

# Revelation Feltboard

A Crash Course in the  
Book of Revelation

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# Revelation

## OPENING THOUGHTS

- Revelation was **written by the disciple John**, Son of Zebedee and Salome, Galilean fisherman, early disciple of John the Baptist, one of Jesus' inner circle. John likely also wrote the Gospel of John, and 3 letters (1 John, 2 John, 3 John). *(Note: Some believe this is NOT the disciple John [Yochanan] but another.)*
- The **full title is The Revelation of Jesus Christ**. "Revelation" is **SINGULAR** not plural, it is the Revelation of Jesus Christ [literally Yeshua HaMashiach] (not *revelations* of John or revelations of end). The Revelation is "given" to Jesus by the Father, to "show His servants..." This book is **SIGN-ified** (signified, rendered into signs) (1:1) for John to record.
- **REVELATION is:** The consummation of all things; The only book promising a blessing to the reader; 404 verses containing over 800 allusions from OT; The climax of God's plan for man.
- This study is **often avoided, and often misunderstood** due to a lack of understanding of the Old Testament. It is perhaps the most controversial book of all scripture, due to its vivid images sometimes difficult to interpret. Like all of scripture, this book is meant to be taken literally wherever possible. There are many forms of interpretation of this book, but any other than the literal and futurist interpretation will create all sorts of difficulties in understanding. Wherever there is a problem in interpretation, we must remember that God is His own interpreter. The Word will always interpret the Word. A thorough knowledge of the rest of scripture is required to understand this book.
- Some think this book is difficult to follow, and has no order or logical flow. Not at all true. The book **has a very definite order, and a distinctive flow of events**. An outline of the book could be seen as:

|           |                                 |                                                                                            |
|-----------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Ch 1      | <b>Things which ARE...</b>      | Introduction to the Risen Christ, John's instructions, 7 Lampstands                        |
| Chs 2-3   |                                 | Letters to the 7 Churches ( <i>the Church Age</i> )                                        |
| Chs 4 -5  | <b>Things which SHALL BE...</b> | Throne Room of God, Redeemed Present, Problem Defined/Solution Presented                   |
| Chs 6-18  |                                 | Tribulation Period on Earth, 3 sets of judgments, Babylon Doomed                           |
| Ch 19     |                                 | Return of the King with His Saints, Armageddon, End of Human Government, Initial Judgments |
| Ch 20     |                                 | Satan Bound, 1,000 Year Reign (Millennial Kingdom), Rebellion again, Final Judgment        |
| Chs 21-22 |                                 | Perfection Restored, The Bride of Christ, Reunion Forever                                  |

- "Shortly" and "soon" in this book literally mean **SUDDENLY**. It will all happen quickly when it begins, and it will begin suddenly. It does not mean "soon" in our understanding of that word.
- There are **3 sets of judgments** contained in this book, **seals, trumpets, bowls**, (7 in each, total 21, but judgments are "nested" in each other).
- **Revelation contains themes and elements from today's headlines:** Israel, Jerusalem, the Temple, Babylon, Russia (Magog), rise of China, European Superstate, Ecumenical religion, global government, rise of the occult, rise of anti-Semitism, immorality, and many other issues seen in today's current events.
- *As always, **the following ASSUMPTION is made:** The Bible is the infallible (without error) Word of God and as such contains the plan for man's redemption, and an accurate telling of the end of time, and the consummation of God's Plan. The leaning of this teaching is toward a literal interpretation of God's Word (not allegorical or symbolic except in places where it can be nothing else.)*
- *7's everywhere: Pay attention to "**heptadic**" structure of Revelation. The number 7 represents things "perfectly complete."*

# Revelation

## MORE THOUGHTS

- Revelation is a fitting end to the words and plan of God. From the very beginning He set a plan in motion to bring us back to Him. Sometimes people read Revelation and get frightened or confused, and therefore avoid this book. But what it does in reality is tie everything else in scripture together beautifully.
- Dr. Arnold Fruchtenbaum composed a list of the references to the Old Testament in the book of Revelation. It is included for you to see at a glance how Revelation is not really anything new, but a bringing together of all the pieces of the rest of scripture about this time. You may also use this list to do your own studies to further enhance your understanding of this book (*found on the next pages*).
- One of the goals of this study is to help you see the “connectedness” of scripture. It is said that the Old Testament is the New Testament CONCEALED, and the New Testament is the Old Testament REVEALED. This is most dramatically illustrated in the book of Revelation.
- For that reason the study guides included in this book will have you reading all over in scripture. You are obviously free to do this as an elective, or not. But the more you study the more you will be familiar with the entire Bible and God’s redemptive plan.
- There is a definite “chronology” to Revelation. A simple listing of the events in the order presented by chapter is found following Dr. Fruchtenbaum’s listing of Old Testament references.
- WHAT ELSE IS IN THIS BOOK?
- Each chapter contains a preparation study guide (with space for notes), the same questions asked for each chapter. Of course this is totally up to you to complete, but it will help you get a much better understanding of the book of Revelation.
- There is also a “feltboard” graphic of each chapter made with clip art and modified to suit the contents of the chapter. This is to give you an immediate visual panorama of each chapter.
- Following the graphic is a simple listing of the events or highlights of the chapter, and a place for notes. These are what we will use primarily during lesson time.
- Following these is another study guide, this time a follow-up intended to make the details become clearer, and the connectedness of scripture evident. There are also note pages included here. Consider making a commitment to complete these guides, both the preparation and the follow-up. They will really help you get a grip on the book of Revelation. Think about doing them with a partner, a spouse or a friend on a regular basis. You could do both the follow-up for one chapter and the prep for another at the same time, or however you want to work it.
- There are also a number of resource items (at the very back of the book) we may refer to now and then, as well as more note paper (*you might need it!*).
- *Just a note of encouragement: to get the most understanding from the book of Revelation, a knowledge of the Old Testament is critical, especially two very important books that deal with the end of time: Daniel and Zechariah. You might consider reading these two books along with this study. It will help immensely. Because this study is a “crash course” we will go quickly and will not have the time to drill down into some of the more detailed parts of Revelation, including their tie-ins to the Old Testament. This is why we have provided the preparation and follow-up study guides for you.*

# Revelation

## Old Testament References in the Book of Revelation

**By: Dr. Arnold G. Fruchtenbaum, Th.M., Ph.D. Founder and Director of Ariel Ministries**

There are over 500 references to the Old Testament in the Book of Revelation. The following is a list of such references, but it makes no claim to being exhaustive or complete. Some of these references back to the Old Testament do speak of the very same thing as the Revelation. However, in others, the Revelation merely borrows a phrase or motif for the purpose of developing a new area. This distinction should be kept in mind in the study of those Old Testament references.

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# Revelation

## CHRONOLOGY, OVERVIEW

### The Glory of Yeshua, the risen Messiah (1)

- Jesus among menorot (lampstands, churches)
- True identity of Messiah
- Directions to John who is seeing these things in visions

### Letters from Jesus to "called out ones" (churches) then and now (2 and 3)

- Letters to Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea

### Throne room of God (chapters 4 and 5)

- Church assembled around the Throne
- Multitude of praising angelic beings
- Four living creatures, also praising
- Lamb who was slain with the scrolls of judgment

### The Six Seal Judgments (6)

- 1st Seal: Conqueror and white horse
- 2nd Seal: Red Horse, War, no peace
- 3rd Seal: Black Horse, famine and economic disasters
- 4th Seal: Pale Horse, plagues and death
- 5th Seal: Martyrs under altar in heaven, told to wait
- 6th Seal: Great Day of the Wrath of the Lamb

### Redeemed of God still on earth (7)

- 144,000 Jews from 12 tribes sealed
- Martyrs during the Great Tribulation

### Seventh Seal Judgment: Opens 7 Trumpet Judgments (8)

- Breaking of 7th Seal: Introduction to 7 Trumpets
- Silence in heaven
- Angel with the golden censer
- 1st Trumpet: Hail + fire mixed with blood, 1/4 earth destroyed by fire
- 2nd Trumpet: "Something like" a huge mountain thrown in the sea, 1/3 seas destroyed
- 3rd Trumpet: "Wormwood," falling star, 1/3 fresh waters destroyed
- 4th Trumpet: Darkness, 1/3 suns, moon, stars, day/night darkened
- Introduction to first 3 woes

### 5th and 6th Trumpet Judgments (9)

- 5th Trumpet: (First Woe), falling star with key to abyss, smoke, strange demonic locusts, mankind tormented 5 months
- 6th Trumpet: 4 angels released at Euphrates River, 1/3 mankind killed
- 9:21—One of saddest verses in scripture

### Big Angel, More Judgment Coming (10)

- Huge angel with little scroll, John commanded to eat
- No more delay

### Two Witnesses (11)

- "Temple" Measured
- Two Witnesses preach, killed, resurrected (3-1/2 years)
- 7th Trumpet: God's Kingdom announced

### The Woman, Child and Dragon (12)

- Israel portrayed, "child" (Messiah) born
- Dragon attempts to kill
- Satan thrown out of heaven, battle in heavens
- Satan mad, persecutes "woman and offspring"

### Unholy Trinity (Dragon + 2 beasts) (13)

- Beast from sea (antichrist)
- Beast from land (false prophet)
- Number of beast

