

Revelation

Prologue

1 The revelation of Jesus Christ, which he gave him to show his servants what must soon take place. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John, ²who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of the Lord and the testimony of Jesus Christ. ³Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near.

Greetings and Doxology

⁴John,
To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, ¹³and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” ^bdressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. ¹⁴His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. ¹⁵His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. ¹⁶In his right hand he held seven stars, and out of his mouth came a sharp double-edged sword. His face was like the sun, shining in all its brilliance.

...his feet as though dead. Then he held his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.”

in your favor: You hate the
the Nicolaitans, which

⁷He who has an ear,
what the Spirit says to
To him who overcomes,
right to eat from the tree
is in the paradise of God

To the Church in Smyrna

⁸“To the angel of the church
write:

These are the words of
the First and the Last,
came to life again. ⁹I know
tations and your poverty-
rich! I know the slander
say they are Jews and are
a synagogue of Satan.
afraid of what you are ab
I tell you, the devil will pu
in prison to test you, and
fer persecution for ten da
ful, even to the point of
will give you the crown

¹¹He who has an ear,
what the Spirit says to
He who overcomes will
all by the second death

CHURCH AT LAODICEA

- One of, if not THE, richest commercial center in the world
- Known for Banking, Clothing Manufacturing (specifically black wool), and a large Medical School
- Colony of Jewish men (7,000) who were able to preserve their customs

GREETING

- To the Angel

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- The Amen, the faithful and true witness
 - An expansion on the faithful and true witness (“martyr”)
 - Christ alone is faithful and true, He alone is the one who can say “let it be so”
 - Isaiah 65:16

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- The Amen, the faithful and true witness
 - Isaiah 65:16
 - Whoever invokes a blessing in the land will do so by the one true God; whoever takes an oath in the land will swear by the one true God.

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- The ruler of God's creation
 - In conjunction with Revelation 1:5 – “firstborn from the dead and ruler of the kings of the earth.”
 - Colossians 1:15,18

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- The ruler of God's creation
 - Colossians 1:15,18
 - The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- The ruler of God's creation
 - Colossians 1:15,18
 - He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy.

INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (POSITIVE)

- None

INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Neither Hot nor Cold
 - Traditional view of interpretation
 - Outright denial of Christ is better than insincere piety
 - Preaches well, but likely not the best view

INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Neither Hot nor Cold
 - 3 “sister” cities – Hierapolis, Colossae, and Laodicea
 - Hierapolis received water from a local hot spring and the waters were said to have healing powers
 - Colossae gained water from deep wells and the cold water was said to have life-giving properties

INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Neither Hot nor Cold
 - Laodicea brought their water from a distant hot spring
 - By the time the water reached the city, it was lukewarm
 - The water was known to be an emetic – vomit-inducing
 - This water was spit out when tasted

INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Neither Hot nor Cold
 - Hot water heals
 - Cold water brings life
 - Lukewarm water is useless
 - Laodiceans were not witnessing of the healing water or the life-giving water (Christ), but had an indifference towards Christ

INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- You say I am rich...
 - In AD 60, Laodicea recovered from a large earthquake without the support of the government
 - Self-sufficiency in finances is great
 - Self-sufficiency in faith is disastrous

INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- But you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked
 - You are THE wretched one
 - You are in need of mercy
 - Poor – related to the banking industry
 - Blind – related to the medical school
 - Naked – related to clothing manufacturing

WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- I will spit you out of my mouth
 - Not a binding judgement, rather a display of mercy

WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- I counsel you to buy from me
 - Gold refined by the fire
 - Pure in Christ rather than defiled by gaining wealth through the culture
 - Wealth that lasts exists on Christ

WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- I counsel you to buy from me
 - White Clothes to Wear
 - Nakedness is ultimate humiliation
 - White clothes in contrast to the black wool manufactured clothing
 - White represents the highest honor of purity

WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- I counsel you to buy from me
 - Salve to put on your eyes
 - Phrygia in Laodicea invented a very popular balm for the eyes
 - If you wish to see clearly, Christ is the source of sight

WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- I counsel you to buy from me
 - I am your wealth
 - I am your provision
 - I am your healer

WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Those Whom I Love
 - A warning and an assurance
 - All of us. He rebukes and disciplines all of us.
 - Even in this church where no grace is deserved, Christ loves them and acts out of His love for them
 - So...repent

EXHORTATION

- He that ears to hear, let him hear

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- **Here I Am!**
 - The One you need and desire
 - I am knocking...and knocking...and knocking
 - Knocking is not about a conversion experience, but rather a reality that they have shut Jesus out of the church!
 - Christ wants back into His own church!!!

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- I will come in and eat with them and they with me
 - Showing the patience and responsiveness of Christ
 - Shows ongoing fellowship
 - Shows a care and tenderness even for a church that has gone astray

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- The right to sit on the throne
 - Given a place with Christ
- Just as I overcame
 - By the way of the cross
 - There will be dark days ahead
 - Even in suffering, we conquer since Christ is victorious