

# 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 the Lord 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.  
afraid of what you are about  
I tell you, the devil will put  
in prison to test you, and  
for persecution for ten days.  
ful, even to the point of  
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

## CHURCH AT SARDIS

- Large commercial city with great wealth
- Situated on a high and steep hill
- Strong army, but careless and complacent
- Defeated twice due to negligence
- Largest Jewish community in Asia Minor
- Sardis was not persecuted by Jewish leaders or Rome

# GREETING

- To the Angel

## DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- He Who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars
  - Seven Spirits of God – Fullness of God in Spirit
  - Seven Stars – Fullness of God in His church
  - Also, connoting care for each of the individual churches in Christ's care

# INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (POSITIVE)



## INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- I know your deeds
  - Reflecting that Christ holds the churches in His hand
  - Nothing happens in the churches beyond the sight of Christ
- You are Dead
  - Good reputation to others, but Christ knows our hearts

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- **Wake Up!**
  - Literally means, Be Watchful
  - Their general complacency lead them to being attacked and defeated twice
  - They are now being defeated and they are not even aware they are under attack

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Wake Up!
  - Due to their complacency in faith, they were not even being persecuted by the Romans or Jewish leaders
  - G.B. Caird – “Content with mediocrity, lacking both the enthusiasm to entertain a heresy and the depth of conviction which provokes intolerance, it was too innocuous to be worth persecuting”

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- **Strengthen what remains**
  - In reference to their faith and the outworking of that faith
- **Unfinished in the sight of My God**
  - They are not bearing witness to their faith
  - They are doing good things, but not to further Christ

## WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- Remember
- Obey It
- Repent
- Christ will come as a thief
  - Not related to the second coming, but a promise of a future unknown punishment at an unknown time

# EXHORTATION

- He that ears to hear, let him hear

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Those Who are Dressed in White
  - A picture of purity signifying justification
  - This does not imply that they have “earned” their salvation
  - Rather, that while others were simply giving an impression of salvation, those in white are truly saved
  - Reputation rather than reality

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- **Never Blot Out Their Name From the Book of Life**
  - Book of Life is a recurring theme throughout Revelation
  - Revelation 13:8 and 17:8 give the impression that the Book of Life serves as a protective measure to guard Christ's people from falling to the Beast

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- **Never Blot Out Their Name From the Book of Life**
  - The implication is then not a possible loss of salvation to those who are not in white
  - Rather, this is a source of encouragement that those who are faithful will have their faithfulness substantiated by their name remaining in the Book of Life

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- **Never Blot Out Their Name From the Book of Life**
  - Serves as a reminder of Christ's description that He holds the church (faithful believers) in His right hand
  - Since the believer's name is written in the Book of Life and since Christ is holding the faithful believer's, then we can never be removed from this promise

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Acknowledge that Name
  - Luke 12:8-9
    - I tell you, whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the Son of Man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God.

## PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Acknowledge that Name
  - This is a message of hope to the faithful believer
  - The One who will judge will ultimately acknowledge our acceptance into the very presence of God
  - We must be more concerned about Christ and shining His light than how we are seen by others