### Overview and Harvests (14)

- Lamb and 144,000
- 3 Angels Proclaim
  - 1st Angel: Eternal Gospel
  - 2nd Angel: Babylon is fallen
  - 3rd Angel: Don't take mark of beast
- 2 Harvests, winepress trampled

### Song of Moses and Lamb, Final Judgments ready (15)

- Angels with last plagues
- Singing Song of Moses and Song of the Lamb
- Temple in heaven opened

### 7 Bowl Judgments Poured out (16)

- 1st Bowl: Ugly, painful sores
- 2nd Bowl: Seas turned to blood
- 3rd Bowl: Rivers (fresh water) turned to blood
- 4th Bowl: Scorching heat
- 5th Bowl: Total darkness
- 6th Bowl: Preparation for war (Armageddon)
- 7th Bowl: Huge worldwide earthquake, monster hail, worldwide destruction

### The Harlot, Enigma Babylon (17)

- Description and destruction of Harlot

### Babylon Falls (18)

- Description, condemnation and destruction of "Babylon"

### His Return, Cleanup (19)

- Praise to God for destruction of Babylon
- Wedding Feast of the Lamb
- Jesus returns with armies (saints)
- War on earth (Armageddon)
- Beast/False Prophet captured, thrown into Lake of Fire
- All others killed, birds feast

### Millennial Kingdom (20)

- Enemy bound, thrown into abyss for 1,000 years
- Saints reign with Jesus for 1,000 years
- Satan released at end of 1,000 years to deceive again
- "Gog and Magog" (final rebellion, quick end)
- Satan thrown into Lake of Fire
- Great White Throne Judgment (damned)

### New Jerusalem (21)

- All things made new, first earth/heaven passed away
- New Jerusalem revealed, described

### Back Together in the Garden (22)

- River of Life, Tree of Life
- Jesus' final words and warnings
- Bo Adonai Yeshua! (Come Lord Jesus)



## LIMITED GLOSSARY

|                                 |                                                                                                              |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Revelation</b> (Apocalupsis) | <i>The unveiling, uncovering—the revealing</i>                                                               |
| <b>Eschatology</b>              | <i>Study of end times</i>                                                                                    |
| <b>AntiChrist</b>               | <i>One of several titles for evil ruler in end times (only used by John, but NOT in book of Revelation!)</i> |
| <b>Historical View</b>          | <i>That all of Revelation has already happened (it is history)</i>                                           |
| <b>Future View</b>              | <i>That the events of this book are in the future still</i>                                                  |
| <b>Symbolic View</b>            | <i>That this book is only symbolic/figurative, not real or literal</i>                                       |
| <b>Literal View</b>             | <i>That this book is literally true</i>                                                                      |
| <b>Tribulation</b>              | <i>The last 7 years of earth's history; time of trouble</i>                                                  |
| <b>Great Tribulation</b>        | <i>The last 3 1/2 years of earth's history; the worst</i>                                                    |
| <b>Daniel's 70 Weeks</b>        | <i>Prophecies in Daniel 9, 70th week is Tribulation</i>                                                      |
| <b>Time of Jacob's Trouble</b>  | <i>Another name for Tribulation; terrible time for Jews</i>                                                  |
| <b>Millennial Kingdom</b>       | <i>The 1,000 year reign of Jesus (Revelation 20)</i>                                                         |
| <b>Millennialism</b>            | <i>Belief in literal 1,000 year reign of Jesus</i>                                                           |
| <b>Amillennialism</b>           | <i>Belief that 1000 year reign is symbolic only, not literal</i>                                             |
| <b>Rapture</b>                  | <i>Time when all believers are "caught up" to Jesus (1 Thess. 4)</i>                                         |
| <b>Dispensationalism</b>        | <i>Belief that God has various plans for various "ages" and peoples</i>                                      |
| <b>Pre-Tribulation</b>          | <i>Time immediately before the Tribulation ("pre-Trib")</i>                                                  |
| <b>Mid-Tribulation</b>          | <i>At the mid-point (3 1/2 yrs) of Tribulation ("mid-Trib")</i>                                              |
| <b>Post-Tribulation</b>         | <i>Immediately after the Tribulation</i>                                                                     |
| <b>Armageddon</b>               | <i>Greek name for Har Megiddo, place of last battle</i>                                                      |
| <b>2nd Coming</b>               | <i>When Jesus returns as King (not rapture)</i>                                                              |
| <b>Daniel</b>                   | <i>OT Apocalyptic book, from which we get much info on Tribulation</i>                                       |
| <b>Zechariah</b>                | <i>OT Apocalyptic book, from which we get much info on plan for Jews</i>                                     |
| <b>Isaiah</b>                   | <i>OT Apocalyptic book, from which we get much info on end times</i>                                         |

*ASSUMPTION: The Bible is the infallible (without error) Word of God and as such contains the plan for man's redemption, and an accurate telling of the end of time, and the consummation of God's Plan. Wherever possible it should be taken literally. Scripture explains scripture.*

A series of 28 horizontal lines for writing.



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# Revelation 1

# Revelation 1

**HOMEWORK IS TOTALLY OPTIONAL!** No excuses needed. But remember, the more you put in, the more you get out! *(Note, these questions will be the same for all chapters. They are designed to prepare you for class, not to give you a complete study session.)* You can use the note sheet provided to answer these questions if you need it, or use a journal or just write in your Bibles. Whatever works for you!



## CHAPTER PREPARATION:

Read the entire chapter in as many versions as you can. Using a concordance, or any other resource, look up any words that seem to have various translations, or for which you are curious about original Greek meanings. Write them out.

1. What FACTS are listed in this chapter (no interpretations, no speculation, just FACTS)?
2. Is there anything in this chapter that SCARES you? Why?
3. Do you see any HOPE in this chapter?
4. Is there anything here that may be personalized for you?
5. What are your current questions in this chapter?
6. Summarize this chapter in a few sentences, words, bullet points, or other as an overview:
7. Choose one "scene" in this chapter that left more of an impression on you than anything else.  
**Draw it out** (stick figures are fine! Words, symbols or anything that artistically represents this passage)  
Scripture scene or event: (reference) \_\_\_\_\_



# Revelation 1

The Risen Messiah—John's Instructions

The 7 Assemblies of Asia

Galatia  
Asia Minor  
Pergamum  
Thyatira  
Sardis  
Smyrna  
Philadelphia  
Ephesus  
Laodicea  
Antioch  
Byblos  
Sidon  
Tyre  
Nazareth  
Bethlehem  
Macedonia  
Greece  
Corinth  
Cyrus  
Mediterranean Sea  
Jerusalem

"... the things which you have seen, and the things which are, and the things which will happen hereafter."

"I AM ... the Almighty."

Α Ω

"Blessed...those who read, hear and keep..."

"Blessed...those who read, hear and keep..."

# Revelation 1

## CHAPTER SUMMARY

- Verses 1-8 about main character (Jesus!)
- "The **revelation of Jesus Christ**" (v.1)
- A **blessing** for reading, hearing, keeping the words of this prophecy (v. 3)
- Many **names of Jesus (Yeshua)** in this book. First here in this chapter: who is, and who was and who is to come, the faithful witness, the Firstborn from the dead, the ruler over the kings of the earth, Alpha and Omega (**Aleph-Tav**), the Beginning and the End, The Almighty, The First and the Last
- "He is coming with clouds, and every eye will see Him, even they who pierced Him..." (v. 7)
- John on **Patmos** (imprisoned for preaching)  
In the **Spirit on the Lord's Day** (Sunday?)  
Hears a loud voice "**I am..**"
- Told to write what he sees in this vision, and send to the **seven churches in Asia**:  
Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, Laodicea (*literal churches, perhaps also church ages*)
- John sees the One speaking standing in the middle of **seven lampstands** (lampstands = seven churches, v. 20, Jesus' *presence* with the churches)
- John describes Jesus' **amazing appearance**:  
garment down to the feet, golden band around His chest, head and hair white like wool/snow, eyes like a flame of fire, feet like brass (as refined in a furnace), voice like "many waters", 7 stars in right hand, two-edged sword out of His mouth, face like the sun (the glorified Jesus! brass = judgment, eyes seem angry and fierce, very loud voice, 7 stars are 7 "angels of the 7 churches")
- John collapses at the sight, but Jesus tells him not to be afraid
- Jesus says "**I am...**" - "...He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore, Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and Death."
- John told to write 1) **the things which ARE**, 2) **the things TO COME** (two divisions of this book)

