

Revelation
Week One

Recommended Resources on Revelation

“Discipleship on the Edge” by Darrell Johnson

“Redemption Concluded” by Van Gill

“Revelation: A Shorter Commentary” by G.K. Beale

Revelation 1:1 (NLT)

“1 This is a revelation from Jesus Christ...”

Revelation 1:9-11 (NLT)

*“9 I, John, am your brother and your partner in suffering and in God’s Kingdom and in the patient endurance to which Jesus calls us. I was exiled to the island of **Patmos** for preaching the word of God and for my testimony about Jesus. 10 It was the Lord’s Day, and I was worshiping in the Spirit. Suddenly, I heard behind me a loud voice like a trumpet blast. 11 It said, “Write in a book everything you see, and send it **to the seven churches** in the cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Pergamum, Thyatira, Sardis, Philadelphia, and Laodicea.”*

To Them For Us

An important thing to know is that Revelation is written in an apocalyptic literature style. The word for revelation in greek is “apocalypses” which is where we get the word apocalypse. One thing to note is that in apocalyptic literature specific numbers have meaning. The number 7 means “complete” or “fullness.” So what is awesome is that John was writing to 7 actual churches but Jesus’ intention was for this letter to be for the COMPLETE church...for ALL churches throughout all generations.

Revelation 1:12-13 (NLT)

*“12 When I turned to see who was speaking to me, I saw **seven gold lampstands**. 13 And **standing in the middle** of the lampstands was someone like the Son of Man.”*

Revelation 2:1 (NLT)

*“Write this letter to the **angel** of the church in Ephesus.”*

Church of Ephesus

- Presentation: Jesus walks among the churches.
- Problem: They had lost their first love for Jesus.
- Promise: Come back to Jesus to restore your love.

Revelation 2:5 (NLT)

"5 Look how far you have fallen! Turn back to me and do the works you did at first. If you don't repent, I will come and remove your lampstand from its place among the churches."

Church of Smyrna

- Presentation: Jesus is the first & the last. He was dead but now alive.
- Problem: They were under high pressure that was only going to increase.
- Promise: They will have eternal life with Jesus.

Revelation 2:11 (NLT)

"Whoever is victorious will not be harmed by the second death."

Church of Pergamum

- Presentation: Jesus carries the absolute truth.
- Problem: They were under attack on their minds.
- Promise: They will have fellowship & intimacy with Jesus.

Revelation 2:13-15 (NLT)

*"13 I know that you live in the city where Satan has his throne, yet you have remained loyal to me. 14 "But I have a few complaints against you. You tolerate some among you whose **teaching is like that of Balaam**, who showed Balak how to trip up the people of Israel. He taught them to sin by **eating food offered to idols and by committing sexual sin**. 15 In a similar way, you have some **Nicolaitans** among you who follow the same teaching."*

"The Church of Jesus Christ is to be an "inclusive" community in the sense that all are welcome: Jew & Gentile, free & slave, male & female - all are welcome! But the Church is not to be inclusive of all ideas, of all presuppositions, of all social & spiritual persuasions. All are welcome, but all are called by the Head of the Church to repent, to change our minds, to submit our thinking to the thinking of Jesus." -Darrell Johnson

Revelation 2:17 (NLT)

"17 "Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches. To everyone who is victorious I will give some of the manna that has been hidden away in heaven. And I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name that no one understands except the one who receives it."

Church of Thyatira

- Presentation: Jesus is the true Son of God.
- Problem: They were worshipping other things in addition to Jesus.
- Promise: Jesus will give them authority & hope.

Revelation 2:20 (NLT)

"20 But I have this complaint against you. You are permitting that woman—that Jezebel who calls herself a prophet—to lead my servants astray. She teaches them to commit sexual sin and to eat food offered to idols."

Revelation 2:28 (NLT)

"28 They will have the same authority I received from my Father, and I will also give them the morning star!"

Church of Sardis

- Presentation: Jesus walks among the churches.
- Problem: They were spiritually "sleep walking."
- Promise: They will be in fellowship with Jesus for all eternity.

Revelation 3:1 (NLT)

"I know all the things you do, and that you have a reputation for being alive—but you are dead."

Revelation 3:3 (NLT)

"3 Go back to what you heard and believed at first; hold to it firmly. Repent and turn to me again...."

Church of Philadelphia

- Presentation: Jesus is holy & true. No one can close a door He opens.
- Problem: They could have been tempted to start playing it safe.
- Promise: They will dwell with Jesus forever.

Revelation 3:7-8 (NLT)

"7 "Write this letter to the angel of the church in Philadelphia. This is the message from the one who is holy and true, the one who has the key of David. What he opens, no one can close; and what he closes, no one can open: 8 "I know all the things you do, and I have opened a door for you that no one can close. You have little strength, yet you obeyed my word and did not deny me."

"I learned a lesson that week. Not about fishing, but about people. When those who are called to fish don't fish they fight. When energy intended to be used outside is used inside, the result is explosive. Instead of casting nets, we cast stones. Instead of extending helping hands, we point accusing fingers. Instead of being fishers of the lost, we become critics of the saved. Rather than helping the hurting, we hurt the helpers. The result? Church scrooges. 'Bah humbug' spiritually. Beady eyes searching for warts on others while ignoring the warts on the nose below. Crooked fingers that bypass strengths & point out weakness. Split churches. Poor testimonies. Broken hearts. Legalistic wars. And, sadly, poor go unfed, confused go uncounseled, and lost go unpreached. When those who are called to fish don't fish, they fight. The next time the challenges 'outside' tempt you to shut the door and stay inside, stay long enough to get warm. Then get out. When those who are called to fish don't fish, they fight." -Max Lucado

Church of Laodicea

- Presentation: Jesus is faithful & true & holds all things together.
- Problem: They were compromising & living unholy lives.
- Promise: Jesus will fulfill all areas of their lives.

Revelation 3:14-16 (NLT)

"14 Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's new creation. 15 I know all the things you do, that you are neither hot nor cold. I wish that you were one or the other! 16 But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!"

Revelation 3:20 (NLT)

"20 Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."

Like the church of **Ephesus**, is your love for Jesus growing cold?

Like the church of **Smyrna**, are you under a lot of pressure because of your faith?

Like the church of **Pergamum**, does your way of thinking align with Jesus' way of thinking?

Like the church of **Thyatira**, are you fully committed to Jesus or do you worship other gods?

Like the church of **Sardis**, are you going through the motions of life?

Like the church of **Philadelphia**, are you tempted to just play it safe?

Like the church of **Laodicea**, are you tolerating sin in your life?