

# 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  
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

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

## QUESTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

- Do the warnings to the churches imply that I can lose my salvation?
  - The church represents the organization of the individual members.
  - There is no salvation in the church. Only in Christ

## QUESTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

- Do the warnings to the churches imply that I can lose my salvation?
  - Did someone lose salvation or did they never have it?
  - The distraction of the debate overshadows the point of Scripture

## QUESTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

- Do the warnings to the churches imply that I can lose my salvation?
  - The point of the gospel is to be changed by the gospel - not hearers only.
  - We must ensure a focus on the impact of the Word of God to ensure the outcome.

## QUESTIONS FROM LAST WEEK

- Do the warnings to the churches imply that I can lose my salvation?
  - The external proof of a genuine faith exists by the fruit that is produced.
  - The whole of the gospel demands a display of moral excellence (though, not yet achieving perfection).

## CHURCH AT THYATIRA

- The longest letter and the smallest city
- A strong commercial center with a focus on trade
- Little is known about Thyatira, making the symbolism less distinct.

# GREETING

- To the Angel

## DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- Son of God – eyes blazing fire and feet like burnished bronze
  - Son of God – operating with the full power of God
  - Fire implies judgement – Christ sees all with eyes of judgement

## DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- Son of God – eyes blazing fire and feet like burnished bronze
  - Feet that have been refined in the furnace
  - Description shows that He alone is all-powerful and that He will judge and mete out justice.

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (POSITIVE)

- Love, Faith, Service, Perseverance
- More than you did at first
  - Growing in Faith and Action

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Tolerate Jezebel
  - Likely not an actual name
  - 1 Kings 21:25
    - “There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord, urged on by Jezebel his wife.”

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- **Tolerate Jezebel**
  - She was professing a Christian faith and had influence in the church
  - Given the trade economy in the region, her influence was likely used to blur the lines between the trade guilds and the church

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Tolerate Jezebel
  - Trade guilds were similar in purpose to unions
  - Each trade guild had a patron deity
  - Guild banquets were prepared in honor of the deity
  - Meat would be sacrificed to idols and then eaten
  - The meals would devolve into sexually charged events

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- **Tolerate Jezebel**
  - Jezebel appears to have been counseling the church
    - Since the idols and deities were not real
    - Then the sacrifices were not real
  - Churches engaged in the sacrifices and banquets
    - Giving support to pagan idol worship
    - Exposing believers to behavior not supported by God

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Tolerate Jezebel
  - Significant implications for today
    - How far do we accept and adopt practices of culture?
    - Where do we draw the line between displaying grace and accommodating sin?

## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- Tolerate Jezebel
  - Significant implications for today
    - The cause of Christ is not advanced if we are separated and irrelevant to the world.
    - However, Christ is not to be relegated to the sidelines of our life.
  - While we are saved by grace through faith alone, once saved, we are held to a high standard of right living.

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Repent

- Christ gave Jezebel time, but she refused
- Christ is now giving the church time, but they must respond quickly.

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Bed of Suffering
  - Literally translated as “Bed of Sickness” or “Sickbed”
  - In accordance with “Repay accordingly”
  - She was responsible for the church being defiled on a bed of immorality
  - She will be repaid in a bed of suffering

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Strike her children dead
  - Not literal children, but those who have been swayed by her counsel

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Searches hearts and minds
  - Literally means, “kidneys and hearts”
  - Kidneys were seen as the emotional core of the body
  - Heart was seen as the intellectual core
  - The Son of God’s Eyes of Fire will judge feeling, intent, and thought of our actions.
  - This judgment should move all the churches to action

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Repay according to your deeds
  - The church is accountable for their deeds against Christ
  - While this represents the failure of the church, this shows the influence we each, individually, have on the church and our responsibility for the church
  - We, as believers in the church, are preparing the church for the wedding day.

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Repay according to your deeds
  - Revelation 19:7-8
    - Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear.” (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God’s holy people.)

# EXHORTATION

- He that ears to hear, let him hear

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Satan's so-called deep secrets
  - Reference to the teaching that in order to keep the soul pure, one must be fully aware of who Satan is
  - Dualism implication meaning that the body is evil and the soul is good and the two are at war.
  - The body is free to do as it will and the soul can maintain purity.

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- No additional burden on you
  - Acts 15:28-29 - It seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us not to burden you with anything beyond the following requirements: You are to abstain from food sacrificed to idols, from blood, from the meat of strangled animals and from sexual immorality. You will do well to avoid these things.

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Does my will to the end
  - A contrast to doing the works of Jezebel
  - A statement on the importance of perseverance
  - Difficulties in life are not permission to ignore the moral excellence of the gospel

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Give authority over the nations
  - Psalm 2:8-9
    - “Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, the ends of the earth your possession. You will break them with a rod of iron; you will dash them to pieces like pottery.”

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Give authority over the nations
  - Jeremiah 51:20
    - “You are my war club, my weapon for battle—with you I shatter nations, with you I destroy kingdoms, with you I shatter horse and rider, with you I shatter chariot and driver, with you I shatter man and woman, with you I shatter old man and youth, with you I shatter young man and young woman,

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Give authority over the nations
  - Jeremiah 51:20
    - with you I shatter shepherd and flock, with you I shatter farmer and oxen, with you I shatter governors and officials. “Before your eyes I will repay Babylon and all who live in Babylonia for all the wrong they have done in Zion,” declares the Lord.

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Give authority over the nations
  - The overcomer will not just be present, but will have a role in the coming of the Lord

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- The Morning Star
  - Revelation 22:16
    - “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.”
  - The ultimate reward of the Church, and the Christian, is to be in the very presence of Christ and God Almighty.