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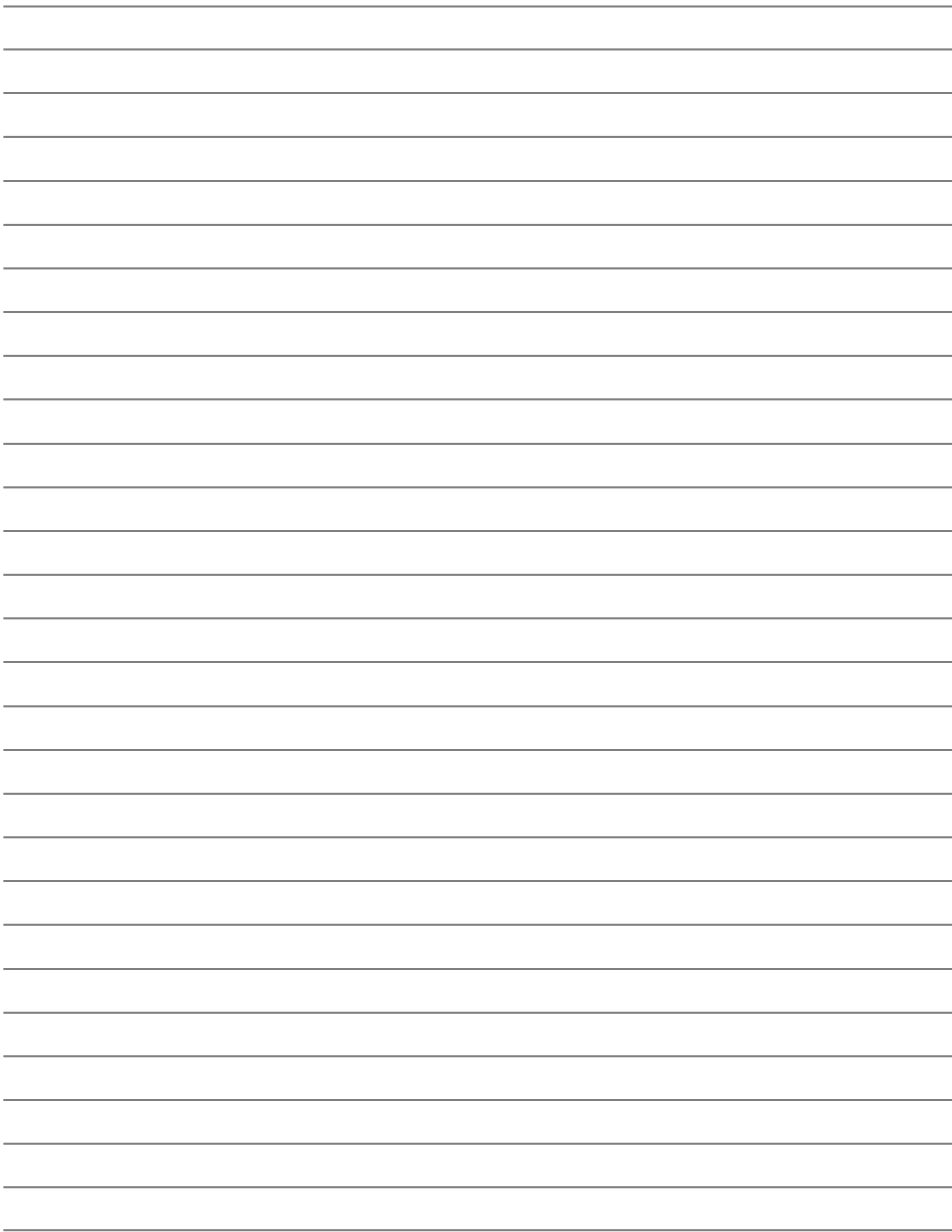
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# Revelation 1

*FOLLOW-UP IS ALSO OPTIONAL! You can do this on your own, or you can team up with friends for double blessing!*

## **FOLLOW-UP:**

*Read the following passages and then write how they relate to this chapter:*

1. Daniel 7:9-14
2. Daniel 10:4-19
3. Hebrews 4:12-13
4. Read the resource material at the back of this book regarding the Aleph-Tav. What are your thoughts about this and its relationship to Revelation chapter 1?
5. Understanding the significance and meaning of the Aleph-Tav, why does Jesus say "I am the Aleph Tav?" What does that mean?
6. Read Romans 11:36. One simple verse but such profound content. In light of Revelation 1, what does the Romans verse mean to you?
7. Is there anything God is saying to you personally in this chapter?

Blank lined area for notes or drawings.





# Revelation 2

# Revelation 2

**HOMEWORK IS TOTALLY OPTIONAL!** No excuses needed. But remember, the more you put in, the more you get out! *(Note, these questions will be the same for all chapters. They are designed to prepare you for class, not to give you a complete study session.)* You can use the note sheet provided to answer these questions if you need it, or use a journal or just write in your Bibles. Whatever works for you!



## CHAPTER PREPARATION:

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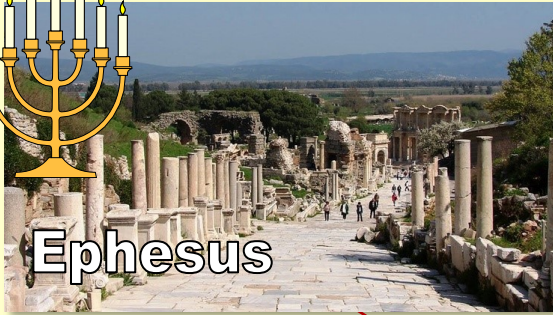
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**Draw it out** (stick figures are fine! Words, symbols or anything that artistically represents this passage)  
Scripture scene or event: (reference) \_\_\_\_\_



# Revelation 2

## Letters to 7 Churches

The "Church" then, and the Church now.  
The Church through the ages.



Ephesus

**Important Distinction:** "Church" does not mean the denominational or mainstream organized entity, consisting of buildings and programs. The "Church" in Greek is *ekklesia*, which literally means the "called out ones." These are true believers in Yeshua who have been "called out" of the world into Him. These are the redeemed (**purchased by God with the blood and sacrifice of His Son Jesus.**)



Smyrna

Chapter 2 contains the first 4 of 7 letters.



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Pergamum



Artist's sketch of city in 1840

### WHY these letters were written:

1. Actual churches with real needs and concerns. (*Institutionalization leading to distraction from truth*)
2. "...hear... Churches" all seven letters apply to all seven churches.
3. Personal: ("he who has an ear") It applies to all of us personally.
4. Prophetic: lay out entire history of the church. If in any other order, this would not work.

**Be watchful for what God is saying to the churches today, and to each of us. As we study these letters, ask God to show you the message He has for you personally.**



# Revelation 2

## 1: Ephesus



- Big city, **"command central" for new church**. Important seaport, place where several main roads converged. Center of trading and commerce, an intersection of all peoples of known world (diversity!) *Very pivotal political city for Roman Empire.*
- A **"free" city**, one which Romans gave right of self-government; also an "assize" town, place where Roman governors came to dispense justice (loved pomp and pageantry!)
- Site of Panionian Games, ranked with Olympic Games, known for its Greek athletes.
- More important than trade, government, or sports, was significance of Ephesus as keeper of the Temple of Artemis (Diana), one of the 7 wonders of the ancient world. Temple was pride of Ephesus, made it one of the greatest "religious" cities in Empire.
- When most remember mythology, they think of Diana as a lovely goddess. Not the case. Image was black, short, and repulsive. She was covered with many breasts, symbol of fertility.
- Strange writing, which no one understood, covered base where she stood. Hard to believe this image was goddess who was so loved, served, and worshipped throughout Ephesus and the Roman world.
- Worship to Diana hysterical and frenzied exhibition of abominable actions. Involved sexual perversions beyond belief, and occultic ritual. This is what Ephesus was most known for.
- **"Safe Zone"** - anyone who had committed a crime could find safety either in the temple, or within "one bowshot" (about 200 yards) all around the temple. Once reaching this area, any criminal was immune from prosecution or punishment.
- Imagine community atmosphere in closest proximity to temple! Greatest collection of worst criminals.
- **Nice setting for a church!** Yet, church in Ephesus probably "mother" church of all churches established in Asia. Started by Paul on 3rd missionary journey. Most written about in scripture.
- Trace history of Ephesus through Acts, Ephesians, Timothy, Revelation (steady decline!)
- Church at Ephesus began with great zeal, as people turned readily from occultic and perverse thoughts and deeds to embrace the Messiah.
- Ephesus famous **center of magic arts**, known for its occultic books, incantations and charms.
- From this background original believers in Ephesus came to the Lord. Denounced their ways, even burned books and other materials that would have been worth a fortune then.
- When they came to Jesus, they came dramatically and completely. However, *"first love" gradually declined*. It is thought church here began around 55-60 AD, 30-40 years prior to warning in Revelation.
- Appropriate church at Ephesus addressed first in series to seven churches in Asia (region we now call Turkey, former province of Rome called "Asia" or "Asia Minor"). Closest to John when he was on Patmos, and perhaps strongest established church in Asia, until its decline.
- Ephesus literally means "desired one" (like darling). In its original form, this church was what God desired in His saints. Perfect, zealous, sold out love for Him, and for each other.

**What do you see today that relates to city of Ephesus?**

**Any different than cities today?**

When we think of the city of Ephesus, it easily brings to mind any modern, bustling world city today - filled with greed, crimes, corrupt politics, witchcraft and occultic practices, sexual perversions, all kinds of evil -AND a faithful following of Christian believers who need to be reminded of their "first love."

