

# 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, <sup>2</sup>who testifies to everything he saw—that is, the word of God and the testimony of Jesus Christ. <sup>3</sup>Blessed 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

<sup>4</sup>John,  
To the seven churches in the province of Asia:

was speaking to me. And when I turned I saw seven golden lampstands, <sup>13</sup>and among the lampstands was someone “like a son of man,” <sup>b</sup>dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. <sup>14</sup>His head and hair were white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. <sup>15</sup>His feet were like bronze glowing in a furnace, and his voice was like the sound of rushing waters. <sup>16</sup>In 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

<sup>7</sup>He 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*

<sup>8</sup>“To the angel of the church write:

These are the words of the First and the Last, who came to life again. <sup>9</sup>I know your afflictions and your poverty—rich! I know the slander they say they are Jews and are a synagogue of Satan. I am afraid of what you are about. I tell you, the devil will put you in prison to test you, and you will suffer persecution for ten days, but you will give you the crown

<sup>11</sup>He who has an ear, what the Spirit says to To him who overcomes will ... all by the second death

## CHURCH AT PERGAMUM

- Center of Roman government in Asia Minor
- Center of pagan religion in Asia Minor
- Capital in Asia Minor for Imperial Cult
- First city to build a temple to a ruler  
(Augustus)
- Pergamum means – “Of First Class Courage”



# GREETING

- To the Angel

## DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword
- Roman Governors divided into 2 classes
  - Those who had the right of the sword and those who did not
  - They could use this right against Christians at any time

## DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword
- Revelation 19:15,21
  - “Coming out of his mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations.”
  - “The rest were killed with the sword coming out of the mouth of the rider on the horse”

## DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword
  - Rome rules with a sword
  - Christ rules with a sword
- While Rome rules with a sword, there is One who is greater and Christ rules with the Word of God.

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (POSITIVE)

- True to the name of Christ
  - Did not renounce their faith
  - Even to the point of death
- Antipas, my faithful witness

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (POSITIVE)

- Antipas
  - “my faithful *martus*”
  - *Martus* translates as both martyr and witness
  - Revelation 1:5 and 3:12, Christ refers to Himself as “faithful *martus*”
  - Christ is referring to Antipas in the same way



## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Teaching of Balaam
  - Numbers 22:5 – 25:3
  - Numbers 31:16
  - Balaam incited the people to accept pagan practices and therefore defiling themselves
  - Balaam then received his payment from Balak

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Teaching of the Nicolaitans
  - Referred to in the church of Ephesus
  - Encouraging a liberal lifestyle in order to be more accepted by the imperial cult
  - Ephesus was commended for rejecting them through their strong doctrine

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Balaam is translated as “He who consumes the people”
- Nicolaitans is translated as “He who overcomes the people”

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Opposite of church in Ephesus
  - Pergamum was strong against external forces against the church
  - Weak against doctrinal issues within the church
  - Christ demands a balance between doctrine and action



## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Repent
- Fight against them with the sword
  - Balaam was threatened with the sword – Numbers 22:23, 31 and killed with the sword Numbers 31:8
  - Israelites also punished – Numbers 31:16-18

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Balaam was punished for leading the Israelites away
- Israelites were punished for allowing it to happen
- We must ensure the truth of Christ is being taught and lived

# EXHORTATION

- He that ears to hear, let him hear

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Hidden Manna
- White Stone with a name on it



## PROMISE/ASSURANCE – HIDDEN MANNA

- Manna
  - White, flaky substance provided to Israelites fleeing Egypt
  - Represents the provision of the Lord in all circumstances

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE – HIDDEN MANNA

- Hidden
  - Exodus 16:31-34
  - Jewish tradition also states that when the Temple built by Solomon was destroyed, Jeremiah hid the pot of manna in a cave on Mt. Sinai for the Messiah

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE – HIDDEN MANNA

- Hidden
  - The manna is then revealed to God's people at the end of time at the Wedding feast
  - Revelation 19

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- White Stone with a name on it
  - White Stone
    - Used to symbolize innocence in legal proceedings
    - Used as passes to special “invite-only” events



## PROMISE/ASSURANCE – WHITE STONE

- White Stone
  - In context of the manna and the wedding feast symbolism, Christ is declaring their innocence and inviting them to the final wedding feast as His bride, the church

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE – WHITE STONE

- Name
  - Our New Name given by Christ
  - Names were representative of the character of a person (Saul to Paul, Abram to Abraham, Jacob to Israel, etc)
  - A new name between Christ and us would be very sacred and meant to be private

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE – WHITE STONE

- Name
  - New Name of Christ as Victorious King
  - Revelation 3:12, 19:12
  - Also compares to the “Mark of the Beast” in Revelation 14:11
  - Receive 1 of 2 names based on faithfulness

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- White Stone with a Name on it
  - For the faithful believer, they will be given an invitation to the wedding feast of the lamb and be served a feast from God's provision. The only way to enter the feast is with the invitation bearing the new name of Christ.