

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 God 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 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
in prison to test you, and
for persecution for ten days.
I will give you the crown of
life.

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

CHURCH AT PHILADELPHIA

- Built to be a missionary center for pagan worship
- Renamed as a symbol of gratitude
 - Neocaesarea – Tiberius aided the city after an earthquake destroyed much of the city
 - Flavia – In honor of emperor Vespasian (family name)

GREETING

- To the Angel

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- Him who is holy and true
 - Corresponds to “faithful witness”
 - Christ is both deity and wholly reliable
- Who Holds the Key of David
 - Keys to the House of David represent full authority
 - Isaiah 2:20-25

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- Isaiah 2:20-25

- “In that day I will summon my servant, Eliakim son of Hilkiah. I will clothe him with your robe and fasten your sash around him and hand your authority over to him. He will be a father to those who live in Jerusalem and to the people of Judah. I will place on his shoulder the key to the house of David; what he opens no one can shut, and what he shuts no one can open.

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- Isaiah 2:20-25

- I will drive him like a peg into a firm place; he will become a seat of honor for the house of his father. All the glory of his family will hang on him: its offspring and offshoots—all its lesser vessels, from the bowls to all the jars. “In that day,” declares the Lord Almighty, “the peg driven into the firm place will give way; it will be sheared off and will fall, and the load hanging on it will be cut down.” The Lord has spoken.

DESCRIPTION OF JESUS

- What He opens...
 - Jewish leaders were persecuting Christians and they were determining who was part of the kingdom and who was not.
 - Christ alone holds the key and whoever He wants to admit will not be denied.

INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (POSITIVE)

- I know your deeds
 - Projecting the image of Savior who cares
- Little Strength, but faithful
 - Likely a small congregation with little influence
 - This is in contrast to Sardis with their wasted influence
 - In a city filled with pagan missionaries, they were missionaries for Christ

INSIGHTS OF CHURCH LIFE (NEGATIVE)

- None

WARNING/INSTRUCTION

- None

EXHORTATION

- He that ears to hear, let him hear

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut
 - Referencing their admittance into Christ's kingdom
- False Jews will see and understand
 - As with the church in Smyrna, Christ was reiterating that He and He alone determines who has a true faith

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- False Jews will see and understand
 - All people will bow before the true church, because Christ has authority over it
 - If the Jews themselves are to be true, then they must profess their faith to Christ through the church

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Keep you from the trial
 - “Whole world” implies the unbelieving world and Christ will protect His faithful church from this further test
 - This is likely in relation to the time of tribulation

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- I am coming soon
 - A call to action
 - A call to perseverance
- Hold on to what you have
 - By holding on tightly, the crown cannot be taken
 - Productive faith requires a measure of fight and desire

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- Overcomers will be a pillar in the temple of my God
 - A pillar rather than the peg in Isaiah 22
 - The peg will be sheared off under the weight
 - The pillar will hold forever in the courts of God

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- I will write on them
 - Names were very significant to this community as they were often renamed to show honor and respect to someone.
 - These names show where honor and respect is to be ultimately be given

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- I will write on them
 - Name of My God
 - Overcomer belongs to God
 - Name of the City of My God
 - Overcomer has been granted citizenship in the presence of God

PROMISE/ASSURANCE

- I will write on them
 - My New Name
 - Revelation 19:12 – the new name of Christ at His coming
- These names boldly declare all glory and authority belong to God and we are to be sealed for God with the new name of Jesus Christ written on us for eternity