# Revelation 2

## 2: Smyrna



- Under Roman control 27 BC, very prosperous. Earthquake prone, suffered many quakes. Each time restored even bigger, better.
- **Many temples** (Zeus, Apollo, Aphrodite, Aesclepios, Cybele, Poseidon, Demeter) No lack of "gods" –ceremonies full of sexual immorality, wild orgies.
- Also thriving community of Jews, who persecuted believers (called "The Way")
- Specialized in **Caesar worship** - required ("act of patriotism/loyalty to Rome") Believers could not do it.
- Believers poor in this area, excluded by Jews, persecuted by Rome, but Jesus says they are rich. Remained faithful "until death."
- Interesting, "Smyrna" comes from Hebrew word translated "myrrh" a bitter gum, costly perfume, used for anointing the dead (*very appropriate for this letter*).
- **Theme of death** running through this letter.
- Ruins of old Smyrna, but city remains (Izmir).
- Description of author (*"First and the last, who was dead, and came to life..."*) Very appropriate for this group of saints.
- **Nothing bad said about this group**. Only encouraged to not be afraid, informing them they would suffer for their faith.
- "Ten days" – lots of speculation, not known. Some speculate it had to do with 10 specific periods of persecution from that time until Constantine declared Christianity "legal" and the religion of the empire (mid 300s AD)
- Possible explanation = terrible times for Christians under 10 Caesars for 250 yrs: Nero (54-68): Paul beheaded, Peter crucified upside down after watching his wife die; Domitian (95-96): John exiled; Trajan (104-117): Ignatius burned at stake, (Antipas?); Marcus Aurelius (161-180): Polycarp martyred; Septimus Severus 200-211): Irenaeus killed; Maximinus (235-237): killed Ursula, Hippolytus; Decius (249-251; Valerian (257-260); Aurelian (270-275); Diocletian (303-313)
- Over 5,000,000 Christians martyred in this time under these Roman Caesars
- These believers suffered terribly. Many faithful, literally unto death. But their death meant **permanently receiving the crown of life**.
- Crown = "stephanos" victor's crown given to athletes (laurel leaves, NOT diadem, crown of royal authority -reserved for Jesus!)

First death = death of body, physical death.  
**Second death is spiritual.**  
**Not death of spirit, but separation from the One who gave it life. The spirit does not die. It lives on into eternity one of two places, with God, or apart from Him. We choose.**

# Revelation 2

## 3: Pergamum (Pergamos)

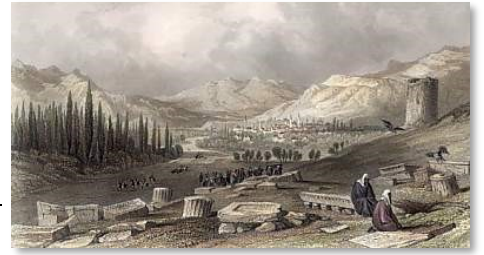


- 80 miles north of Smyrna, center of emperor (Caesar) worship. Known as "City of the Serpent" (Aesclepios), and for occult practices ("City of Satan"). Babylon origin of ALL occult practices/arts. All rites, rituals, "secrets" transferred to Pergamum, then eventually to Rome.
- 312 AD **paganism absorbed into "Roman Church"** (paganism "Christianized").
- Pergamos (Pergamum) - "Per" means mixed or objectionable (perverted); "gamos" means marriage or "coming together" (as intercourse).
- Church at this time (3rd century AD) became **married to paganism, perverted and mixed**. Thus need for a sharp two-edged sword, Jesus' description ("He who has the sharp two-edged sword...") Hebrews 4:12: "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
- Beginning in third century after Jesus, Roman (Catholic = "Universal") Church perverted Truth by paganizing Christianity (brought practices and priesthood from paganism).
- May wear a "**Christian**" label, but Jesus' two-edged sword will divide truth from false. God's Word (not man's) is the standard for truth then and now.
- "...even in the days in which Antipas was My faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells." Antipas was bishop of Pergamos during reign of Domitian in 83 AD. "Antipas" means "against all" - Name came to represent "those against the pope" during Reformation. Per orthodox tradition Antipas consecrated bishop of Pergamos by Apostle John. His death is recorded by Simeon Metaphrastes as having been burned to death on same altar people were to offer incense to Caesar.
- **Problems:** Doctrines of Balaam, Nicolaitans...Balaam an oracle ("prophet") for hire (book of Numbers), only concern was profit. Did not curse Israelites (God's restraint), instead blessed them, but was instrumental in getting Israelites to intermarry Moabites and Midianites (against God's laws) turning hearts away from God. Did this for pay from Balak, king of Moab.
- The "**doctrine of Balaam**" is about spiritual prostitution, marriage with the world, and with other "gods." This included sexual immorality. The "doctrine of Balaam" is the exchange of eternal riches for earthly gain and lusts. Balaam was eventually killed along with the enemy.
- **Nicolaitans:** 2nd time Jesus said He hated something (practice).
- Word implied the practice of the clergy lording it over the laity, in the church (Niko -to conquer, laity -the people). Pergamos represents church of Rome dating from time they instituted the "Nicolaitan" system of separation of priests and laity.
- Antipas represents **opposition to excesses and sins of Rome and the tradition of men** (instead of God) which led to Protestant Reformation.

What were they to do? **REPENT** (make a 180 degree turn back to where they came from - the Truth!)... Of the false teachings and practices ...and get the false teachers out!

# Revelation 2

## 4: Thyatira



- Not particularly important, beautiful, or wealthy city. Now inland, not on coast, but on trading route. Compared to other cities, way down the scale on many levels. Began as Pelopia, then called Semiramis (goddess of Babylon), followed by Euhippia. Dedicated to protecting Pergamos, would be sacrificed if necessary to protect that much grander, more valuable city.
- Not known for religious significance. Had normal temples to Apollos, Artemis, and other gods of the day, but were more focused on business aspects of the city. Not a special center for emperor worship. No great risk of persecution to believers, unlike other cities in Asia Minor.
- However, **one major stumbling block** to those believers. Thyatira was a bustling center for manufacturing and marketing, and well known for trade and craft guilds. A guild (union) for every trade. Trades most common here were woolen workers, dyers, linen workers, potters, leather workers, bronze workers and slavers. Paul's first convert in Europe was Lydia, a Thyatiran who sold purple cloth in Philippi (Acts 16:14). (*Purple cloth of Thyatira was well known, and very expensive*)
- **Trade guilds** major problem to believers in Thyatira. To be successful here you had to belong to appropriate guild and participate in "meetings," which often became orgies. Each guild dedicated to its own pagan patron god.
- Common for guilds to have lavish ceremonial meals together. Meat came from animal sacrificed to guild's god. Frequently wild parties full of sexual fornication. Easy to understand why Paul talked so often about not eating meat sacrificed to idols, and linked that practice to sexual immorality. Leading pastime of world of his day.
- All doing business in Thyatira had to belong to guilds. Expected to participate in "parties." HAD TO DO BUSINESS THE WAY THE WORLD DID BUSINESS! What to do? Some, like Nicolaitans (and early Roman church) suggested OK to participate in orgies and idol worship since physical body evil anyway, and it was the spirit that would live forever, so why not just have fun? (*roots of Gnosticism*).
- **Jezebel** a "secret gnostic?" Gnosticism blasphemy, but livelihoods at stake. Probably not real name of person here. Jesus uses *character* of people to "name" them. In Israel, time of kings, pagan Jezebel (daughter of king of Sidon, in current Lebanon) married King Ahab, northern Kingdom of Israel. Made worship of Baal fertility god, popular; involved immoral practices (*including temple prostitutes*) Jezebel spread immoral practices in Northern Kingdom (supported over 800 prophets of Baal, who ate at her table. Tried to kill Elijah after encounter with 450 prophets of Baal on Mt. Carmel). Ushered in worst time in history of kings of split kingdoms of Israel. Incredibly wicked, ruthless and immoral (seducer of the people); tried to kill all prophets of God, allowed no one to stand in way of getting what she wanted. Above all other women in scripture, Jezebel most evil, cunning, daring and unscrupulous. Led Ahab to evil also. Pushed out of window and eaten by dogs.
- "He who has an ear..." Beginning with Thyatira, continuing in remaining 3 churches, closing statement of "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches" now **AFTER** message to overcomer. In first three, *before* this promise. May indicate in first three churches (throughout history also), church addressed still capable of repenting and making things right again. However, from Thyatira onward (Dark Ages to today) seems "Church" would not repent, but promises are applicable to remnant of true believers who would hear and repent—individuals, not the church at large.
- Last 4 letters, messages to the overcomer are also associated with second coming of Jesus.
- Real problem in Thyatira was not from outside, but from **INSIDE** the church: **COMPROMISE and TOLERATION**.



**EXERCISE:** The most important things for us to know about these letters to the churches are not what was right or wrong with these assemblies, ***but what is right and wrong with us!*** Take a look at the chart on the following page which lists the 4 churches addressed in this chapter. Personalize them—THEY ARE ALSO WRITTEN TO YOU. Which speak to you? What areas are right with your walk with the Messiah? What areas are wrong? What will you do about those?

