

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 ... his right hand on me and said: “Do not ... I am the ...

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, who
came to life again. ⁹I know
your afflictions and your poverty-
rich! I know the slander
say they are Jews and are
a synagogue of Satan.
I am afraid of what you are
I tell you, the devil will put
in prison to test you, and
for persecution for ten days.
I will give you the crown

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

INTERPRETATION OF VISIONS

- In Revelation, there are 4-8 different visions
- Each vision can be interpreted in many ways
- Each interpretation is based on our “reading”
 - Parallel Reading
 - Dispensational Reading

INTERPRETATION OF VISIONS

- Parallel Reading
 - Each vision represents the same time period from the 1st to 2nd coming of Christ
 - Each vision gives a different perspective and increasing depth
 - The visions lead to the culmination in Revelation 20-22

INTERPRETATION OF VISIONS

- **Dispensational Reading**
 - Each vision is distinct from the others
 - Each vision speaks to a progressive time in history
 - All visions culminate in the events of Revelation 20-22

INVITATION INTO HEAVEN

- A door standing open in heaven
 - Church in Philadelphia Introduction
 - “Who holds the key of David. What He opens no one can shut, and what He shuts no one can open.”
 - An affirmation that what Christ says is true

INVITATION INTO HEAVEN

- Voice like a trumpet
 - 1:10-11
 - On the Lord's Day I was in the Spirit, and I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet, which said: "Write on a scroll what you see and send it to the seven churches: to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia and Laodicea."

INVITATION INTO HEAVEN

- What must take place
 - This is NOT about revealing the future
 - The intent is not to describe a future historical record of events that will take place
 - It is to declare the very will of a sovereign God
 - These events will occur but it is not about the events

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- Throne

- In the NT, “throne” is used 62 times.
- 47 of those times are in Revelation
- A reminder to the people that while the rule of Rome was present and oppressive...
- There is one throne above all thrones

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- Someone sitting on it
 - Physical appearance of “someone” not “something”
 - We are made in the very image and likeness of God
 - What is different is the glory of God

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- Jasper and Ruby
 - John gives more detail and time to describing Christ, the angels, heaven, even the throne, than he does to God
 - This lack of description speaks to the unfathomability of a description of the God who is and focuses on the majesty of those worshipping Him.

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- Rainbow like an emerald
 - Reference to Genesis 9:16
 - Rainbow in heaven reflects the eternality of God's promise
 - God in His mercy gave us the very symbol from His throne to remind of His binding promise

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- 24 Elders – 2 possibilities
 - The elders represent the 12 leaders of the tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles.
 - In Rev 21:12-14, names of the tribes and the apostles are on the gates and the foundation of the new city.
 - Issue in this approach, redeemed don't sit on thrones until after the final consummation later in Revelation

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- 24 Elders – 2 possibilities
 - Elders are likely angels and are representative of the whole body of the faithful. Representing all who were from the 12 tribes and the 12 apostles
 - This would be a potential tie-in with the angels of the churches from the letters

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- Dressed in white and crowns of gold
 - White symbolizes victory
 - Crown and throne symbolize royalty
 - Gold emphasizes their high standing

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- From the throne
 - Obviously, not literally from the throne
 - John is so reverential in his discussion of God that he often avoids referring directly to Him.
 - Imagine the truth of who God is if John is not even capable of speaking about Him.

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- **Lightning, Rumbblings, and Peals of Thunder**
 - OT often describes the voice of God as “thunder”
 - Literally means, “voices”
 - These three descriptions of the voice of God will be heard again 3 other times in Revelation

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- Lamps and Spirits
 - “In front of the throne” denotes nearness to God
 - Blazing represents a continual ongoing activity
 - Represents the Holy Spirit, as discussed in 1:4

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- **Sea of Glass**
 - Holiness originally meant separateness
 - Likely denotes a sense of separation
 - This sense of barrier creates a stronger sense of holiness of God and how far above all else He truly is

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- 4 Living Creatures
 - “Around the throne” shows their intimacy with God
 - They are the closest to God of all created beings
 - We will see their roles as:
 - Constantly praising God
 - Associated with the outpouring of God’s wrath

4 LIVING CREATURES

- Covered with eyes
 - Repeated showing this is an extremely important and likely primary function
 - Seeing all things
 - Both constantly fixed on God and creation

4 LIVING CREATURES

- **Lion, Ox, Man, Flying Eagle**
 - The mightiest creatures of all earthly creation
 - Connoting a sense of connection between heaven and earth while leaving heaven to be fully incomparable

4 LIVING CREATURES

- **Six Wings**

- **Seraphim of Isaiah 6:1b - 2**

- “I saw the Lord, high and exalted, seated on a throne; and the train of his robe filled the temple. Above him were seraphim, each with six wings: With two wings they covered their faces, with two they covered their feet, and with two they were flying.

4 LIVING CREATURES

- **Six Wings**

- Seraphim of Isaiah 6:1b - 2

- And they were calling to one another:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”

4 LIVING CREATURES

- Day and Night
 - Unceasing Praise. For all of eternity.
 - Holy
 - Holiness is first in the song and repeated 3 times
 - One holy won't be sufficient to describe the Lord God,
Almighty

4 LIVING CREATURES

- Day and Night
 - Who was, and is, and is to come
 - Depiction of the never-changing, eternal holiness of God
 - While our world is filled with evil and darkness, the holiness of God will triumph over evil

THE THRONE IN HEAVEN

- 24 Elders Respond
 - Fall before God
 - Lay down their crowns
 - Declare the greatness and sovereignty of God
 - Repeat.
 - For all eternity.