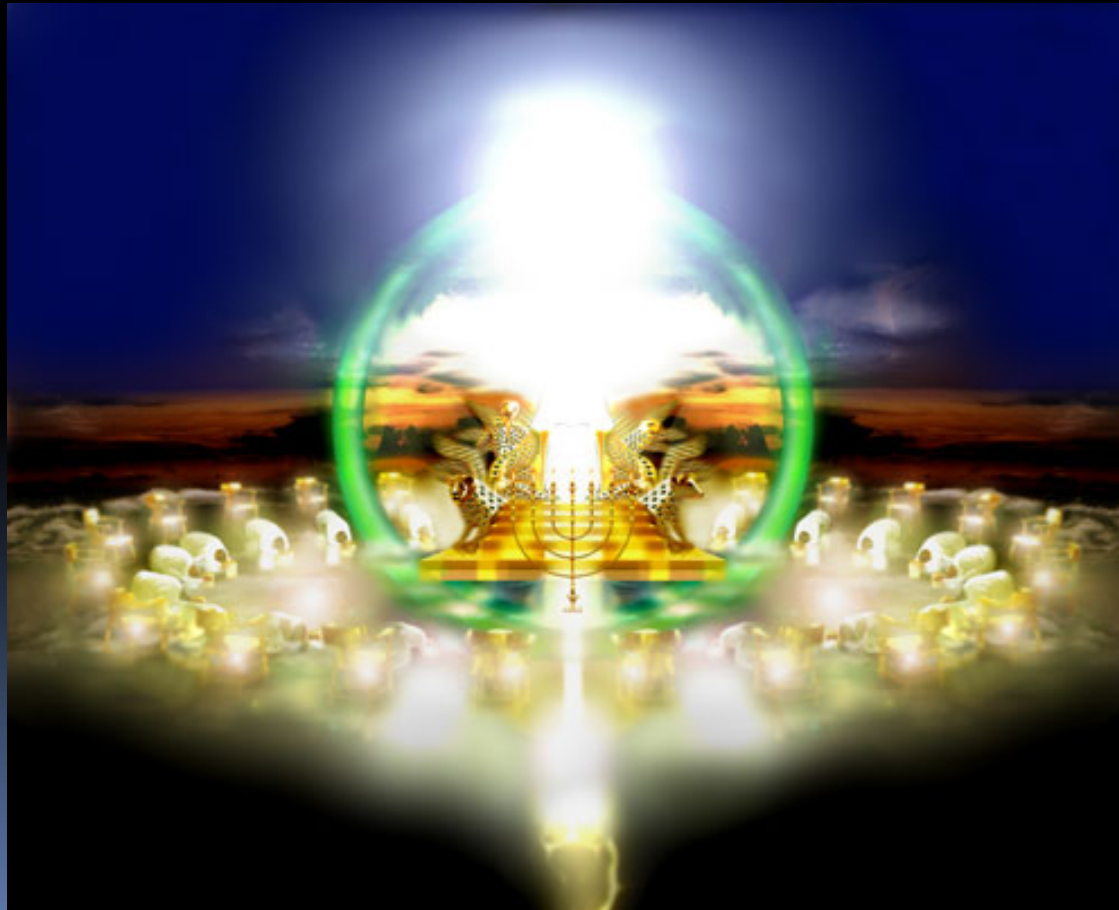


Personal applications from the 7 churches:

- How is my “first love” for the Lord?
 - Am I willing to suffer for His sake?
 - Am I compromising with the world?
 - Am I busy for the Kingdom, but distant from the King?
 - Am I growing lukewarm & complacent?
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III. "the things which shall take place after these things." Chapters 4-22.

- Chapter 4 Heavenly Worship of the Creator



Chap. 5 Heavenly Worship of the Redeemer



Randolph Richards



Mill Street Design





Chap. 5 Heavenly Worship of the Redeemer

"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive:

- Power over our lives.
 - Riches of which we are just stewards.
 - Wisdom in applying His truth to our lives.
 - Might in serving Him with all of our strength.
 - Honor & Glory: we want to honor and glorify Him in all that we do.
 - Blessing: we want to be a blessing to Him and others.
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