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# Revelation 2

## Letters to 7 Churches

| CHURCH:               | Ephesus<br>2:1-7                                                                                                              | Smyrna<br>2:8-11                                                                                 | Pergamum<br>2:12-17                                                                                                                                                | Thyatira<br>2:18-29                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Symbolic Church Age   | Apostolic Church<br>30-100 AD                                                                                                 | Persecuted Church<br>(age of Martyrs)<br>100-312 AD                                              | State Church<br>(Constantine to 1 <sup>st</sup> Pope)<br>313-590 AD                                                                                                | Established Church<br>(1 <sup>st</sup> Pope to Reformation)<br>590-1517 AD                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Speaker               | "He who holds the seven stars in His right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lampstands."                      | "The First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life."                                        | "He who has the sharp two-edged sword."                                                                                                                            | "the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and His feet like fine brass."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Praise                | Works, labor, patience, non-toleration of evil, tested false teachers, perseverance, hated Nicolaitans                        | Works, perseverance (He knew their suffering, poverty, Jewish persecution (Synagogue of Satan!)) | Works, steadfastness, held to faith (He knew where they lived, Satan's throne)                                                                                     | More works, love, service, faith                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Problems              | Left first love                                                                                                               | NONE!                                                                                            | False teachers in their midst (Balaamites and Nicolaitans)                                                                                                         | Toleration of False teachers who lead others into sin (Jezebel)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Counsel or Warning    | Remember from where you have fallen; repent; do first works (heart!) OR ELSE I will come quickly and remove your lampstand... | Don't be afraid, be faithful to death (would be imprisoned soon)                                 | Repent OR ELSE He will fight them (those spreading false teachings, not whole church) with Sword of His mouth                                                      | Lord's problem with the "Jezebels" and her followers, not entire church. He would not "burden them" further, but hold fast what they have until He comes. Gave time for "Jezebel" to repent, but didn't want to, so will cast her on a bed of suffering, and her followers and kill her "children." They would ALL be judged on their "works" (condition of heart!). |
| Reward to Overcomer   | Eat of the tree of life in Paradise (of God, with Him), <i>(eternal life in Paradise, comparable to Garden of Eden)</i>       | Crown of life, not hurt by second death <i>(saved from eternal separation from God)</i>          | Hidden manna to eat, white stone with unique name known only to holder and Jesus <i>(eternal sustenance, acquittal, free pass to heaven, unique love from God)</i> | Power over the nations, and the morning star <i>(will reign with Him in Millennium)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Problem in a nutshell | <b>No passion for Jesus</b> , agape love missing                                                                              | <b>NONE</b>                                                                                      | <b>False doctrines</b> , not testing teachers, not remaining separate from the world                                                                               | <b>Compromise, toleration</b> of false teachers, not remaining separate from world                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# Revelation 2

*FOLLOW-UP IS ALSO OPTIONAL! You can do this on your own, or you can team up with friends for double blessing!*

## **FOLLOW-UP: EPHESUS**

1. **Read Ephesians 1:1-19.** Answer the following questions:

- a) What are the spiritual blessings, according to this passage, from Yeshua to the church at Ephesus (and all believers)? *List them in your own words here.*
  
- b) What exactly did Paul pray for this church?
  
- c) Refer to Revelation 2:4. What was wrong with the church at Ephesus when John wrote?
  
- d) How does Ephesians, chapter 1 make Revelation 2:4 even more tragic?
  
- e) Do you feel you have lost some of your "first love" for Jesus?
  
- f) What did Jesus say would restore the believers at Ephesus in Revelation 2?
  
- g) What do you think would restore you, or keep you from falling like these believers did? What can your "action plan" be going forward in your relationship with our Master Yeshua?

2. If you would like to know more about the church at Ephesus, read **Acts 19**. Look for answers to these questions:

- *What was happening in Ephesus at that time?*
- *How did the people respond to the event in verses 13-16 (see 17-20)*
- *How does this response relate to Revelation 2:4, considering the great value of what they destroyed?*
- *What does the event in verses 23-41 say about the city of Ephesus, and what Paul was attempting to do there?*





# Revelation 2

*FOLLOW-UP IS ALSO OPTIONAL! You can do this on your own, or you can team up with friends for double blessing!*

## **FOLLOW-UP: SMYRNA**

1. What is happening in the “called out ones” in Smyrna?
2. What does Revelation 2:10 suggest to you about suffering?
3. Read James 1:12-18. How does this relate to the church at Smyrna?
4. What does it (*James reference*) say to you about temptation and steadfastness?
5. What does “standing firm” and “steadfastness” mean to you personally? What does it look like in your life?
6. You’ve heard the saying about the frog in the pot of water. If the heat under the water is turned up slowly, the frog doesn’t know he’s being cooked alive—until it is too late to escape. This is happening the world today—and even in our own lives. We begin to tolerate more and more “hot water” and slowly we are deceived and cooked alive. ***Could this have any meaning in your life?*** Are there any areas you are tolerating more of the world than you should? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any such areas to you. If you want, write them here, and ask the Lord for discernment and help in standing firm against them.
7. What do you consider to be the biggest struggles or “afflictions” in your life today? How are you coping with them? List them here, name them to Jesus, and ask His help for you to overcome, and be steadfast during these trials.



# Revelation 2

*FOLLOW-UP IS ALSO OPTIONAL! You can do this on your own, or you can team up with friends for double blessing!*

## **FOLLOW-UP: PERGAMUM**

1. How did "academia" in those days, and still does today, contribute to the problems of the church there and here?
2. Jesus references the teachings of Balaam. Are you familiar with those? Read **Numbers 22:1 through 25:3, Numbers 31:15-16 and Jude 11**. Balaam almost succeeded in bringing the fledgling nation of Israel down because of his advice. What was his advice? What is the physical perversion of this advice and what kind of spiritual significance does it have?
3. **2 Peter 2** references Balaam as a false teacher. What is the future of such teachers from this passage?
4. Read **John 6:25-29**. What do you think is the hidden manna?
5. What was unique about this city, addressed by Jesus, that is not found in any of the other letters? How might this condition have influenced this assembly of believers, and how might that be true today, right where we live?
6. Write out your best definition of discernment. Why do we need this? How do we get it?
7. If you want to fully understand the intensity of the spiritual relationship between physical fornication and spiritual fornication (found throughout the scriptures), **READ EZEKIEL 16**. This is a very powerful chapter. Consider these questions: *How did God feel about Israel in this passage? What, really, was Israel's sin? How did you feel reading this? How might all this relate to you?*



# Revelation 2

*FOLLOW-UP IS ALSO OPTIONAL! You can do this on your own, or you can team up with friends for double blessing!*

## **FOLLOW-UP: THYATIRA**

1. **READ 1 Kings 16:29-33, 2 Kings 9:22 and 2 Kings 9:30-37.** What do these passages say about the real Jezebel in the Old Testament?
2. How does the real Jezebel relate to the one referenced in the church to Thyatira?
3. The judgment of "Jezebel" in the Revelation letter to Thyatira can be taken either literally or figuratively. What figurative meaning do you think it might have?
4. Read **Psalms 2**. Who is the one in verses 8-9 of this psalm, who will rule? What is significant about this in relationship to Revelation 2:26-27.
5. Read **2 Peter 1:19 and Revelation 22:16**. What do you think is really promised in Revelation 2:28?
6. How do you think the city of Thyatira compares to cities today, and the problems believers face today?
7. Do you have any problems with compromise in your own life? If you wish, list them here (ask your Master!) then ask for His help to overcome them.









# Revelation 3

# Revelation 3

**HOMEWORK IS TOTALLY OPTIONAL!** No excuses needed. But remember, the more you put in, the more you get out! *(Note, these questions will be the same for all chapters. They are designed to prepare you for class, not to give you a complete study session.)* You can use the note sheet provided to answer these questions if you need it, or use a journal or just write in your Bibles. Whatever works for you!



## CHAPTER PREPARATION:

Read the entire chapter in as many versions as you can. Using a concordance, or any other resource, look up any words that seem to have various translations, or for which you are curious about original Greek meanings. Write them out.

1. What FACTS are listed in this chapter (no interpretations, no speculation, just FACTS)?
2. Is there anything in this chapter that SCARES you? Why?
3. Do you see any HOPE in this chapter?
4. Is there anything here that may be personalized for you?
5. What are your current questions in this chapter?
6. Summarize this chapter in a few sentences, words, bullet points, or other as an overview:
7. Choose one "scene" in this chapter that left more of an impression on you than anything else.  
**Draw it out** (stick figures are fine! Words, symbols or anything that artistically represents this passage)  
Scripture scene or event: (reference) \_\_\_\_\_

A series of horizontal lines for writing, arranged in a grid pattern across the page.

# Revelation 3

## Letters to 7 Churches

The "Church" then, and the Church now.  
The Church through the ages.



**Important Distinction:** "Church" does not mean the denominational or mainstream organized entity, consisting of buildings and programs. The "Church" in Greek is *ekklesia*, which literally means the "called out ones." These are true believers in Yeshua who have been "called out" of the world into Him. These are the redeemed (**purchased by God with the blood and sacrifice of His Son Jesus.**)



Chapter 3 contains the last 3 of 7 letters.



### WHY these letters were written:

1. Actual churches with real needs and concerns. (*Institutionalization leading to distraction from truth*)
2. "...hear... Churches" all seven letters apply to all seven churches.
3. Personal: ("he who has an ear") It applies to all of us personally.
4. Prophetic: lay out entire history of the church. If in any other order, this would not work.

**Be watchful for what God is saying to the churches today, and to each of us. As we study these letters, ask God to show you the message He has for you personally.**

# Revelation 3

## 5: Sardis



- Very well established city, considered one of oldest in the world. 60 miles inland from Ephesus
- "Heyday" in 6th century BC, capital of kingdom of Lydia. A glorious city, mentioned in many Greek writings . Built on a mountain, extremely well fortified on a hill 1000 feet above the valley. Seemed to defy any kind of military assault, appeared impregnable. **False sense of security** here, people believed they were safe when they were not (so did this church!).
- Stories of how King Cyrus of Persia eventually took Sardis, stories well known in this city. Commander of Cyrus' army told his soldiers there was great reward for anyone who could figure out how to successfully attack this great mountain stronghold. Appeared impossible. However, one soldier watching Sardis guards on top of the mountain saw guard accidentally drop his helmet over the side, and watched as soldier picked his way down the mountain and back up again to retrieve the helmet. Continual erosion of cliffs had left large cracks which could be maneuvered, now exposed by soldier watching. Persian soldier told his commander, and that night Persian army climbed the so-called "unassaultable" mountain the same way the soldier had seen the guard do it. When they got to the top, no one there! No guards. Guards assumed no one could climb their way to the top. They didn't think they needed to guard it. Did not think they even needed to watch for the enemy. **WRONG!**
- Sardis was taken, not just once, but several times after. Sardis fell on several occasions with surprise attacks the same way. Seems people there didn't learn from their own history. The word "WATCH!" was a key word for Sardis and the world knew of her mistakes in this regard.
- Everyone aware of this, and understood letter's command about being watchful.
- Eventually became part of Roman empire. **Great trading center, like Thyatira** was a center for woolen goods and dyeing industry (also like Laodicea).
- Had river very rich in gold. Modern money, minted gold and silver coins, was born in Sardis.
- Roman "assize" town, where justice was dispensed, plenty of Roman pomp and circumstance. Wanted to be a center for Caesar worship, but lost a bid to Smyrna in that regard.
- Did become very involved in worship of Cybele (son was fabled Midas, the one who had "gold" touch) with frenzied rites involving sexual immorality and mutilation.
- Because no Caesar worship, Sardis was **not a particularly dangerous place for Christians**, at least not physically dangerous. There was a far greater problem here for the "Church."
- 17 AD huge earthquake hit area, pretty much devastated Sardis. Romans poured lots of manpower and money into rebuilding this ancient city, but former glory was gone.
- Now Sardis known as a center for moral decadence. Even rest of pagan world considered Sardis notorious for loose living, pleasure seeking, and luxury loving (*sound familiar?*)
- Life was far too easy here. Incredible wealth, and no persecution. Spiritually deadly condition took hold—**COMPLACENCY**.
- Commentary: "**The Church at Sardis was at peace, but it was the peace of the dead.**"
- Sardis can mean "that which remains" or "remnant." After earthquake devastated region, city of Sardis remained, but merely a remnant of its former self. This is also true for the church here.
- Sardis known as the unwatchful, "sleeping" church in which only a remnant of true believers remained. **This church is in serious trouble**. One of two letters with no commendation.

# Revelation 3

## 6: Philadelphia



- Youngest of 7 cities, name means "brotherly love." Founded by Attalus II around 140 BC. City's name commemorates loyalty and devotion that Attalus, king of Pergamos, had for brother Eumenes II. Considered an outpost of Greek culture, as it sat on the frontier of western Asia. A border town, standing where three countries met (Mysia, Lydia, and Phrygia). **Gateway to the east**, and from one continent (Asia) to the next (Europe).
- Also great highway between several key cities in Asia. Purpose initially as a "**missionary city**" to spread Greek culture to lands beyond. Jesus uses this unique history to indicate a greater missionary goal.
- City had neither a predominantly Greek or Roman life style. Practiced "**open door**" policy, allowing people to adopt and practice their own culture of choice.
- Another feature of city used by Jesus here: Philadelphia **located on prominent earthquake fault**. Known as the "burned land" due to active volcanic region. After quake of 17 AD which destroyed Sardis and 10 other cities, Philadelphia received financial aid from Rome to rebuild. They were so grateful they even renamed the city "Neo Ceasarea" (new town of Caesar), but name didn't stick.
- People here subject to many earthquakes, always "running to the hills," quite literally, to escape falling debris from quakes and aftershocks.
- Because of volcanic activity was also one of most fertile areas in the world. Grape growing and wine industry flourished, known world wide.
- Also rich in hot springs (medicinal value). People came from all over world to bathe and be healed.
- **Famous center of heathen worship**, principal god Dionysus, the god of wine. So many gods here, and so many temples, it was known as "Little Athens." (Athens was center of worship of Olympian gods.)
- A custom in Philadelphia also referenced. When a person served the city well, after he died a memorial was established in his honor—a pillar in one of the temples with servant's name inscribed.
- Although famous for its gods and temples, threat of persecution here not terribly great, at least not directly from Roman government. A large, active group of Jews here, however, who took great delight in persecuting Christians in town. (**The "synagogue of satan"**)
- However, years later, the bishop of Antioch, Ignatius, wrote to the church at Philadelphia indicating these Jews had been converted, and were repentant of problems they caused early Christians here.
- Now called Ala-shehir, still a Christian town, with  $\frac{1}{4}$  population Greek. Today can see ruins of the ancient city, and near the city walls an indication of the early church there.

# Revelation 3

## 7: Laodicea



- Last city in loop of circulating letter to churches of Asia minor.
- Referenced often, *more than any other letter in Revelation*, because of its "lukewarm" attitude.
- **Large and prosperous.** Twin city to Hieropolis about 6 miles away, known for its hot springs (*Turkish government attempting to harness these springs today as a source of geothermal energy*).
- Laodicea midway between hot springs of Hieropolis and cold mountain spring waters of Colossae. Brought both to city. Hot and cold separately are therapeutic and refreshing. Together they are lukewarm, putrid and polluted.
- Founded/named by Antiochus II in 250 BC, after his wife, Laodike.
- Stood on a plateau above Lycus River, controlled trade that came down the river valley to the coast. Also three very major roads in and out of Laodicea. Because of trade and resources, grew to wealth and prominence during Roman Empire.
- Military outpost and trade center, a Roman "assize" town, with plenty of pomp and circumstance. **Lots of wealth and pride here.**
- Also known for **black wool**, spun from black sheep raised specially here. Textile industry manufactured clothing shipped all over the world.
- A medical school here, Laodicea also well known for its **ear salve** made from nard, and its **eye powder** which was mixed as a salve for bad eyes.
- Another distinctive feature was its fame as financial center. Specialized in money-changing, hand minted own coins centuries before Christian era.
- References to all these features seen in the letter to this church.
- Usually offered Jews free citizenship and freedom of worship. (*all about money and trade*)
- Jews here had great wealth and independence. Were so influential, known to bring pressure on Roman governors.
- Laodicea was wealthiest city in Phrygia in Roman times, one of richest commercial centers of the ancient world. So wealthy, after devastating earthquake in 60 AD, refused all financial aid from Rome, insisting on rebuilding their city themselves, from their own resources and private citizens. They were too rich and proud to accept anything from anyone.
- Laodicea **not a religious center**, though had their gods, principally "Men" god of healing, later identified with "Asklepios." Religious persecution not bad here. Too busy making money.
- The Laodicean people put their trust in money, material worth, luxury and physical health. They trusted in things of this world.
- 30 years before letter, Paul warned Archippus (considered the bishop of Laodicea) to be more diligent in his ministry to these people. Apparently also warned previously. (Col. 2:1, 4:16-17)
- One commentator said: "*Laodicea stands as a warning to those who remember intensely that man has a body and forget completely that man has a soul.*"
- Laodicea literally means "rule (or justice) of the people." How appropriate for this church, and for this age. **The people were in charge here, not God.**





# Revelation 3

## Letters to 7 Churches

| CHURCH:               | Sardis<br>3:1-6                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Philadelphia<br>3:7-13                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Laodicea<br>3:14-22                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Symbolic Church Age   | Reformation Era<br>1518 AD-1750                                                                                                                                                                                 | Missionary Church<br>1750-1900                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Apostate Church of Last Days<br>1900-present +                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| Speaker               | "He who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars."                                                                                                                                                      | "He who is holy, He who is true. He who has the Key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens."                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | "the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God."                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Praise                | NONE!<br>(a few who had not "soiled their clothes" and they would walk with Him in white)                                                                                                                       | Works, have a little strength ( <i>influence, ability</i> ), kept His word, not denied His Name. Kept command to persevere* (Missionary church)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | NONE!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| Problems              | Works indicated they had a reputation for being alive, but they were dead. He did not find their "works" complete or perfect before God.                                                                        | NONE!                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Neither hot nor cold (wished they were cold or hot); lukewarm. Say they are rich, have need of nothing, but He says they are wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked                                                                                                     |
| Counsel or Warning    | Be watchful, strengthen what remains (is about to die!) Remember what you heard, hold fast to it, repent OR ELSE I will come as a thief (suddenly) to take away what remains                                    | <i>(informs more than warns)</i><br>He will make those of the synagogue of Satan come and worship before their feet and know that He has loved them.<br><br>"I am coming quickly!"<br><br>Hold fast what you have so no one can take your crown.                                                                                                                                                                               | I will vomit you out of my mouth! Buy from Me gold refined in the fire (that you may be rich) white garments (that you may be clothed), anoint your eyes with eye salve (that you may see) As many as I love I rebuke and chasten. Be zealous and repent. Open door to Him! |
| Reward to Overcomer   | Clothed in white garments, will not blot name from Book of Life, will confess name before Father and His angels.<br><i>(covered with righteousness of Christ, remain in Book of Life, right to be with God)</i> | <i>*will keep them from the hour of trial which is coming upon the whole world to test those "who dwell on the earth"</i><br><br>Make a pillar in temple of God, will go out no more, will write on him name of God, name of city of God, New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from God...I will write on him My new name.<br><i>(eternal access to God's place, identified with His city, identified with Jesus)</i> | Will sit with Me on My throne.<br><i>(will share in ruling over Millennial kingdom)</i>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Problem in a nutshell | <b>Complacency</b> , spiritually dead, more interested in material riches                                                                                                                                       | <b>NONE</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Lukewarm, pride</b> , more concerned about material wealth than spiritual wealth                                                                                                                                                                                         |

# Revelation 3

*FOLLOW-UP IS ALSO OPTIONAL! You can do this on your own, or you can team up with friends for double blessing!*

## **FOLLOW-UP: SARDIS**

1. **READ Ephesians 2:1-7.** How does this passage relate to the church at Sardis?
2. What do you think is implied at the end of Revelation 3:3? (Also read Luke 12:35-40)
3. **READ 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11.** The believers at Sardis probably had this letter. What particular things in this letter to the Thessalonica church are also relevant to Sardis?
4. How can a church appear to be alive and thriving, but actually be spiritually dead?
5. What comparison can you make between this letter to Sardis, and the first letter to Ephesus?
6. If you would like to do more research on the "Book of Life" read the following:
  - Exodus 32:31-34**
  - Psalm 9:5**
  - Psalm 69:28**
  - Psalm 139:14-16**
  - Daniel 12:1**
  - Malachi 3:16-18**
7. What do these verses tell you about the Book of Life?

A series of 30 horizontal lines, evenly spaced, extending across the width of the page. These lines are intended for writing or drawing on a feltboard.

# Revelation 3

*FOLLOW-UP IS ALSO OPTIONAL! You can do this on your own, or you can team up with friends for double blessing!*

## **FOLLOW-UP: PHILADELPHIA**

1. **READ Revelation 3:8 and Acts 14:26-28.** What do you think this “open door” means?
2. Jews (who did not know Jesus) in many cities would frequently excommunicate (throw out!) those who became believers in Yeshua, and would not allow them to fellowship or associate with them. Knowing this, what else could the “open door” in Revelation 3:8 mean?
3. **READ John 10:7-9.** In Bible times a shepherd was often literally “the door” to the sheep pen. He would put his body in front of the opening to protect his sheep from those trying to get in, and keep the sheep inside from wandering out. What further comment can you make about this door in the letter to the church at Philadelphia?
4. **READ John 8:42-47.** Jesus is speaking to the Jewish Pharisees. What does He say to them? How does this relate to Revelation 3:9?
5. **READ Matthew 24:3-35.** How does this passage relate to Revelation 3:10 (look for and write down several ways!)
6. There is some interesting information related to the city of Philadelphia that directly relates to this letter, and is referenced by Jesus. One of these things relates to the reward for the overcomer. What is it and why is it relevant? What is happening today that reinforces the Revelation passage, as well as the Matthew 24 passage?
7. Do you relate to the believers in this letter? If so, how?

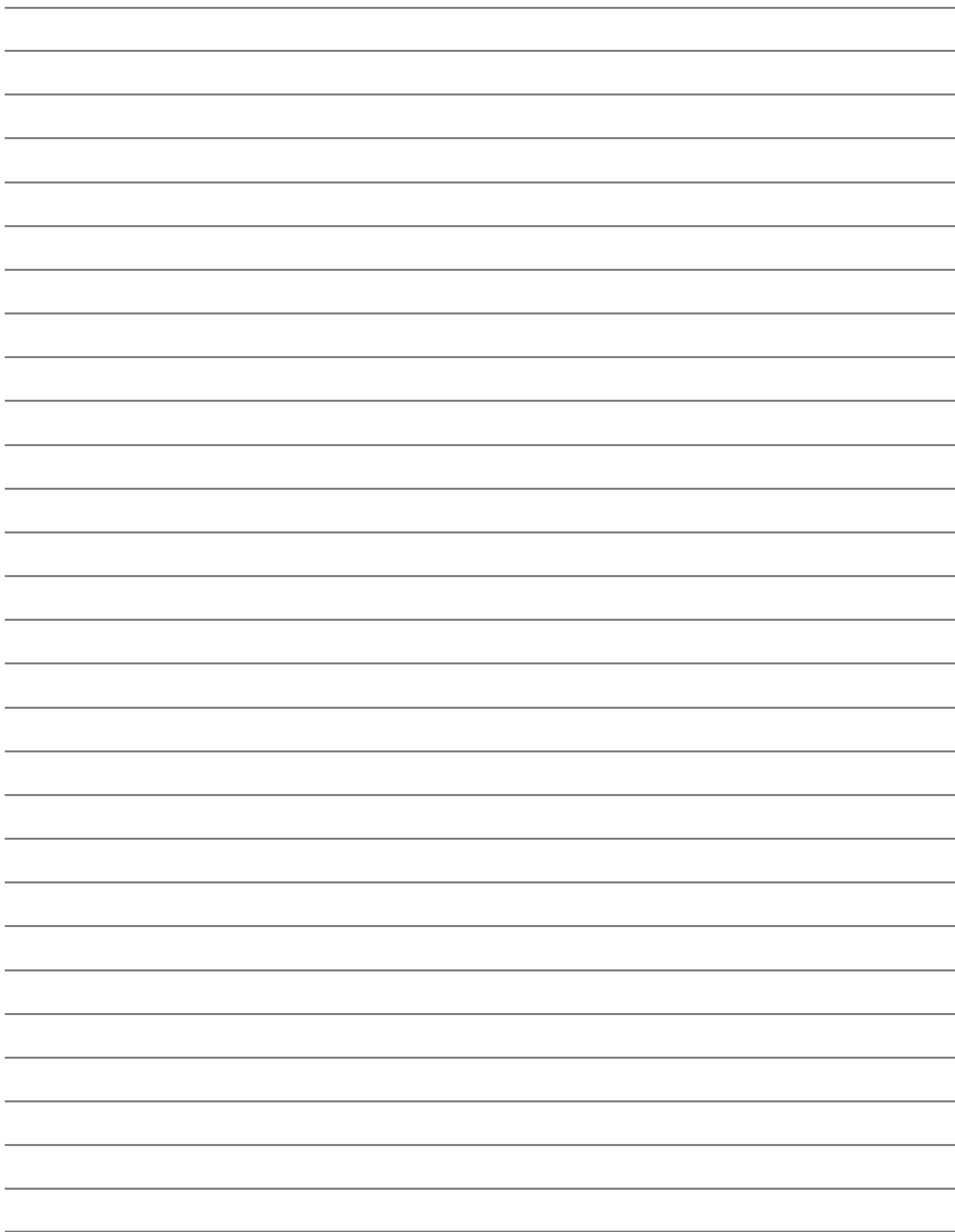


# Revelation 3

*FOLLOW-UP IS ALSO OPTIONAL! You can do this on your own, or you can team up with friends for double blessing!*

## **FOLLOW-UP: LAODICEA**

1. What does Jesus tell this church they need to do? It is clear these are not to be taken literally. How can these instructions be taken figuratively, and how are they to be applied?
2. **READ Hebrews 12:4-13.** Answer these questions:  
What is the subject of this passage?  
  
How does this relate to Revelation 3:19
3. What does Revelation 3:20 mean to you personally?
4. **READ Mark 13:29-31 and James 5:7-9.** How do these passages possibly relate to Revelation 3:20?
5. **READ Matthew 19:16-30.** What parallels do you see in this passage to the letter to the church at Laodicea, especially Revelation 3:17 and 3:21?
6. How do the conditions mentioned in Laodicea relate to today's church?
7. Can you personally relate to these believers in Laodicea? Are there any areas of your life that are "lukewarm" and require the "zestos" [Greek, "boiling hot"] enthusiasm the Lord wants from us? If so, write them here, then ask God to "heat up" your convictions, your steadfastness and your ability to know, praise and rejoice in Him with your highest enthusiasm!









# Revelation 4

# Revelation 4

**HOMEWORK IS TOTALLY OPTIONAL!** No excuses needed. But remember, the more you put in, the more you get out! *(Note, these questions will be the same for all chapters. They are designed to prepare you for class, not to give you a complete study session.)* You can use the note sheet provided to answer these questions if you need it, or use a journal or just write in your Bibles. Whatever works for you!



## CHAPTER PREPARATION:

Read the entire chapter in as many versions as you can. Using a concordance, or any other resource, look up any words that seem to have various translations, or for which you are curious about original Greek meanings. Write them out.

1. What FACTS are listed in this chapter (no interpretations, no speculation, just FACTS)?
2. Is there anything in this chapter that SCARES you? Why?
3. Do you see any HOPE in this chapter?
4. Is there anything here that may be personalized for you?
5. What are your current questions in this chapter?
6. Summarize this chapter in a few sentences, words, bullet points, or other as an overview:
7. Choose one "scene" in this chapter that left more of an impression on you than anything else.  
**Draw it out** (stick figures are fine! Words, symbols or anything that artistically represents this passage)  
Scripture scene or event: (reference) \_\_\_\_\_



# Revelation 4

## The Throne Room of Heaven













# Revelation 4

## **FOLLOW-UP** *(continued)*

2. **READ Ezekiel Chapter 1.** How does this vision of Ezekiel compare to the one seen by John in Revelation 4? How do they differ? What is the overall impression given by both visions?
  
3. **READ Isaiah 6:1-4.** What similarities do you find here to Revelation 4?
  
4. **READ Psalm 104:1-5.** What similarities do you find to Revelation 4?
  
5. **READ Psalm 148.** What do you think this has to do with Revelation 4, especially Rev 4:8-11?
  
6. **READ Exodus 19:16-19.** What event is described here? What do you think this passage may have to do with Revelation 4? Why are the two passages similar?
  
7. Close your eyes for a few minutes and **try to imagine the scenes you have just read about.** How do you picture God's "glory?" What does this have to do with you today?





# Revelation 5

# Revelation 5

**HOMEWORK IS TOTALLY OPTIONAL!** No excuses needed. But remember, the more you put in, the more you get out! *(Note, these questions will be the same for all chapters. They are designed to prepare you for class, not to give you a complete study session.)* You can use the note sheet provided to answer these questions if you need it, or use a journal or just write in your Bibles. Whatever works for you!



## CHAPTER PREPARATION:

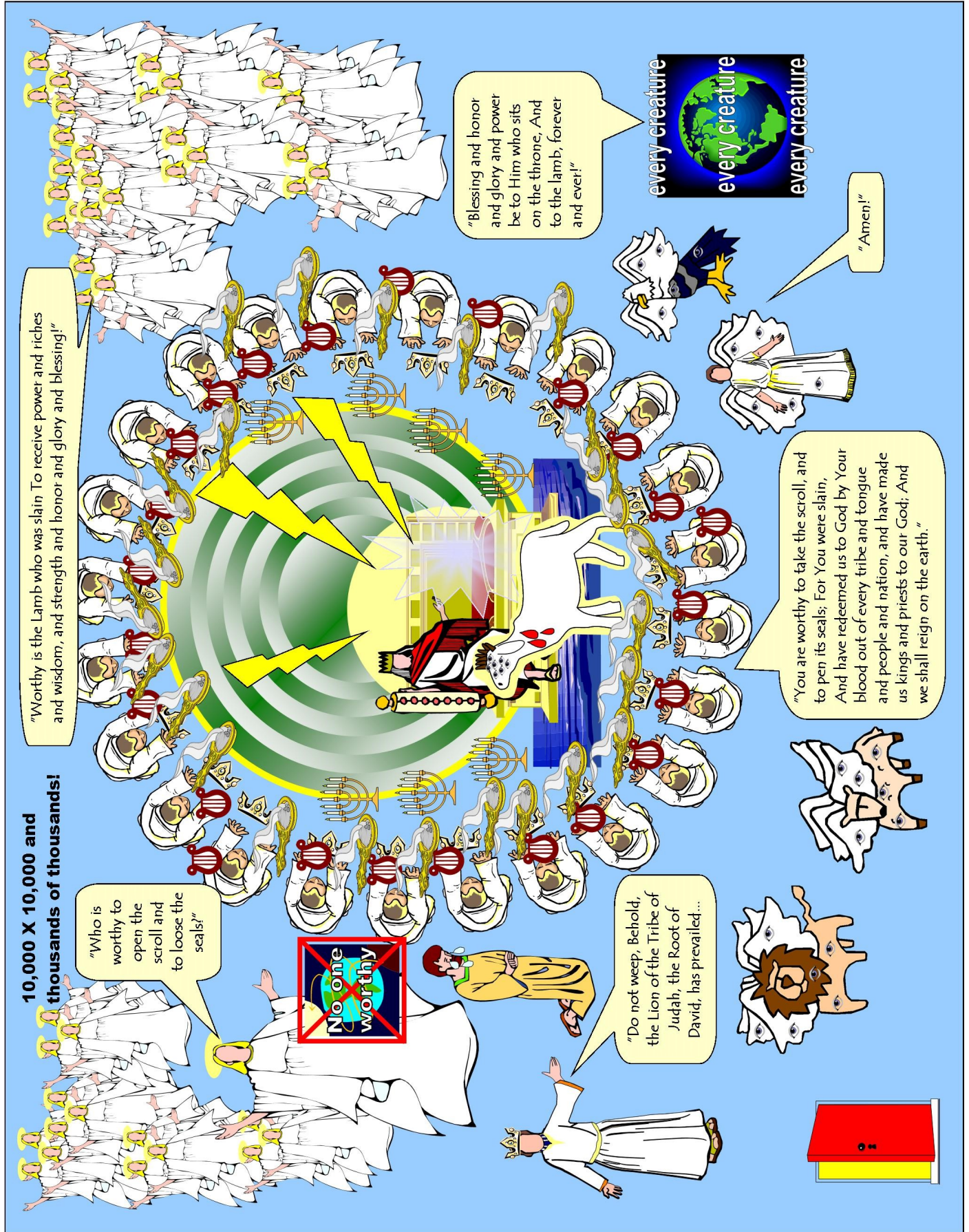
Read the entire chapter in as many versions as you can. Using a concordance, or any other resource, look up any words that seem to have various translations, or for which you are curious about original Greek meanings. Write them out.

1. What FACTS are listed in this chapter (no interpretations, no speculation, just FACTS)?
2. Is there anything in this chapter that SCARES you? Why?
3. Do you see any HOPE in this chapter?
4. Is there anything here that may be personalized for you?
5. What are your current questions in this chapter?
6. Summarize this chapter in a few sentences, words, bullet points, or other as an overview:
7. Choose one "scene" in this chapter that left more of an impression on you than anything else.  
**Draw it out** (stick figures are fine! Words, symbols or anything that artistically represents this passage)  
Scripture scene or event: (reference) \_\_\_\_\_



# Revelation 5

The Sealed Scroll—Unceasing Praise



**10,000 X 10,000 and thousands of thousands!**

"Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose the seals?"

~~No one worthy~~

"Do not weep, Behold, the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed..."

"Worthy is the Lamb who was slain To receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honor and glory and blessing!"

"Blessing and honor and glory and power be to Him who sits on the throne, And to the lamb, forever and ever!"

every creature  
every creature  
every creature

"Amen!"

"You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; And we shall reign on the earth."

# Revelation 5

## CHAPTER SUMMARY

## The Sealed Scroll—Unceasing Praise

- Still in “throne room” - One on throne has a **scroll written on BOTH sides**, sealed with 7 seals.
- **“Who is worthy?”** - no one IN heaven, or ON earth, or UNDER the earth
- John **weeps**, upset no one can open scroll.
- Elder tells him not to weep. There IS one worthy: *“the Lion of the Tribe of Judah, the Root of David”* has prevailed.
- A Lamb, *“as though it had been slain”* with 7 horns, 7 eyes (7 spirits of God)
- **Lamb takes the scroll** from One on the throne
- Elders, with harps, golden bowls of incense (prayers of the saints) sang a “new song” - *“You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals, for you were slain, and have redeemed US to God by your blood...”* and *“have made us kings and priests to our God and WE shall reign on the earth.”*
- Voices of many angels, the living creatures, the elders praising *“Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and strength and honor and glory and blessing!”*
- EVERY creature in heaven, on the earth, and under the earth praising
- **Ongoing praise**, elders and living creatures fall down in worship of One who lives forever.
- The “Throne Room” is a place of unending praise.

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# Revelation 5

*FOLLOW-UP IS ALSO OPTIONAL! You can do this on your own, or you can team up with friends for double blessing!*

## FOLLOW-UP

1. **READ Daniel 12:1-9.** How do you think this relates to Revelation 5:1-7?
2. **READ Daniel 7:9-14.** How does this compare to Revelation 4 and 5?
3. **READ Genesis 49:8-12 and Isaiah 11:1-10.** Who is this person described in these passages? What are his attributes? How does this relate to Revelation 5:5-6?
4. **READ Isaiah 53.** What verse in particular in this passage stands out to you, especially in relationship to Revelation 5:6? Why?
5. **READ Hebrews 12:22-24.** What similarities do you find here to Revelation 4-5?
6. Recall now what you have seen and learned in Revelation chapters 4 and 5. ***Will this make any difference in your earthly life?*** How?
7. Here's one a little more challenging for those of you who enjoy this kind of study. **Find and list 7 scriptures that support or reaffirm this part of Revelation 5:9...***"because you were slain, and with your blood you purchased men for God."* (For example, I'll give you one...Romans 3:24. Find 6 or 7 more and list their references here...)



